



**Takuya Kitashima**

## ***Karada wo Kogu***

Date: October 31 – November 17, 2024

Business Hours: Thu, Fri, Sat, and Sun (Closed on Mon, Tue, and Holidays\*) 13:00-18:00

\* Wednesdays are by appointment only. We are open on Nov 3.

Opening reception: Nov 3, 16:00-18:00



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【Karada wo Kogu】 2024, Acrylic on canvas, 910x727mm

Esther Okada Art Gallery is pleased to present Takuya Kitashima for the second time with an exhibition titled "Karada wo Kogu" meaning rowing the body.

Kitashima, who has been working as an illustrator for fiction books, creates paintings that are somehow mysterious and draws the viewers into its stories. His works depict various characters who look into the viewers expressionlessly. Their identities are vague but they have a powerful presence in each of the images and often attract its viewers. Kitashima also creates sculptures of these characters and they have an even stronger presence in the gallery space.

When Kitashima paints, he starts with a dark tone and he layers colors onto the base color in order to silhouette the lines surrounding the motifs. The unique process he takes to carefully depict the lines that didn't initially exist in the



image shows his interest in the surface and the border. The previous exhibition at the gallery was titled "Hihu de Odoru Nami" , or "Waves dancing on the skin" and his theme was about rebuilding the inside and the outside of a surface. His eyes on the ambiguity of boundaries that define inside and outside of things relate to the current exhibition theme of clothes and its relations to human body.

"I have heard that we feel comfortable when we dive into the bathtub because the hot water shapes our bodies. Wearing clothes may have a similar reason. What defines the shapes? Until what we can call it ourselves? Trying to capture the waves of the shapes using clothes as a sail."

-Takuya Kitashima

**Takuya Kitashima | きたしまたくや**

Started to paint after his career as a musician. He also works as an illustrator for books such as 《中国・アメリカ 謎 SF》、by Motoyuki Shibata/Keita Kojima, 《日本語に住みついて》 by Wen Yourou and 《家の哲学 家空間と幸福》 by Emanuele Coccia. He also makes sculptures and hold exhibitions both in Japan and overseas such as solo shows at Uspace Gallery (Taipei) and Fir Gallery (Beijin).

Artist Website: <http://kitashimatakuya.com>

Instagram: @kitashimatakuya

For any further inquiries, please contact Esther Okada Art Gallery.

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