

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **AYAKO KURIHARA SOLO EXHIBITION**

### **Mind Games / Decades**

**Venue:** HRD Fine Art  
(494-1 Kamigoryo-tatemachi, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto)

**Date:** June 7 - July 26, 2025

**Hours:** **Thu: 11:00am - 3:00pm**  
**Fri & Sat / June 8 (Sun): 11:00am - 7:00pm**

**Closed:** Sun-Wed (available for viewing by appointment)  
**- Opens on June 8 (Sun): 11:00am - 7:00pm**

#### **Opening Artist Talk "Landscape Seen through the Gameplay"**

Ayako Kurihara x Tomoko Okaku (freelance writer)  
June 7 (Sat), 5pm-6pm  
No appointment required / admission free  
Opening reception will follow the artist talk from around 6pm.

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HRD Fine Art is delighted to announce a solo exhibition of Ayako Kurihara titled "Mind Games / Decades" on view from June 7 through July 26, 2025. This exhibition will be the third solo presentation of the artist following 2015 and 2020.

Born in Yokohama in 1974, Kurihara graduated from the Aichi Prefectural University of the Arts in 1999. Now based in Yokohama, she has been actively participating in exhibitions, artist-in-residence programs, and art festivals in and outside Japan.

Kurihara has been consistently and extensively working on her lifework painting/performance/installation series titled "Mind Games" since mid-2000s. Borrowing the rules of a nationally popular boardgame called Othello or Reversi, and instead of flipping the double-sided black-and-white discs, Kurihara constructs a painting surface by stamping or dropping bi-color paints, thus physically fixating the gameplay and the time spent on it.

Her creation, characterized by its game-like aspects and automatism resulting from following the rules of the game, has been expanding its conceptual scope through the years incorporating diverse, multi-layered perspectives such as physicality of paints that merge together on the painting surface; duality of painting and object; gestural and replicative aspects of stamping;

unpredictability and human communication issues that entails participation of others in the gameplay; reference to code art/cyber art with the use of remote, online gameplay; and metaphorical discourse about the duality and bipolarity of the world. In most recent years, the artist has been working on a new subseries of “Mind Games” titled “Landscape in a Grid,” in which she plays the game of Othello by herself using grid-like patterns found in urban landscapes, more actively connecting with the real world surrounding her while merging painting and photography.

This exhibition attempts to give an overview of Kurihara's “Mind Games” that spans decades, showcasing old, recent, and latest artworks including video work. We invite the viewers to once again take a notice of the intriguing diversity of “Mind Games” as performative art.

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Ayako Kurihara participates in “Art Ohara International Exhibition 2025,” an international art festival taking place in Ohara, a rural area situated in the north-eastern part of the Kyoto City, from June 3 through June 22 (<https://art-ohara.baexong.net/>). Please take this opportunity to witness both exhibitions when you visit Kyoto.

#### [ ARTIST'S STATEMENT ]

In recent years, my feelings have been in a state of quiet fluctuation under the influence of enormous changes happening in the outside world.

This exhibition consists mainly of artworks from the “Mind Games” series I have been working on for about 20 years, as well as works from the most recent painting/ photograph series titled “Landscape in a Grid,” through which I attempt to visualize the layers of time from the past to the present, interconnecting urban landscapes and memories.

“Mind Games” has been expanding and changing through the past 20 years. Please listen carefully to the subtle voices of the memories and conversations stored in my artworks, immersing yourself in the flow of time that gets entangled and comes apart.

— Ayako Kurihara

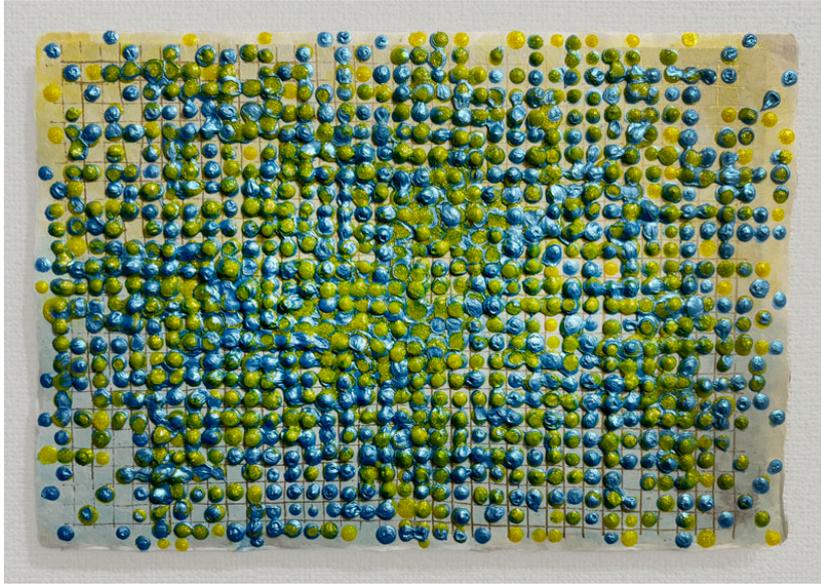
[ ARTWORKS ]



*Landscape in a Grid - 4, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama*  
photograph, acrylic glass, acrylic paint 45x67.5x1.5cm 2023



*Landscape in a Grid - Hong Kong, Tokyo, Yokohama*  
Polaroid film, acrylic paint, board 42x53x3.2cm 2025



*yellow and blue* 20230616-20240927

acrylic paint, transfer gold leaf on paper 27.5x39.5cm 2024



*Landscape Somewhere*

acrylic paint, glass, stone 5x5x5cm 2025

## [ ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY ]

### **Ayako KURIHARA**

1974 Born in Yokohama

1999 BFA in Oil Painting, Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music

Lives and works in Yokohama

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

- 2006 "Mind Games" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2007 "New Map" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama  
"Untitled / Ayako Kurihara" Gallery Maki, Tokyo
- 2009 "fiction/error" Gallery Maki, Tokyo
- 2010 "Pictures" Edwin R. Molenaar Atelier, Yokohama
- 2011 "Conversation with Mr. H" Demado Contemporary Art Project, Kyoto
- 2013 "Conversation with the Vacant Hotel" Vacant Hotel, Seoul
- 2015 "Mind Games" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto
- 2020 "I Am Here, There and Everywhere: Mind Games 2020" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto
- 2023 "Tokyo Othello" Roonee 247 Fine Arts, Tokyo
- 2024 "How to Make Stars" Star Terminal, Izu-Oshima, Tokyo

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 1997 "Battadofu - Rolling Library" Nagoya City Midori Library, Nagoya
- 2007 "CET07 - Central East Tokyo 07" Taigaku Bldg., Tokyo  
"Light Room vol.4 - Yamate No.111 Library Exhibition" Yamate No.111, Yokohama
- 2008 "Self Portrait" Gallery Sakamaki, Tokyo  
"Blue Dot Asia" Seoul Arts Center, Seoul  
"Food and Contemporary Art part 4 (Yokohama Geijutsu Noren-gai)" BankART 1929  
Yokohama / Iseya, Yokohama
- 2012 "Building a Castle of Sand (or Breaking It)" Next Door Gallery, Seoul
- 2013 "Heritage 600 = Tomorrow 600" Aram Museum, Goyang, Korea  
"the Line \_ Art, Open the Way for Reunification" Imjingak / Pyeonghoa-Nuri Park, Paju,  
Korea
- 2015 "Asuka Art Village" Asuka Historical National Government Park, Asuka-mura, Nara  
"Asuka Hikari-no-kairou" Asuka-mura, Nara
- 2016 "Koganecho Bazaar 2016" Koganecho, Yokohama  
"Masters of Asuka" Nara Prefecture Complex of Man'yo Culture, Asuka-mura, Nara
- 2017 "Koganecho AIR2017" Koganecho, Yokohama
- 2018 "Koganecho AIR2017 Conclusion Exhibition" Koganecho, Yokohama  
"The Game Must Go On: Ayako Kurihara + Yeom Sojin" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto  
"Koganecho Bazaar 2018 Special Program - pass by: passing and remaining" Koganecho,  
Yokohama
- 2020 "Unmanned Station Art Festival, Oigawa" Oigawa Railway wayside area, Shizuoka

- 2023 "Interface" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto
- 2025 "9 Artist Exhibition - Self-expression" Atelier K Art Space, Yokohama

**Residency, Public Performance, Open Studio, etc.**

- 2007 Open Studio "Atelier Gake + Kotori Cafe" Atelier Gake, Yokosuka
- 2007-08 Public Performance "Ayako Kurihara Project Room" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2008 Open Studio "Atelier Gake + Kotori Cafe + Oto" Atelier Gake, Yokosuka
- 2009 Public Performance "Mind Games 2009 in Sakuraso" BankART Sakuraso, Yokohama
- 2010 Public Performance "Mind Games 2010" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2013 Open Studio "Open Studio 2013" BankART Studio NYK, Yokohama
- 2015 Artist-in-residence "Asuka Art Village" Asuka-mura, Nara
- 2016 Workshop "Dropping: Let's Try Othello Art!" Koganecho, Yokohama
- 2016-17 Artist-in-residence "Koganecho AIR" Koganecho, Yokohama
- 2018 Workshop "Landscape in a Grid" HRD Fine Art, Kyoto
- 2020 Public Performance & Workshop "Paper Othello" Kunowaki Campsite, Shizuoka
- 2024 Workshop "Making a Starry Sky Using Materials of Oshima" Star Terminal, Izu-Oshima

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For further information or for artwork images please contact us:

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