

**Mizuki Nishiyama (b.1998)**



**About**

Mizuki Nishiyama is a London-based, mixed-Japanese artist who creates raw and confrontational artworks spanning paintings, sculptures, tapestries, poetry, and performances that explore the fragile human condition.

Nishiyama notably conducts dialogues and critiques the socio-politics of the female experience by incorporating the artist's Japanese paternal soil, which has buried her military ancestors since the 1400s, into her works, where she re-evaluates ancestry, patriarchy, and time.

Exploring ideas of purity, femininity, Shintoism, and trauma; the artist utilises the elements of the world, and responds to what it means to be a woman today. The premise of the work begins with soil that the artist excavated from her paternal land in Japan; which dates back to the 1400s where her military ancestors, including members who committed Seppuku ritual suicides, and members that shaped Shintoism (Yoshida family; constructing the foundation of purification within the religion).

In the tapestries, Nishiyama is inspired by the concept of Kami; translating to "God", which holds no visual representation in Shintoism - only through Shide, white folded pieces of paper. White organic fabrics were first sourced, then burned (fire) to commence God and patriarchy to death, the fabrics were then buried in the ancestral soil (earth) for months, new life was given as they were pulled back out to be soaked in Japanese immune boosting teas (water), naturally weathered in London's (air), and finally treated with traditional Japanese distressing and sewing techniques; Sashiko and Boro; to construct and respond to past, present, and future narratives of existence, and the female narrative of the East and West.

In the paintings, Nishiyama incorporates the same soil as well as a deliberate knife cutting technique to slice through viscous oil pigments on canvas to depict violence and tranquillity. Embracing deeply personal experiences to craft each artwork, the artist's ongoing relationship with reproductive health and trauma has greatly influenced her practice and fuelled her to confront vulnerability, fragility and the human condition. Creating is a chaotic yet meditative process for Nishiyama that allows her to make sense of the more tempestuous periods in life as well as continue to merge interdisciplinary thoughts and mediums to visualize the contemporary experience.

As a mixed-Japanese artist, Nishiyama draws inspiration from the East and West. Bridging her Hong Kong, Japanese and Italian cultural heritages. Nishiyama holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree from Central Saint Martins and a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree from Parsons School of Design.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 The Beautiful and The Grotesque, Seefood Room, Hong Kong  
Seiza: Transgressing the Seated Body, ArtNext, Hong Kong
- 2021 Mizuki Nishiyama, Farmani Group, Hong Kong  
Moroj, Shout Gallery, Hong Kong  
Ikebana, International Finance Centre, Hong Kong  
Mizuki Nishiyama, Mr Wolf, Hong Kong
- 2020 Shunga, Whitestone Gallery, Hong Kong  
Mizuki Nishiyama, Operation Smile Charity Art Auction, Hong Kong  
An Exploration of Human Fragility : Love and Lust, Tenri Cultural Institute of New York, New York
- 2019 Mizuki Nishiyama: 脆い: An Exploration of Human Fragility, The Greenpoint Gallery, New York
- 2018 Mizuki Nishiyama, Rabbit House, New York

## Group Exhibitions

- 2024 London Light, M P Birla Millenium Gallery, London  
Red Performance, Lethaby Gallery, London  
Remapping Reality, Contemporary by Angela Li, Hong Kong
- 2023 Quiet Shores, Vibrant Swells: The Young Waves From East Asia, European Cultural Academy, Venice  
Purity Performance / Ode to Proteus, Gillian Jason Gallery, London  
Eye of the Collector, London  
The Earth We Walk Upon, The Ancestry We Bring With Us, Gillian Jason Gallery, London  
All Things Current are Found, Central Saint Martins MA Interim Show, Trinity Buoy Wharf, London

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Dreams of a New Moon, Lethaby Gallery, London

Hysteria, Gillian Jason Gallery, London

2022 Digital Art Fair 2022, Hong Kong

NFTitties, London

Face to Face, Gillian Jason Gallery, London

Rise of Venus, Geek Pictures x Perrotin, India

Fever, Aucart, London

Beloved Community, Black Wall Street Gallery, New York

Orizzonti Trasversali, M.A.D.S Gallery, Milan

JingArt, Beijing

K11 Musea, Hong Kong

Through the Prism, Gillian Jason Gallery, London

AM Gallery, Hong Kong

BlueArk, Hong Kong

2021 Tower 535, Hong Kong

HerClique, New York

Affordable Art Fair, Hong Kong

Art She Says, New York

Superfine! Art Fair, New York

13a New Street, Hong Kong

2019 RAW Natural Born Artist (Stellar), New York

The Landmark, Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong

Abike Studio: The Phluid Project, New York

2018 12th Street Gallery, New York

Plant House Gallery, New York

The Greenpoint Gallery, New York [First Place People's Choice]

**3812gallery.com**

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Spectra, New York

2017 Parsons Student Senate Gala, New York

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