

Rikako Kawauchi “Humans and Tigers”

Duration : 11/5 (Wed.) - 12/21 (Sun.)

Opening Reception : 11/6 (Thu.) 6-8pm

*Artist, Rikako Kawauchi, will be present at the opening reception on 11/6, Thu. 6-8pm.

Venue : WAITINGROOM (1F-2-14-2 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0005, JAPAN)

*During “Art Week Tokyo 2025,” we will be open on 11/5 (Wed.) - 8 (Sat.) 10am-7pm and 11/9 (Sun.) 10am-6pm.

*We are open on Wed. to Sat. 12-7pm and Sun. 12-5pm

*Closed on Mon., Tue. and National Holidays

*There are some discrepancies with the information printed on materials such as direct mail, but the above is the accurate information.

WAITINGROOM (Tokyo) is pleased to present *Humans and Tigers*, a solo exhibition by Rikako Kawauchi, on view from Wednesday, November 5 through Sunday, December 21, 2025. This exhibition is part of Art Week Tokyo 2025. Kawauchi has long explored the body through an interest in food and the acts associated with eating. Her inquiry extends to binary oppositions such as body and mind, self and other, and further draws inspiration from South American and African myths that can be seen as metaphors for these dualities. Working across a wide range of media—including painting, drawing, neon, wire, and marble—Kawauchi consistently places “line” at the core of her practice. Lines vividly reveal both physicality and spirituality, capturing the body’s movements and emotions with a sense of immediacy and speed in her brushwork. For this exhibition, Kawauchi focuses in particular on the duality between animals (tigers) and humans, presenting a body of new works that investigate this relationship.



Time to feed the milk, time to become a tiger
2023
oil on canvas
1303 x 1620 mm

Concurrent Exhibition (1): “The shape of water hardens into stone.”

Dates: 10/25 (Sat.) - 12/28 (Sun.), 2025

Opening Reception & Artist Talk: 10/25 (Sat.) 2pm-

Hours: 9:30am–4:30pm (Last Admission: 4pm)

Closed on Mon. (Open on 11/3, 11/24), 11/4, 5, 25, 26

Venue: Kurobe City Museum (1035 Horikiri, Kurobe City, Toyama)



The dung of the palm trees that grows from the feet becomes fruit and blends into the jungle. Everyone wants it very much.
2024
oil on canvas
2273 x 5454 mm

Concurrent Exhibition (2): “Jump over”

Dates: 10/29 (Wed.) - 12/11 (Thu.)

Venue: anonymous bldg. (5-1-25 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo)

*This is an art exhibition building near Omotesando Station and the Omotesando intersection.

As entry into the building is not permitted, please view the exhibit from the sidewalk.

Organized by: anonymous art project



Jump Over Palm Trees (detail)
2025
oil on canvas
1940 x 2590 mm

About the Artist, Rikako Kawauchi

Born in Tokyo in 1990, Rikako Kawauchi completed her M.F.A. in Oil Painting at the Graduate School of Art, Tama Art University in 2017. She is currently based in Tokyo.

Based on her interest in food, Kawauchi explores the ambiguities in the interrelationship between body and mind, and between self and other. She takes as motifs the presence and absence of the self and others that emerge in various forms of communication such as eating, conversation, and sex. Her practice spans a wide range of media—including drawing, painting, wire, resin, neon, and marble—while consistently placing “line” at the core of expression. Through her practice, she describes her attempt as “capturing elusive bodies and invisible movements of thought within lines.”

Recent major exhibitions include the solo exhibition *The shape of water hardens into stone*. (2025, Kurobe City Art Museum, Toyama), *INNER VECTOR: 11, 72, 2154* (2025, Beyond Gallery, Taipei), the group exhibition *5th Anniversary Exhibition Plastic Utopia: Our New Ecosystem* (2025, Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art, Aomori), the solo exhibition *Paintings & Drawings – Food, Animals, Organs, Plants, Bodies, etc, everything outside me is everywhere in the air, I breathe them in, I breathe them out*. (2024, Van der Grinten Galerie, Cologne), *Under the sun* (2024, agnès b. Galerie Boutique, Tokyo), the group exhibition *A Personal View of Japanese Contemporary Art: Takahashi Ryutaro Collection* (2024, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo), the solo exhibition *Even the pigments in paints were once stones* (2023, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo), *The Voice of the Soul* (2023, ERA GALLERY, Milan), the group exhibitions *Body, Love, Gender* (2023, Gana Art Center, Seoul), *WORLDS IN BALANCE: ART IN JAPAN FROM THE POSTWAR TO THE PRESENT* (2023, Okura Museum of Art, Tokyo), and *10th Anniversary Exhibition: New Horizon—From History to the Future* (2023, Arts Maebashi, Gunma). She also received the Kenjiro Hosaka Prize at the 1st CAF Award (2014), the SHISEIDO ART EGG Prize at *SHISEIDO ART EGG* (2015), the Yuki Terase Prize at the *TERRADA ART AWARD 2021*, and the Grand Prize (VOCA Prize) at *VOCA 2022: The Vision of Contemporary Art—New Perspectives in Painting* (2022).

Artist Statement

In the myths of South America and Africa, the tiger appears in stories as the metaphor with the greatest significance.

Within these myths, the tiger is described as representing the food that constitutes the body, the fire used in cooking that makes that food edible, or the sole possessor of that fire.

Lévi-Strauss argued that at the heart of every myth in South America and Africa lies the cooking fire, or the body. His analysis is that the origin of all human cultures can be traced to the cooking fire.

For humans, the tiger is a force as formidable as the natural threats that endanger life. If humans can be said to embody what is cultural, then the tiger represents the instinctual, that which belongs to nature.

In myths, however, it is the tiger that holds the cooking fire that leads to culture, bestowing it upon humans, or even marrying human women. Myths also describe women who marry tigers and gradually transform into tigers themselves, or conversely, tigers that behave and converse just as humans do.

Here, the tiger can be read as encompassing not only animalistic and instinctual aspects, but also certain cultural elements. The fact that humans are also depicted as approaching the tiger, imbued with instinct, suggests that both can be understood as symbiotic and interchangeable entities.

This holds true not only in myths, but also for us who inhabit the real world.

Beneath the clothes we wear and the human lives that appear to be underwritten by cultural considerations, the raw flame of instinct continues to burn.

Where does the wisdom of animals come from? Is it something etched into their bodily memory, or do they also observe their surroundings, think, and thereby extract a kind of wisdom in order to survive? (Surely they do.)

Or perhaps within instinct, within the body itself, there exists a form of wisdom and thinking that cannot be verbalized.

We often conceive of humans and animals as separate entities, but just as with the duality of body and mind, the fundamental relationship between us is one of coexistence. A tiger slumbers within us — and we can also see humanity within it.

— Rikako Kawauchi, October 2025



Sitting, 2025, wire and pin on panel,
665 x 525 x 140 mm



reversal, 2025, watercolor and pencil on paper,
240 x 330 mm



Human and tigers, 2025, stone,
90 x 240 x h210 mm

The Mythical Dynamism of Generative Change: On the Expansion of Line in the Work of Rikako Kawauchi

Keisuke Mori (Curator, Chiba City Museum of Art)

In her paintings, Rikako Kawauchi builds up forms within the picture plane by layering pigment — a mixture of oil paint and medium — thickly onto the canvas in multiple layers. She then makes a series of sharp incisions that resemble the folds of the entrails of a living creature into this expansive surface, using a painting knife. The subjects that she repeatedly depicts are various animals: the jaguars, coyotes, sloths, and snakes that Claude Lévi-Strauss singles out in his structural analysis of myths. As the title indicates, this exhibition focuses on humans, tigers, and the relationship between them.

Kawauchi's drawing method, which involves the act of dredging up various forms from multilayered planes of color, is conditioned by the physical constraints of the pigment hardening due to how viscous it is. As such, the speed at which she carves and draws becomes the most crucial element in her creative process. This self-imposed constraint invariably demands of Kawauchi a hand that can transcend thought, so to speak — a kind of passageway connecting to the exterior of the container that is the self, the subject, without having to invoke the Surrealist practice of automatism. In this sense, Kawauchi consciously embraces and incorporates into her painting the intermediary nature once exercised by those who controlled and operated the codes that govern narrative, and took on the role of transmitting myths.

This mode of artistic expression, where the line occupies a privileged position, naturally cannot be confined to oil painting alone. Kawauchi has previously attempted to expand this approach to more diverse forms of expression: drawings, marble, three-dimensional sculptures that involve the act of carving out space using wire or neon tubes, and even embroidery on fabric. What all of these clearly share in common is a kind of dynamic force that lies latent within the line. Like lines that extend in multiple directions, Kawauchi's recent artistic forays have achieved a kind of cross-disciplinary connection across various fields. What she has pursued there is precisely a kind of "other" that transcends the self.

The aversion that one feels towards food — or more precisely, the act of ingestion that involves food entering the body via the mouth, where the boundary between self and other becomes blurred — has consistently held a kind of existential significance in the context of Kawauchi's creative practice. This act, indispensable for sustaining life, is also deeply rooted in the problem of otherness. As such, her richly colored, multilayered canvases, as representations of the fluctuations between self and other that permit a kind of shuttling back and forth across them, have become spaces capable of summoning the invisible other.

In this exhibition, drawing on her knowledge of cultural anthropology and the poetry of William Blake, Kawauchi observes how the binary opposition between "culture" and "nature" in both humans and tigers is transcended. Whether they are depicted as being subsumed (*House of the garden*), circulating (*Loop*), or intermingling (*Time to feed the milk, time to become a tiger*), their postures reveal a relationship of rich profundity. What ought to be gleaned from this ambivalent relationship between humans and tigers, with their distinctive stripes, is a feeling of doubt surrounding the very essence of self and other, as well as the potential for generative change. This is undoubtedly connected to the fact that, even as it is grounded in painting, itself a malleable medium, Kawauchi's methodology has expanded to include collaborations with others, although this is something that is restricted to her works made of marble, neon tubes, and fabric. The diversity of Kawauchi's works, which train their gaze on various boundaries while excavating ancient layers of human memory as they wager on the plurality and generative change of existence, may function as signs that permit us to arrive at a renewed understanding of individual lives, as well as our world in this era of fierce division.



House of the garden, 2025, oil on canvas, 1940 x 1303 mm



Loop, 2025, oil on canvas, 455 x 380 mm



Where the Tiger Has Touched, 2024, oil on canvas, 910 x 727 mm

Rikako KAWAUCHI

1990 Born in Tokyo, Japan
2015 Tama Art University, Bachelor's degree, Oil Painting
2017 Tama Art University, Master's degree, Oil Painting
Currently lives and works in Tokyo.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Humans and Tigers, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan
Jump Over, anonymous bldg., Tokyo, Japan
The shape of water hardens into stone., Kurobe City Art Museum, Toyama, Japan
INNER VECTOR: 11, 72, 2154, Beyond Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
Please Don't Disturb, CADAN YURAKUCHO, Tokyo, Japan



Solo Exhibition "INNER VECTOR: 11, 72, 2154"
(2025, Beyond Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan) installation view

2024

Softest chain, Kamakura Gallery, Kanagawa Japan
Paintings & Drawings - Food, animals, organs, plants, bodies, etc, everything outside me is everywhere in the air. I breathe them in, I breathe them out., Van der Grinten Galerie, Cologne, Germany
Under the sun, agnès b. galerie boutique, Tokyo, Japan

2023

Even the pigments in paints were once stones, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan
The Voice of the Soul, ERA GALLERY, Milan, Italy
human closely, Lurf Museum, Tokyo, Japan
line & colors, N&A Art SITE, Tokyo, Japan

2022

Make yourself at home, Nihombashi Mitsukoshi Honten, MITSUKOSHI CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan
Colours in summer, GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS, GINZA ATRIUM, Tokyo, Japan
Lines, Van der Grinten Galerie, Cologne, Germany

2021

Empty Volumes, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan
afterimage aftermyth, Roppongi Hills A/D Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2020

drawings, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan
drawings, OIL by Bijutsu Techo, Tokyo, Japan
Myth & Body, Nihombashi Mitsukoshi, Mitsukoshi Contemporary Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2018

human wears human / bloom wears bloom, Kamakura Gallery, Kanagawa, Japan
Tiger Tiger, burning bright, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2017

Something held and brushed, Tokyo Myoan Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
NEWoMan ART wall Vol.7 "Easy Chic Pastels", NEWoMan ART wall, JR Shinjuku Station, Tokyo, Japan

2016

Back is confidential space. Behind=Elevator, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2015

Collector and Artist vol.1, T-Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
shiseido art egg 9: Rikako Kawauchi, Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo, Japan



Group Exhibition "5th Anniversary Exhibition Plastic Utopia: Our New Ecosystem"
(2025, Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art, Aomori) installation view, Photo by Keizo Kioku

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Plastic Love, Galerie Marguo, Paris, France

Arts Maebashi Recent Acquisitions / Collection+ Women Artists, Each Her Own World, Arts Maebashi, Gunma, Japan

5th Anniversary Exhibition Plastic Utopia: Our New Ecosystem, Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art, Aomori, Japan

Freedom!: Towards A World Filled with Diverse Happiness and Hope, Dai-ichi Life Lobby, Tokyo, Japan

A Glimpse of the S.F Collection vol. 2, N&A Art SITE, Tokyo, Japan

2024

A Personal View of Japanese Contemporary Art: Takahashi Ryutaro Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Nurturing Nodes in the Nook of an Odd Sock, ART GALLERY MIYAUCHI, Hiroshima

collection #08, rin art association, Gunma

Fellow Travelers of the Canvas—A Perspective on Contemporary Art of Japan from the Takahashi Ryutaro Collection, Yamagata

Museum of Art, Yamagata

SPRING SHOW, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

From the museum collection 2023: fourth period, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, Japan

2023

The Hints: 12 Perspectives from which we can discern the present and the future, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation East Building Rising Square 1F Earth Garden, Tokyo, Japan

Body, Love, Gender, Gana Art Center, Seoul, Korea

WORLDS IN BALANCE: ART IN JAPAN FROM THE POSTWAR TO THE PRESENT, Okura Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan

Arts Maebashi 10th Anniversary Exhibition "New Horizon—From History to the Future", Arts Maebashi, Gunma, Japan

TRANSFORMATIONS: MATERIAL AND DISSOLUTION, Van der Grinten Galerie, Germany

Paper Whispers, Schönenfeld Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Good Morning Japan, Nassima Landau Art Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel

VOCA 30 YEARS STORY / KOBE, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art Branch Haradanomori Gallery, Hyogo, Japan

SPRING SHOW, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

From the museum collection 2022: third period, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, Japan

2022

OKETA COLLECTION: YES YOU CAN, WHAT MUSEUM, Tokyo, Japan

OKETA COLLECTION: THE SIRIUS, Spiral Garden, Tokyo, Japan

VOCA 30 Years Story / Tokyo, The fiest foor lobby of the Dai-ichi Life Group Hibiya Head Office, Tokyo, Japan

VOCA 2022, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan

SPRING SHOW, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2021

TERRADA ART AWARD 2021 Finalists Exhibition, Warehouse TERRADA G3-6F, Tokyo, Japan

Abstraction by CADAN, Isetan Shinjuku Store Main Building 6F art gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Viewing Room Exhibition, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2020

-Inside the Collector's Vault, vol. 1-, WHAT MUSEUM, Tokyo, Japan

10TH, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

Input / Output, GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS GINZA ATRIUM, Tokyo, Japan

Blossoming of individuality Post-Isaku generation, people who left the Bunka Gakuin from Showa to Heisei, Musee Le Vent, Karuizawa, Nagano, Japan

Spinner Markt, Spiral Garden, Tokyo, Japan

Viewing Room Exhibition, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

2019

Photo, 3F/3kai, Tokyo, Japan

drawings, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan

2018

Museum of Together - Circus, Shibuya Hikarie 8/COURT, Tokyo, Japan

2017

spiral take art collection 2017 "SHU SHU SHU SHO", Spiral Garden, Tokyo, Japan

NEWSPACE, WAITINGROOM, Tokyo, Japan

Museum of Together, Spiral Garden, Tokyo, Japan

Joint Graduation Exhibition of 5 Art Universities in Tokyo, The National Art Center Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued.)

2016

Stereotypical, Gallery PARC, Kyoto, Japan

2015

Dead Henge / Aesthetic, HIGURE 17-15 cas, Tokyo, Japan

2014

The 1st CAF Award - Winning Award Exhibition, TABLOID GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan

That I shall say goodnight till it be morrow, Shinjuku Ophthalmologist (Ganka) Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2013

TOTSU Exhibition, TKP Theater Kashiwa, Art Line Kashiwa 2013, Chiba, Japan

Home Made Family, CASHI Refrigilater, Tokyo, Japan

Sleep No More, Tama Art University Art Festival, Tokyo, Japan

2012

OTHER PAINTING XI, Pepper's Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

TOTSU Exhibition, Sogo Kashiwa, Art Line Kashiwa 2012, Chiba, Japan

Donuts k, Tama Art University Art Festival, Tokyo, Japan

AWARDS

2022 VOCA AWARD 2022

2021 TERRADA ART AWARD Finalist, Yuki Terase Award

2015 shiseido art egg AWARD

2014 The 1st CAF Award, Kenjiro Hosaka Award

Monex, Inc. ART IN THE OFFICE 2014

PUBLIC COLLECTION

Arts Maebashi, Gunma

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Tokyo

Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi

Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Tokyo

Takahashi Ryutaro Collection, Tokyo

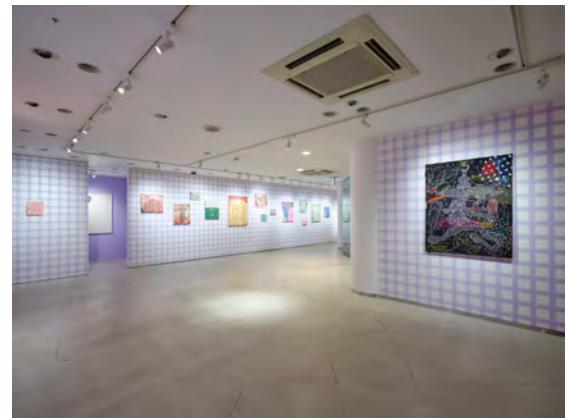
Monex, Inc., Tokyo



Solo Exhibition "The Voice of the Soul"
(2023, ERA GALLERY, Milan, Italy) installation view

ARTIST WEBSITE

<https://rikakokawauchi.com>



Solo Exhibition "Under the sun"
(2024, agnès b. galerie boutique, Tokyo) installation view
Photo by Ichiro Mishima (Artifact)

***Inquiry about the exhibition and artist**

WAITINGROOM

(Owner & Director: Tomoko Ashikawa)

Address: 1F-2-14-2 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0005

Hours: Wed. to Sat. 12-7pm Sun. 12-5pm

*Closed on Mon. Tue. and National Holidays

Tel : +81-3-6304-1010 email: info@waitingroom.jp

Website : <http://waitingroom.jp>