# Yohei

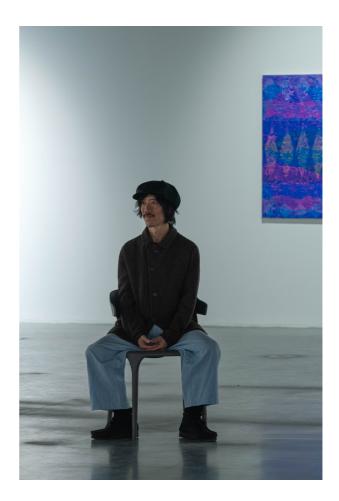
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Borns in Saitama, Japan, 1977. Lives and works in HCMC, Vietnam.

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#### YOHEI YAMA BIOGRAPHY



Yohei Yama is drawn to elemental energies and his hypnotic works lay claim to the transcendent power of art to heal, or to atone. From the paralyzing aftermath of the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima sprang the essential motifs that characterize his work – little trees, rays of light and swirling winds bridge and rebuild the bond between the artist and nature.

The art breathes and sighs – concentric circles of tiny trees swell and sway, mirroring nature's irregular perfection, simultaneously recalling Op Art, 60s psychedelia and primitive patchwork patterns. There is also tumultuous, untamable wind; monochrome lines curl around and fold in on themselves and the result is curious comfort in the sublimation to chaos. "I realized this is healing for me, for people, and for the nature humans destroy".

Born in Saitama Japan in 1977, Yohei Yama now lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Originally a photographer by trade and traveler by nature, he had his first solo show of paintings in Arles, France and has continued as a painter ever since. He has exhibited widely across the globe with his artworks garnered in private collections.

#### YOHEI YAMA STATEMENT

The seeds of Yohei Yama's practice were planted when, at the age of 16, he left his home in Saitama, on the outskirts of Tokyo's urban sprawl, for the quiet solitude of rural Finland. There, for the first time, he immersed himself in the forest and found comfort in his connection with nature. When he returned to Saitama a year later, he found himself burdened by feelings of alienation brought on by the rigid structures of modern life and the "violence" of the city's straight lines. This formative dissonance was the fountainhead from which Yama's most engaging questions and most affecting works have flowed.

After his return, Yama began to untether himself from the restricting cords of suburban stagnation. He traveled throughout Japan in a camper van with a potted sunflower as his primary companion, making photographs that foreshadowed his lifelong interest in connecting with natural worlds, not as an outsider looking in, but from within nature, situating himself as an emergent aspect of its entangled relationality. Yama's itinerant flow and creative self-cultivation eventually led him to Arles, France, where he first began to paint.

Yama's paintings explore the tension between organic structures of co-becoming in the natural world and the imposed regimes of anthropocentric order that served as the initial catalyst for his work. Following his emotional upheaval in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, Yama started producing works that confront the so-called rational order of modernist urban geometry. He composes patterns that, initially, seem to simulate the neat rows and lines of contemporary cityscapes, but, instead of producing homogeneous repetition, he embraces the disruptions and distortions that naturally emerge through the flow of his creative process. Yama works with his own nature as a collaborator, co-producing motifs in which the constitutive elements share structural similarities, but each possess unique forms, like the diversity of leaves sprouting from the same tree.

This shared shaping of worlds, a thread that is woven throughout much of Yama's oeuvre, is not limited to the visible realm, but is imbued with the agency of unseen forces that are no less implicated in its processes.

His work depicts ethereal forces moving fluidly over the fixed frontiers of bounded forms squares, diamonds, lines, and circles—changing them by traversing them; countering the stifling effects of geometric enclosure through the capacity for limitless mutability. He is interested in moving beyond the limitations of supposedly objective, positivist scientific modes of Western modernity by drawing attention to the invisible, or invisibilized, life forces that often escape the view of those who would rather see nature as a realm of passive material resources to be classified, produced, and extracted, rather than as an agentive collaborator in worldmaking.

#### YOHEI YAMA STATEMENT

However, responsive flow and emergent cobecoming are not distant abstractions that should only be sought 'out there', whether within the realm of the visible or the invisible. Yama believes that the universal must be held in balance with the personal. He uses his works to consider the fluidity of our identities and the paths we use to navigate our worlds. Yama often paints repeating patterns of geometric forms, allowing them to stretch, compress, and change color, sometimes bleeding into one another or even losing their original composition entirely. In doing so, they point to the shifting forms and permeable boundaries that constitute the self and that separate ourselves from other selves.

He builds on this self-reflection by considering how lives are shaped, in part, by the paths they follow. His paintings use entangled networks of forms and patterns that overlap and intermingle, sometimes coalescing into Deleuzian "lines of flight" that draw the viewers' eyes down potential paths of movement. These lines might oscillate between degrees of clarity and obscurity, they may merge or intersect with other lines, or they may veer off into formlessness, simulating the way life trajectories are subjectively constructed from complex flows of time, matter, and being(s). Yama's own journey as a painter emerged from his intuitive engagement with these fluid, shifting pathways of possibility. When navigating the flow of his work and his life he says, "I listen to the heartbeat."

To Yama, his practice is, ultimately, a meditation. It is a personal communion with a universal, interconnected, and co-constitutive nature; a meditation that resists anthropocentric life ways that seek to homogenize, atomize, and alienate nature from itself and subjugate it to the service of humanity. Rather, his work strives to find wonder and beauty in difference, connection, and mutual dependence—in his words, to show us how "reality is so much more fantastical than our fantasies."



For the "Wind" series, Yama is captured by the way the wind is invisible yet so powerful that everyone is aware of its presence.

Wind (Code), 2019 Acrylic and ink on canvas 150cm x 120cm

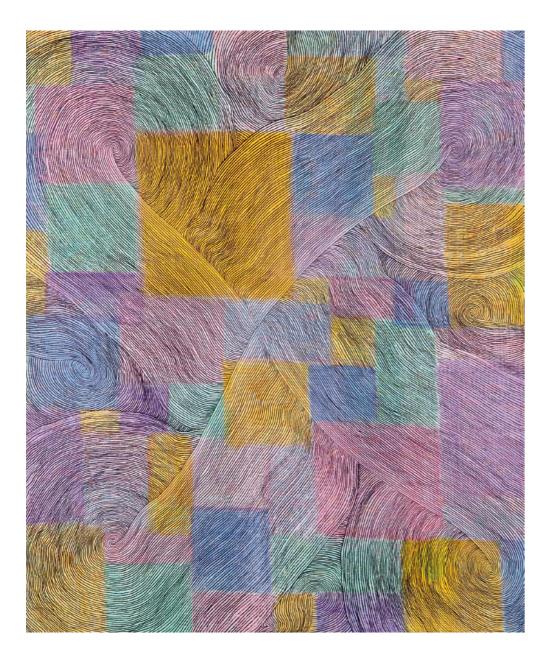




Wind (Yellow), 2015 Acrylic and ink on canvas 91cm x 117cm As a symbol of renewed hope, the wind implies an energy of transformation to the artist who is trying to visualize its transparent movement. On another level, the swirling, unbroken lines in these works act as a metaphor for lineage and human DNA.







Wind, 2013 Acrylic and ink on canvas 91cm x 72cm

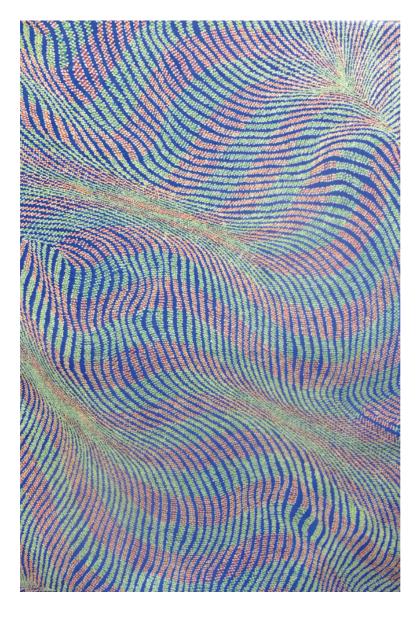




Wind, 2013 (close-ups) Acrylic and ink on canvas 91cm x 72cm



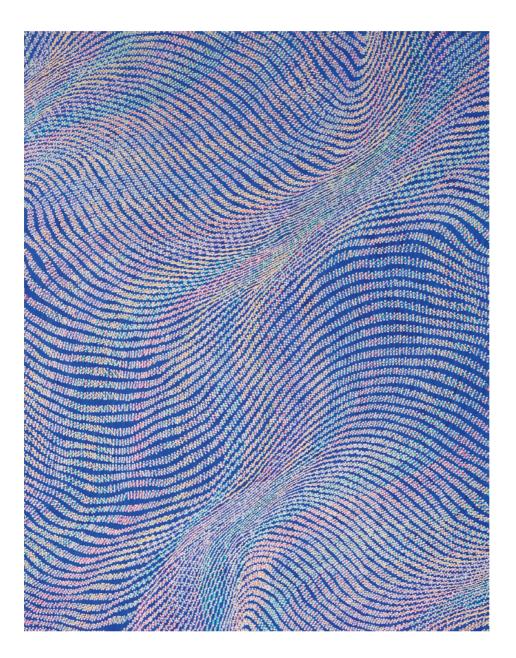
In Greek, the word "aura" denotes breeze or light wind, thus indicating the sensation of the wind has always been associated with the Sublime and Divine.



Yama is trying to capture something intangible, "the energy of plants and its power of growth the kinetic invisible movements of the world." The series also has the same sense of exploration by beginning a journey without knowing the destination. "It's like taking a long walk, which provides an entirely unexpected new viewpoint," the artist explained.

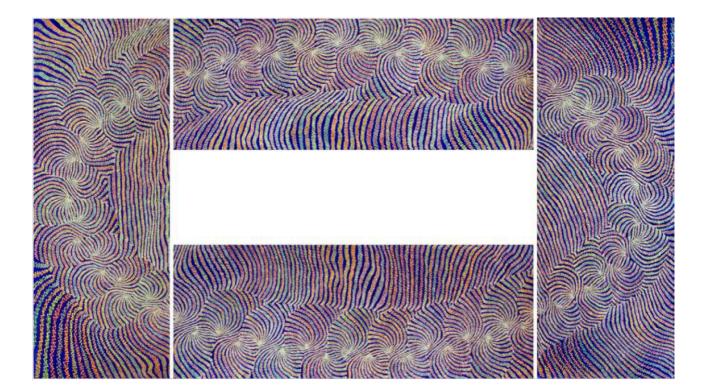
Cosmic Ray #28, 2018 Acrylic and ink on canvas 117cm x 91cm





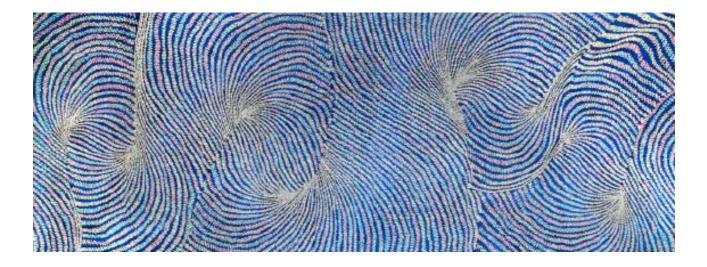
Cosmic Ray #18, 2017 Acrylic and ink on canvas 117cm x 91cm



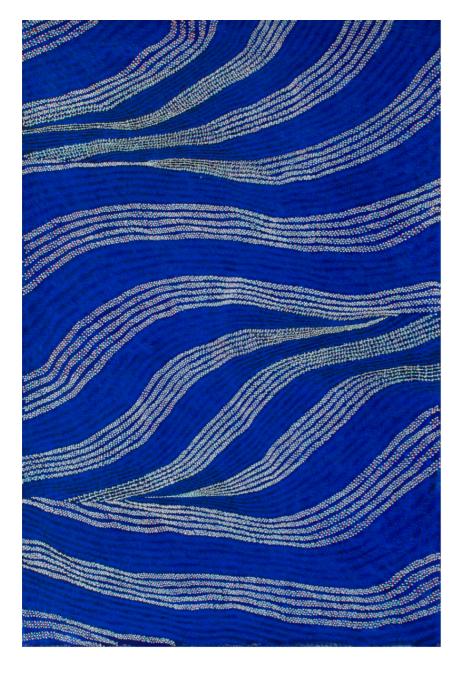


Cosmic Ray #38, 2020 Acrylic and ink on canvas 190cm x 320cm (tetraptych) There is also a connection to automatic artworks that are driven by the unconscious mind. While the surrealists believed in tapping into automacy as a creative wellspring, Yama also sees his subconscious actions as a way to connect to the energy of the universe.





Cosmic Ray #35, 2019 Acrylic and ink on canvas 65cm x 190cm Yohei Yama describes his instinct to actuate the energies of nature, his intentions are to create these ripples that affect the viewer as you stand tracing the patterns of his work. As a viewer, you are integral; humanity and nature are the major proponents of this world. Hence the existence of the viewer plays the role in actualizing this intent of appreciation of nature's forces.



"When working I feel the wind, I see the movement of a crowd, birds singing...the artwork is born as a result of collaboration with time, space and nature."

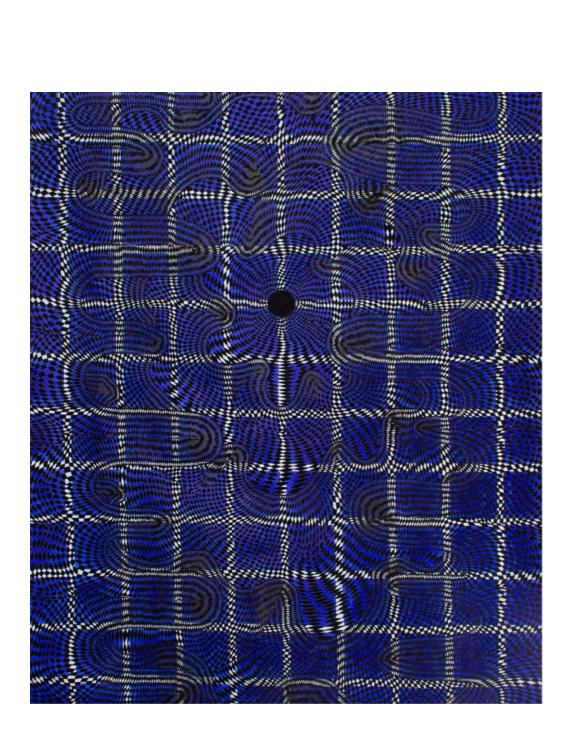
Untitled (C#42), 2021 Acrylic and ink on canvas 120cm x 80cm





Crossing IX, 2017 Acrylic and Ink on canvas 117cm x 91cm

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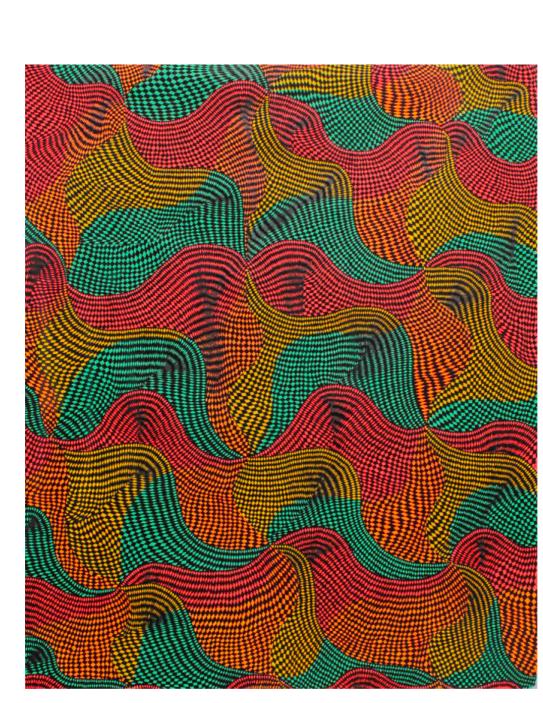
Untitled (phusis/natura #6), 2022 Acrylic and ink on canvas 163cm x 130cm





Sun Dance, 2014 Acrylic and Ink on canvas 50cm x 70cm

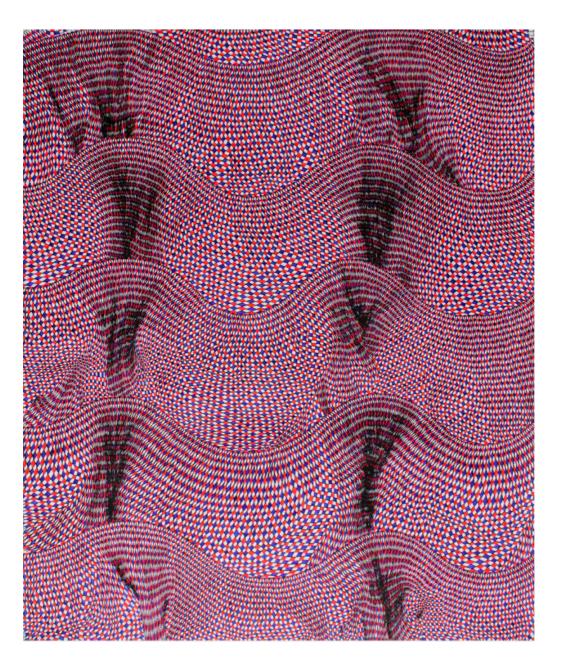




Phenomenon #2, 2023 Acrylic and ink on canvas 162cm x 130cm

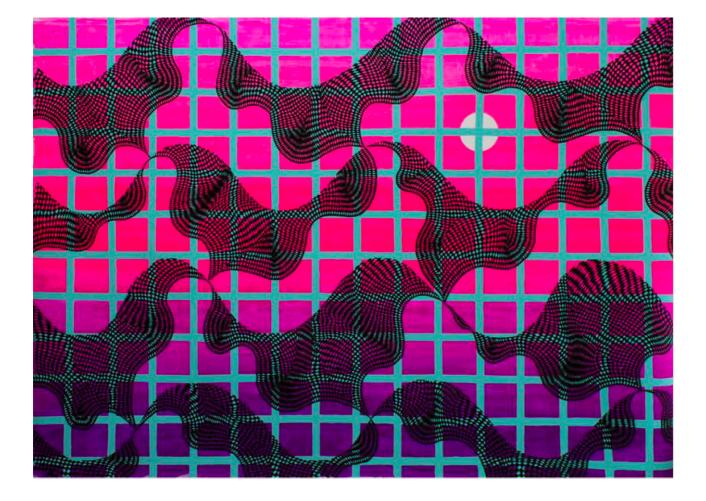
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Phenomenon #3, 2023 Acrylic and ink on canvas 162cm x 130cm

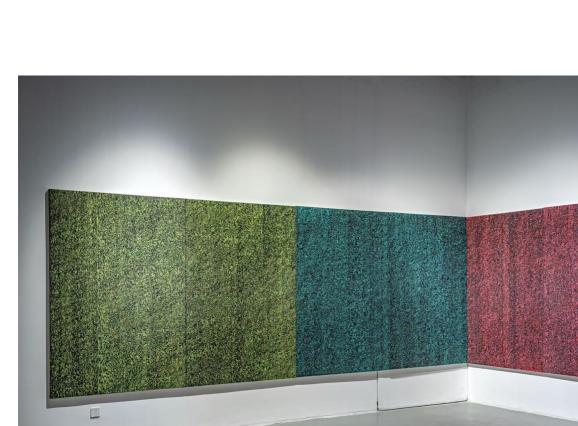




A view, 2023 Acrylic and ink on canvas 150cm x 220cm "It's quite hard to speak about works because I don't know. I feel like sometimes it's given somehow to me. Or coincidentally I find it. It's like you walk far and you see a new view. Repeat like a heartbeat and it makes something. The start point is the heartbeat and breath. Repeat like a day and it make one's life. My works also, repetition built the work. I think my work is this kind of type. I think that I am not painting something personal but I am painting something universal via my body. I believe in my nature."



Counting Stars



Counting Star Collection, 2019 Acrylic and ink on canvas 194cm x 260cm (diptych)

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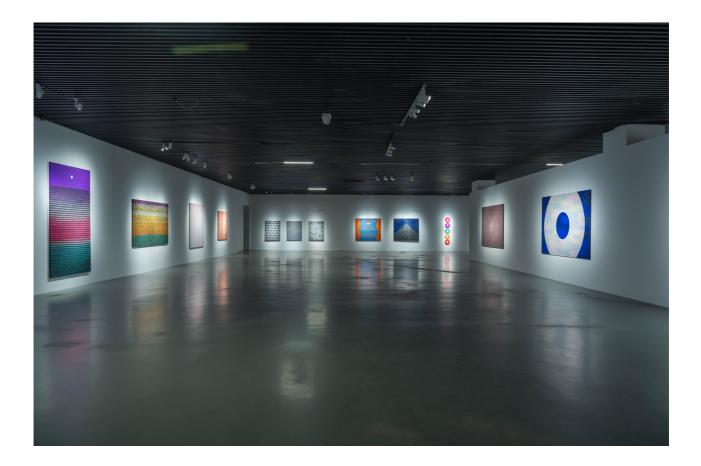




The bonding of the tree, 2024 Installation, wood cut and mix media 1200 cm x 700 cm

VIN GALLERY





Powerlong Museum View on PATH to Exhibition, 2024

#### VIN GALLERY

#### YOHEI YAMA EXHIBITIONS

2024	Art Philippines, Vin Gallery booth, Manila.
	Art Jakarta 2024, Vin Gallery booth, Jakarta.
	Sprout, Vin Gallery Shanghai, Shanghai.
	On Path To, Powerlong Museum, Shanghai.
	Untitled Art Fair, Vin Gallery booth, Miami.
	New Wave, Powerlong Museum, Shanghai.
2023	Art Philippines, Vin Gallery booth, Manila.
	Art Fair Asia Fukuoka, Vin Gallery booth, Japan.
	Art Taipei, Vin Gallery booth, Taipei.
	Resonate State, Vin Gallery, Ho Chi Minh City.
2022	Art Jakarta 2022, Vin Gallery booth, Indonesia.
2021	Yohei Yama Book Launching & Exhibition, Vin Gallery, HCMC, Vietnam.
	Art Dubai 2021, Vin Gallery booth, Dubai.
2020	Art Fair Philippines, Manila.
2019	Art021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, China.
	Phenomenon ÷ (Time x Space), Vin Gallery, Vietnam.
	Seatlle Art Fair, US.
	Volta Basel, Switzerland.
	Art Central Hong Kong.
	Art Fair Philippines, Manila.



#### YOHEI YAMA EXHIBITIONS

2018	Season Energeia, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
	Season Energeia, Art Taipei.
	Volta14 Basel, Switzerland.
	Rhythm I Graph, Penang, Malaysia.
2017	Lou Apoukashi, Art Taipei.
2016	Group Show Archives 2011>>>2015, Tokyo, Japan.
	Asia Contemporary Art Show, Hong Kong.
	Afordable Art Fair, Hong Kong.
	Group Show (Summer Collection), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
	Art Kaohsiung, Kaohsiung.
2015	The Power of Semiosis, Ho Chi Minh City.
	Small Things, Ho Chi Minh City.
	Vital Signs, Tokyo.
	Tree of Life, Japan.
	Asia Contemporary Art Show, Hong Kong.
	Afordable Art Fair, Hong Kong.
	Young Art Taipei, Taipei.
2014	Asia Hotel Art Fair, Seoul, South Korea.
	Between Stars and Ground, Tokyo.
	Between Stars and Ground, Tokyo.
	Asia Contemporary Art Show, Hong Kong.

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# YOHEI YAMA EXHIBITIONS

2014	Group Show (A look of Michiyo Yama), Japan.
(cont'd)	Small Things, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
	Bank Art Fair, Singapore.
	Art Kaohsiung, Kaohsiung.
2013	Conservation of Energy, Japan.
	Conservation of Energy, Tokyo, Japan.
2012	Meguru, Japan.
	Ood . Heg . Kokaido, Japan.
	Lavish, Japan.
	One of All, All of One, Tokyo, Japan.
2011	Crispy Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.
	Nico, Tokyo, Japan.



#### YOHEI YAMA PRESS RELEASES

#### ( EXHIBITIONS )

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#### 'Resonate State' by Yohei Yama - Vin Gallery Vietnam

Vin Gallery

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Mar 10 - Apr 28, 2023



Untitled (phusis natura #5), 2022, Acrylic and Ink on canvas 162cm/ All images courtesy of Vin Gallery

Vin Gallery is pleased to present you 'Resonate State' a solo show by Yohei Yama. He describes his instinct to actuate the energies of nature, his intentions are to create these ripples that affect the viewer as you stand tracing the patterns of his work. As a viewer, you are integral;

#### artwriting

Degree Critical, Fall 2019 - Friday 08/23/2019



#### **Dispatch From Vietnam: Yohei Yama at Vin** Gallery, Ho Chi Minh City of 2013) byDavid Willis (Cl

For his second solo exhibition at Vin Gallery, the Japanese born, Ho Chi Minh City-based artist Yohei Yama presents six new paintings and two new sculptural installations (all created in 2019) which, although nominally abstract, represent more than just patterns in paint. In these works, the artist attempts to depict the immaterial essence of



#### YOHEI YAMA PRESS RELEASES

#### FREDERICK HARRIS GALLERY



Purchases can be made at the Member Services Desk. Please call extension 670 for further information お買い求めはメンバーサービスデスクにて 残っております。館内電話で内線670番まで お問い合わせください。

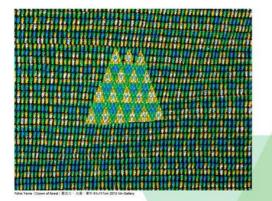




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VAA國提供条項性並不僅有限於合理、許多活躍醫學的醫师亦均在這比要中相關成 角、國際於約年2月中有安認其意味。但不同考測物理由並與具種化於和電力的 的作品。今年VAT產的醫療活動。若是國自國思想。將自一時行之有行的VAA 在公共當代種類的其關係一次受整的條約、其這些資料互近部的給作。一個關鍵官 的實代物解解。以中心2010年來自該VAA之一由這种一個國家的關東原因。 使用之間的其關係。其中認定或自己的主義的 本個語的情報者。以中心2010年來自該VAA型 一般認定是一般的其關係。其中認定是一般的中國的主義的主義的 主要的推測的其他。其中認定是一般的主義的主義的主義的主義的主義的主義的主義的 正規模的使用。「最好是可能的在中國的主要的主義」在VAT2014期度自己的严格 都,而有近乎有關於的未開的工具。但VAT2014期度自己的严格 都,而有行者使是不須能不是關始人的的實社論。

#### YAT曲度特립的「PHOTOEYE 2015」系列活動

YAT為響應公太及同機變區對必需性關於作品目並增強的原來。表請當和亞洲醫师 新活購人士舉辦本年度活動最大完點:YAT首使种間的攝影系列活動「PHOTOEYE 2015」。其中有發展內攝影制作者沒軌於服幣的「專家園對當副的tfolio Review」。 「當代藝術論壇」,以及攝影特異專圖「PHOTO EX-Explore Power Photo」。在是雙



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#### YOHEI YAMA PRESS RELEASES

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Woei),分別帶來馬來西亞現代藝術發展和演變的專題 因應第三屆 Art Kaohsiung 會展規模擴大, 駁二藝術特 演講,做為 Art Kaohsiung 建構交會平台的第一步。

到持續在高雄耕耘多年的藝廊工作者,包含火腿設計師 並將持續進行擴大邀請 500 位來自亞洲區及全台重要 臺廊創辦人尹立、經理王服怡,與分享藝術負責人黃耀 藏家聚集高雄,為其設計一系列精緻嚴選的藝術旅程, 德、藝術家蔣涵玶等人,分別從「全球視野」、「新銳市 感受藝術瀰漫的南方之都。 場」、「聚焦台灣」、「高雄特報」四大核心,一同從獨 特的當地視野,深度討論當代藝術的發展,以及高雄藝今年初冬,第三屆 Art Kaohsiung 將揉合南部在地藝術 高雄藝壇的焦點與定位走向,精彩可期不容錯過。而藝 後市場中的學術性深度,則中高雄師範大學跨領域藝術 研究所助理教授蔡佩桂與弔詭畫廊藝術總監李美政、 藝術家李俊賢一同與大家分享、交流。

第三屆 Art Kaohsiung 除了持續關注亞洲藝術的發展, 也希望拓展與歐洲的交流。今年與德國科隆 Art. Fair 藝術博覽會成為會展重要合作夥伴,未來將進行台灣與 科隆兩地新鲵藝術家策展合作,為南台灣帶來嶄新活力 的藝術視野。

03 Kohei Yamashita | Climber #1 紙上閉筋 19x78.5cm 2008 05 Tatsuhite Hirokoshi | Bey from the North Country 油彩・豊布 80.3x65.2cm 2015 04 Yohei Yama | Way 夏克力彩・墨・豊布 162x112cm 2014 06 羅芬娜・克斯線亞 Safina Ksenia | 奇想之源 - IV 油彩・豊布 80x60cm 2014

區由兩棟倉庫擴增為四棟倉庫展出,城市商旅的展間數 則增加至60間,全面升級展場品質。因應去年頂級藏 在地論壇方面,第三屆 Art Kaohsiung 很榮率地能邀請 家計畫的成功,今年展會總邀請藏家共產 6000多位,

術博覽會。

2015	Art Kaohstung高雄藝術博覽會
展期	12.11-12.13
開放日	11:00-19:00(13日至18:00)
屬於	高雄設二整時特區、城市商旅一高雄貴愛館





< Yohei Yama

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#### Yohei Yama

Japan (b.1977) art to heal, or to atone. Fit

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Courtesy of Vin Gallery

VIN GALLERY

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