

For immediate release:

House of Lovers in Kagurazaka, by Ryoko Kimura

December 7, 2024 - January 18, 2025

Opening Party: December 7, 6PM-8PM

eitoeiko is thrilled to present *House of Lovers in Kagurazaka*, Ryoko Kimura's the first solo exhibition in eitoeiko. Ryoko Kimura is a female artist who has been painting handsome men for 20 years. Kimura depicts the relationship between a female painter and a handsome model in a sensual manner at an imaginary gallery located in a quiet residential area in Yaraicho, Kagurazaka.

In addition, the exhibition will also feature the original Shunga paintings used in NHK Drama 10 "Tsubame wa Kaettekonnai" and Tomoko Mukaiyama's Joruri performance "SADO" in Holland.

Ryoko Kimura(b.1971, Kyoto)

Received her MA from Tokyo University of Arts, Tokyo, 1997. Exhibitions include Handsome Men They Are, Museum of Modern Art Saitama, Iwami Art Museum, 2021, FEMINISMS, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2021, Whereabouts of Japanese Paintings, Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, 2022, URBAN GAZE, Mexico City, 2024, 9th Nikkei Nihonga Award Exhibition, Ueno Royal Museum, 2024, and many others.

Note from the artist:

eitoeiko is a private home and gallery run by the director, Mr. Kibukawa, who has a minor son. Please keep your sensual impressions to yourself and cooperate with us in a modest conversation.

Story

In the year 203X, this house, located in a residential area of Yaraicho in Kagurazaka, was my home and gallery until a short while ago. A few years ago, my son became independent and moved out of the house. Since then, my husband, who is a co-owner and director of the gallery, spends more than half of his time a year participating art fairs overseas. Mexico City, Metro Maynila, Los Angeles... He packs his trunk full of artists' works and sells them all over the world. Some fairs are not always a success. But my husband handles only the most unusual works of art. Rather than selling his artwork in Japan, where the economy is in a perpetual slump, he has a better chance of meeting a wealthy man who calls himself "I'm a BIG collector" and who buys his artwork for an unbelievable amount of money when he attends fairs around the world.

For a while, I operated the gallery and served customers while my husband was away, but it became more and more annoying to have to stop painting every time a visitor came in. During the gallery days, I occasionally used it as my tentative studio when it was empty, but now it has been completely encroached upon by paintbrushes and artworks. It has become mainly my studio except for solo exhibitions by artists I have known for a long time. Now, when I have accumulated a certain amount of paintings, I call it an open studio and show them to the public once a year or so.

Originally, I inherited the property and house that my grandfather, Takeo Nakamura, purchased for his painting business. I still remember my grandfather's studio, which was a small space with an impressive huge easel. Nearby is the atelier of Kiyokata Kaburaki, and the Noh theater and publishing house are

also nearby. Kagurazaka is a traditional geisha street. Kagurazaka is, and always has been, a good place for painters to live. The house I live in now has been rebuilt, and I think my grandfather would have been pleased to have me use it as my studio.

It was during my exhibition while my husband was away that I met the man.

A very handsome man came into the gallery and looked at my paintings. When I saw him, my heart began to boil and flutter for the first time in a long time.

You may think that I am too old to be over 60 years old, but I did not know that age does not matter at all in this case. The clothes and hair style he was wearing at that time were very similar to the characters in the work "Oujisama no Kuni," which I had drawn long ago. Surrounded by my paintings, he looked as if he had come out of his own work and come to life. Not to let him get away... I introduced myself as the artist and told him that I wanted him to be my model with as much enthusiasm as possible without being creepy, and as elegantly as possible, like a seasoned artist.

Finally, I invited "him" into my studio to paint as a model.

To be continued

*This story is a work of fiction. It is completely unrelated to any actual person or organization.



Left: Esquisse for the exhibition, 2024

Center: Bunny Boy, 2024

Right: Waterfall, ink on silk, painted scroll, 158x53.5cm, 2024 photo by Daisaku Oozu

Ryoko Kimura

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