

For immediate release:

**Ichiro Irie**

**Naporitan Collection**

**May 31 - June 28, 2025**

Opening Party: May 31, 6PM-8PM

eitoeiko is pleased to present Naporitan Collection, Ichiro Irie's fourth solo exhibition following Slap, Stick and Mark, 2012, The Imposters, 2018, and Googleheim Collection, 2023. Irie, who emigrated from Japan to the U.S. as a child and has been working in Los Angeles, studied at Claremont Graduate University and then spent seven years in Mexico after being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. As a result, he has a multifaceted perspective of Japanese, American, and Mexican culture.

Naporitan (as most frequently spelled using Hepburn romanization) spaghetti was invented by Shigetada Irie, executive chef of the Hotel New Grand in Yokohama for U.S. General Douglas MacArthur, who was stationed in Japan after the end of the Pacific War. It was developed to satisfy American tastebuds through imagination and resourcefulness during the post-war period when ingredients were largely unavailable. In other words, despite its fancy-sounding, quasi-Italian nomenclature, Naporitan spaghetti is a decidedly cheap "Itameshi" dish of Japanese origin. On the other hand, in the United States, "Neapolitan" (same pronunciation) does not refer to a type of Spaghetti sauce, but instead, refers to a popular, tri-colored flavor of ice cream.

In this exhibition, Irie's collection mashes various motifs up; such as movie actors, musicians, and cartoon characters through wordplay. The show's title is reminiscent of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection in New York City which houses the largest art collection in the Americas. The works on display demonstrate how a fluidity that changes with time exists even within the so-called timeless universality found in canonical masterpieces. As part of the current exhibition, the artist will present "Princetagram" a grouping of photos inspired by Richard Prince. By appropriating one of the infamous appropriation artist's most litigious and polemic bodies of work, Irie further complicates the narrative by alluding to the uncertainty that often exists in popular mythology.

### **Ichiro Irie**

Born in Tokyo (1969) and raised in Los Angeles, Irie received his B.A. from University of California, Santa Barbara (1994) and his M.F.A. from Claremont Graduate University (2001). Irie traveled to Mexico City on a Fulbright fellowship in 2001 and currently teaches at Santa Monica College, Oxnard College, and Ryman Arts. Recent exhibitions include Transpacific Borderlands, PST at Japanese-American National Museum, 2017, To Travel with Glasses at Iwami Art Museum, Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art and Aomori Museum of Art, 2018,

Destroy All Monsters, at eitoeiko, 2021, Bridging the Pacific at Torrance Art Museum, 2023, Googleheim Collection, eitoeiko, 2023, and Tales from the Googleheim, Rio Hondo College Gallery, 2024.

## ARTWORKS



L: Vincent Van Damme, acrylic and oil on canvas, 24 x 18 inches, 2023

R: Kerry James Marshall Mathers, acrylic on canvas, 24 x 18 inches, 2023



L: Frida J-Lo, acrylic on canvas, 24 x 18 inches, 2023

R: Willem Da Foening, acrylic and oil on canvas, 24 x 18 inches, 2023

### eitoeiko

Yaraicho 32-2, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0805

+81 (0)3.6873.3830

[www.eitoeiko.com](http://www.eitoeiko.com)

open TUE-SAT 12PM-7PM

contact to gallery: [ei@eitoeiko.com](mailto:ei@eitoeiko.com)