



ARTCOURT Gallery
Yagi Art Management, Inc.

OAP ARTCOURT 1F 1-8-5 Tenmabashi Kita-ku Osaka 5300042 JAPAN

Yasuyoshi Botan: *gone before flower*

[Basic Information]

Artcourt Gallery is presenting a solo exhibition of works by Yasuyoshi Botan, his first here in three years. Botan was born in 1971 in Osaka. He studied painting in New York City, and after returning to Japan established himself in Tokyo, participating in numerous exhibitions there while producing new work. Selected for a grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation (U.S.A.) in 2012, Botan has built on his accomplishments and received a great deal of recognition for his art. This will be his third solo exhibition at the gallery, and will include approximately twenty paintings with a focus on his latest work, as well as eight drawings produced during a residency in Sweden in September 2015.



[Concept of Works and Display]

Yasuyoshi Botan has endeavored to retain the fleeting nature of existence by way of its depiction, and to ascertain invisible, uncertain phenomena through works of painting. In line with such aims, Botan carefully observes the relationships of things that make up our world while dismantling their structures, and then reconstructs via his own rules of color and form to realize painting expressions imbued with mysterious stillness and emotion.

*More than a flower, even / human life is fleeting**

To experience existences and domains that may seem clearly defined – of the self and the other, or the close-to-home and the faraway, for example – and that blend into each other or switch places on occasion and appear as things with extremely vague and fluid borders, to experience these is to witness manifestations of our world's latent uncertainty and transience.

In this exhibition, on the basis of an underlying tone set with a section of verse from a waka poem that has been recited ever since Japan's Heian Period (794-1185), Botan will attempt to bring out the uncertainty and complexity of these existentially linked relationships, by way of such phenomena of painting as the conflict of the materiality and representationality of the paint itself, the fusion of the abstract and the figurative, and the reversal of motif and background. Transforming color borders into horizons, and causing trees to emerge out of accumulations of brushstrokes, Botan's wavering spaces switch back and forth between near and distant views. Motifs that one might expect to be central are concealed as vague silhouettes within progressions of abstract colors and shapes; and then one finds fragments of some object or other, things that could be omens or lingering suggestions, such as tree branches, rope and wisps of smoke, that are realistically depicted with precise lines.

When facing a picture that links these different elements like a code within a painting space that is quietly and ceaselessly changing phases, our awareness comes into contact with tensions produced between planes of vivid color and hints of things clad in detailed lines and the sense of breathing of an obscured presence, and we begin to open to the joy of seeing. By sharing the transience, the uncertainty, that resides in the painting space, between each and every one of us quiet exchanges and resonances arise... We hope you will join us in witnessing this deepening of Yasuyoshi Botan's world of expression.

* The first verse of a classical waka poem that overlays feelings experienced on a person's death and on seeing cherry blossoms fall, to convey the transience and uncertainty of our world and the fleeting nature of existence.

Hana yori mo / hito koso ada ni / narinikere / izure o saki ni / koimu to ka mishi

(More than a flower, even / human life is fleeting / Could one know which first / one would mourn?)

By the poet Ki no Mochiyuki, from Aisho (Laments), book sixteen of the Kokin Wakashu (tenth century "Collection of Japanese Poems of Ancient and Modern Times").

Image: Botan Yasuyoshi 《And when I found the door was locked》2015/h130 x w194 cm/Oil, pencil, gesso on canvas

[Exhibition]

Exhibition title: Yasuyoshi Botan: *gone before flower*

Duration: January 10 (Sun.) - February 6 (Sat.), 2016 / Closed on Sundays, Mondays and national holidays. (Opened on Sunday, Jan. 10)

Venue: ARTCOURT Gallery (OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka, 5300042 Japan)

Opening hours: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm (Saturdays and January 10: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm)

◆ Related Events: Talk and Reception on Sunday, January 10 ◆

- **Talk: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm** / Yasuyoshi Botan and Tomio Sugaya (Chief Curator at Osaka City Museum of Modern Art)
- **Opening reception: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

* Talk and Reception are free of charge, but an RSVP is required for the talk. Please email info@artcourtgallery.com or call 06-6354-5444 to reserve.

Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery / Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.

*Please contact Michiko Kiyosawa at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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Yasuyoshi Botan

1971 Born in Osaka
1997 Graduated from School of Visual Arts, Department of Fine Art, New York

Solo Exhibitions

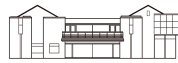
2015 Solo presentation at "artkyoto 2015" The Museum of Kyoto (Exhibited at the booth of ARTCOURT Gallery)
2014 "parade" Mizuho Oshiro Gallery, Kagoshima
2013 "color palette" Deshima Air, Amsterdam
"Unknown Library" MA2 Gallery, Tokyo
2012 "Collection of the thief" ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2011 "Conversation between Stupid Leche and Fearful Miedo" ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2010 "dodo" MA2 Gallery, Tokyo
2008 "into the forest" hpgrp gallery, Tokyo
2006 "Today's Artist 46: Yasuyoshi Botan 'Plotless Story'" Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka
TAP Satellite Gallery, Ibaragi
2005 "Bloomfield" Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya, Tokyo
Gallery Art Point, Tokyo
2004 INAX Gallery 2, Tokyo
2003 "Hito to Mono: Human and Object" Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo
"Sap Education Grant / the 4th commemorative exhibition" Saison Art Program Gallery, Tokyo
2002 "Tokyo Wonder Wall 2002" Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo
2001 INAX Gallery 2, Tokyo
1998 "- tada -" Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka
"existence and recognition" Gallery Port, Tokyo
1997 "material world" Gallery Chat Noir, Hyogo

Selected Group Exhibitions

2015 "Osamu Kokufu: His Work and His Circle" ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
"Cho-Kyoto 2015" Chionsha, Kyoto
"INCIDENTS 2015" Sake brewery of Hachinohe Shuzou, Aomori
2014 "The Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava" The Hiratsuka Museum of Art, Kanagawa (Toured to five museums)
2013 "near equal" MA2 Gallery, Tokyo
"24th Biennial of illustrations Bratislava" Bratislava
2012 "ACG Collection" ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2011 "Art in an Office" Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi
"SPRING ART SHOW" MA2 Gallery, Tokyo
2010 "Kazuma Koike and Yasuyoshi Botan: A silent moment at Veronica Island" hpgrp GALLERY TOKYO, Tokyo
"artfair - art from artfairs" aura gallery, Beijing
"Tokyo Wonder Wall 2000-2009" Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
2009 "My story" MA2 Gallery, Tokyo
"Yuki Hayashi, Yasuyoshi Botan, Chisato Yamano: migratory - lost in the world -" ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2008 "ACG eyes 1 : Moving images and Drawings - narrative -" ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
2006 Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award Ceremony, Tokyo
2005 "iimawashi" Edinburgh International Festival Fringe, Merz Gallery, Edinburgh
"Wonder Seed +" Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo
2004 "Container Ground" Tokyo Designer's Week, Tokyo
"Emerging Artists From Tokyo Wonder Site" Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
"Emerging Artist" Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo
"Artist Night Vol.3" Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo
2003 "sukima the bathhouse" SCAI the Bathhouse, Tokyo / Command N, Tokyo
"Size 0" Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo
2002 "Toride Re - cycling Art Project 2002" Toride Art Project 2002, Ibaragi
"Tokyo Wonder Wall 2002" Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
"Become R. Buckminster Fuller in 21st century" The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
"The 5th Exhibition of the Taro Okamoto Memorial Award for Contemporary Art" Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kanagawa
2001 "sukima Project 1 & 2" Command N, Tokyo
2000 "Sapporo International Contemporary Prints Biennial" Hokkaido Museum of Modern Arts, Hokkaido
1999 "TRIAD, an observation of artist/friendship triangles" Gallery Vibrant, New York
1998 "Al Brunelle's curating exhibition" VISUAL ARTS Gallery (School of Visual Arts), New York
1997 "Today's American Artists" The Alliance of Queens Artist, New York
"17th Annual Faber Birren National Color Award Show" Stamford Museum and Nature Center, Stamford, CT
1996 "International salon '96" Ward-Nasse Gallery, New York
1995 "19th Annual Students Exhibition; Represented from School of Visual Arts" The National Arts Club, New York

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Public Collection

Toyota Art Collection (Toyota Motor Corporation)

Selected Awards

- 2013 The 24th Biennial of illustrations Bratislava, Representative of Japan
- 2012 The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Grant
- 2007 Nomura Foundation, Arts and Culture grant
- 2003 The 4th Commemorative Exhibition, Saison Art Programme Education Grant
The 2nd ECHIGO-TSUMARI Art Triennale "Idea Competition" Selected
- 2002 "Tokyo Wonder Wall 2002" Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo Wonder Wall Prize
"Become R.Buckminster Fuller in 21st century" The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Special Prize
The 5th Taro Okamoto Memorial Award for Contemporary Art, Selected
"Toride Re - cycling Art Project 2002" Toride Art Project, Selected
- 2001 10 days selection, INAX Gallery, Selected

Commissioned projects

- 2015 Book-cover picture for "The Wizard Knight" written by Gene Wolfe, Kokusho kankokai, Inc.
- 2014 Book-cover picture for "Dorobo no Dorobon" (Dorobon the Thief) written by Rin Saito, Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers
Book-cover picture for "Eiko no mori" (The Eiko's Forest) written by Aoko Matsuda, Kawade Shobo Shinsha
- 2012 Book-cover picture for "Kazan no fumonoto de" (At the foot of a volcano) Masashi Matsue, Shinchoha Publishing
Audemars Piguet, Royal Oak Art Wall Clock Charity Auction "Support Japan"
- 2011 Outer wall sculptures for the Shiga Prefectural Government Otsu Biwako Joint Office
(Collaboration with Minobe Japanese-Gargoyle Factory)
- 2009 Banquet walls at Hyatt Regency Osaka (Collaboration with Brush up Mural Paintings Studio)
- 2006 Venue installation for Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award Ceremony, Tokyo
- 2005 Mural painting in Komazawa Olympic Park, Tokyo

Residencies

- 2015 RUD AIR, Sweden
- 2013 Deshima AIR, Netherlands
- 2008 Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Scotland
- 2007 Foundation B.a.d, Netherlands

Workshops

- 2015 "Omoide Sutakkingu!" (Memory Stacking!) Ashikaga Museum of Art, Tochigi
- 2012 "Roba wo penki de kireini nutteageyou!" (Let's paint a donkey in beautiful colors!)
Chishima Foundation for Creative Osaka
- 2007 "Game of Life" Rotterdam University

Publications

- "Ousama no ohikkoshi" (The king's house-moving) May, 2012, Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers
- "Toruko no Zera basan mekka he iku" (Turkish Old lady Zera goes to Mecca) October, 2007,
Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers (Illustration by Botan, Written by Etsuko Shindo)
- "Tamanorihime" (Princess Tamanori) October, 2006, Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers



Sign, 2015
h 40.5 x w 30.5 cm
Oil, pencil, gesso on cotton



Details from the left work

a little confusion
2015
h145.5 x w194 cm
Oil, pencil, gesso, cray pas on canvas

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