

Maya Makino

Biography & artist resume

Biography

Born in 1980 in Kanagawa, Japan
Based in Tokyo, Japan

Maya Makino aims to capture and preserve the experience of witnessing scenes from the past, resulting from an involuntary awareness of sensations and appearing momentarily before her eyes. Think of the quietness of the night, the sound of the rain, or the scent of a flower. These fragments trigger childhood memories, followed by an experience in which those memories flash rapidly and are volatile through our minds before they disappear instantly, just as the artist becomes aware of these sights and senses.

Arguably one of the most essential aspects of Makino's painterly practice is the intensity of color. She uses a single dye to achieve a range of indigo blue hues, working on wooden panels primed with a traditional gesso using *gofun*—also known as shell lime. By doing so, the Japanese artist can create subtle textures and reliefs on her surface before soaking the panel with an intense indigo dye. The indigo does not sit on top of its surface; it penetrates the support, parallel with how she penetrates the mind in her pursuit of remembering, capturing, and preserving feelings or moments. For Makino, painting is not only a tour de force of a specific medium on a particular surface. She approaches it as a phenomenon emerging from deep within the support, as the color impels the painting to transcend its material aspects.

Makino achieved her MFA in Painting at the Tokyo University of the Arts in 2009. Makino nationally exhibited at renowned institutions, such as the University Art Museum, Tokyo (JP) in 2017; the Fujisawa Art Space, Kanagawa (JP) in 2016; the Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo (JP) in 2015; and the Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo (JP) in 2012. Her works are featured in international private collections and national public collections, encompassing the Saiho-Ji Temple, Tokyo (JP); the Collection Isuzu Motors (JP); the collection of St. Regis Osaka (JP); the collection Minakami, Gunma Prefecture (JP); and the collection of the University Art Museum, Tokyo (JP).

Selected solo exhibitions

- 2022 *Faded*, CAI Gallery, BE
- 2021 *Night Falls*, Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2019 *Days*, Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2017 *Halcyon Days*, Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2016 *Outside the Window*, Rokkatei Fukuzumi, Hokkaido, JP
- 2015 *In the Garden*, Gallery An, Ibaraki, JP
- The View I Always Saw*, Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2013 *Swimming in the Rain*, Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2011 *Between Memories and Stories*, Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2010 Gallery Yoyogi, Tokyo, JP
- 2009 Gallery Kaidan-no-tochu, Tokyo, JP
- Gallery Yoyogi, Tokyo, JP
- 2008 Yoyogi, Tokyo, JP

Selected group exhibitions

- 2023 *Catharsis*, CAI Gallery, Kortrijk, BE
- Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2022 *The Prize Show*, Geidai Art Plaza, Tokyo, JP
- Constant Repetition*, The Untitled Void, Seoul, KR
- Blue*, Gallery57, Arundel, West Sussex, UK
- Miniature Exhibition*, Tenohira Art Gallery, Tokyo, JP
- Under Construction*, Geidai Art Plaza, Tokyo, JP
- Geidai Art Plaza 16th Awards*, Geidai Art Plaza, Tokyo, JP
- 2021 *The Prize Show*, Geidai Art Plaza, Tokyo, JP
- 2017 *TUA Emerging Artists*, The University Art Museum, Tokyo, JP
- 2016 *The View from Here*, Fujisawa City Art Space, Kanagawa, JP
- Cadeau de Noël*, Galerie Kawakami, Tokyo, JP
- 2015 *VOCA—The Vision of Contemporary Art*, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, JP
- 2014 *Collection of the Year*, Rokka Library, Hokkaido, JP
- 2012 *10th Nakamichi Exhibition*, Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo, JP
- 2009 *The Bloom*, Art Jam Contemporary, Tokyo, JP
- 2008 *Geidai Art Plaza Art Prize*, Geidai Art Plaza, Tokyo, JP

Publications & press

- 2022 “Contemporary Japan-Based Artists To Know” in *Tokyo Weekender*
Maya Makino: Faded (exhibition catalog). Kortrijk: CAI
- 2016 “8 Emerging Abstract Painters To Collect Now” in *Contemporary Art Issue*
The View from Here (exhibition catalog). Fujisawa: Fujisawa City Art Space
- 2015 *VOCA* (exhibition catalog). Tokyo: The Ueno Royal Museum

Collections

Isuzu Motors Limited, JP
Saiho-ji Temple, Tokyo, JP
The St. Regis Osaka, JP
The University Art Museum, Tokyo, JP
Minakami, Gunma Prefecture, JP

