

AIKE DELLARCO | 艾可

TOSHIYUKI KONISHI SOLO SHOW “OUR TRAITS”

Opening: March 18th, 2017, 4 pm – 7 pm

Duration: March 18th, 2017 – April 22nd, 2017

Opening Hours: 10 am – 6 pm (closed on Monday)

Venue: Aike Dellarco, Building 6, 2555 Longteng Avenue, Xuhui District, Shanghai, China

AIKE DELLARCO is thrilled to present “Our Traits”, the first solo exhibition in China by the Japanese artist Toshiyuki Konishi. The exhibition title refers to the artist’s panoramic depiction of common characteristics in human behavior.

“Our Traits” brings together Toshiyuki Konishi’s latest oil on canvas and paper works, created over the past three years. Originally inspired by his childhood photos, the works revisit the processes of family upbringing and social acculturation. They present this private yet universal sense of intimacy and attachment, summoning our past memories and relationships. With his distinctive use of blurry faces, the artist dissolves the superficial differentiation between individuals, and thereby touches on the underlying commonality of humanity. On the picture plane, a unified anonymity is thus produced. The artist has from such a perspective elaborated his aesthetic research from the level of individual depiction to the level of ethnographic observation.

Sculptural contours of figures, simply delineated forms and a spectral external appearance are the works’ expressionist signature. The bold brush strokes cutting through the portraits and their vivid, striking geometrical logic serve as subtle metaphors of internalized social structures—the result of humanity’s continual adaptation to the environment, reinforced and developed over generations. These formative principles, deeply rooted in our instincts and actions, shed light on the influences that originate in our collective unconsciousness. The artist’s primitive and emotional style offers viewers the chance to hark back to an “age of the gods” and glimpse at the “archetypal image”—which, as a replacement of sorts, makes up for the lack of mysticism in modern society.

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Toshiyuki Konishi (b. 1980) was born in Hiroshima, Japan. He began his artistic career after completing his postgraduate studies at the Musashino Art University in 2007. His recent solo exhibitions include: “Human Behavior”, ARATANIURANO, Tokyo, Japan (2014); “Crazy for Painting”, Gallery aM, Tokyo (2012); “One As All”, ARATANIURANO, Tokyo, Japan (2009); “Living for a Thousand Years”, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan (2008); “House of Human”, ARATANIURANO, Tokyo, Japan (2007). His selected group exhibitions include: “Collection 2: Diary”, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan (2016); “Permanent Collection Exhibition”, Takamatsu Art Museum, Kagawa, Japan (2016); “Prudential Eye Awards Exhibition”, ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore (2016); “Nostalgia and Fantasy: Imagination and Its Origins in Contemporary Art”, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan (2014); “Rendering”, AIKE-DELLARCO, Shanghai, China (2013); “Takahashi Collection — Mindfulness!”, Kirishima Open-Air Museum, Kagoshima, Japan / Sapporo Art Museum, Hokkaido, Japan (2013); “VOCA 2009—The Vision of Contemporary Art”, Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo (2009); “Emotional Drawing”, Seoul Olympics Museum of Art (SOMA), Seoul, Korea (2009); “ART AWARD TOKYO 2007”, Gyoukou St. Underground Passageway Gallery, Tokyo Station, Tokyo, Japan (2007).

His works have been collected by the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (Kanazawa, Japan), Takamatsu Art Museum (Kagawa, Japan), National Museum of Art (Osaka, Japan), Hori Art Museum (Aichi, Japan), Daisuke Miyatsu Collection, Pigozzi Collection, Takahashi Collection, Burger Collection, among others.

Please contact us for further information at shanghai@aikedellarco.com.

Courtesy of Aike Dellarco and the artist