

Nanae Mitobe

“Black Face, White Face”

2023.6.11(sun) — 8.13(sun)



「Black Face」 2017-2023
oil on canvas

rin art association is pleased to present "Black Face, White Face," a solo exhibition of Nanae Mitobe on the 1st and 2nd floors. Mitobe has been creating and exhibiting large scale paintings with bold, thick layers of paint. In this exhibition, her first since returning to Japan, she will exhibit a series of anonymous "faces" painted with black and white paint on black iron and canvas, including a work that took six years to complete. We hope you will appreciate the origin and also the new expression of painting by Mitobe, who has painted many "faces" as motifs up to the present day.

“Face is the boundary between self and others. When the boundary is violated and touched by the outside world, it can cause friction, including various discrepancies and misunderstandings. This sometimes triggers violence and even war. Face is the part of the body that reveals emotions, but it can also hide one’ s state of mind. Also, while activities such as makeup and plastic surgery seem to imitate universal beauty, they sacrifice one’ s uniqueness and produce a face with no differences, a homogenized face.

Here is a drawing in black and white. It does not depict a specific person, but an anonymous face. The only requirement I set for the painting was that on a white canvas, "paint a black face," and on a black iron, "paint a white face." Then, in the white/black colors, I sprinkled a little glaze sand taken from the sea.

Painting portraits and handling other people's faces comes with responsibility. On the other hand, looking at the faces of others as motifs is paradoxically an act of looking back at oneself. The process of choosing colors, shaping forms, and judging beauty and ugliness occurs almost unconsciously. At the same time, it makes me become aware of the sense of discrimination that lies inside myself and force me to make choices. From the repetition of this act, my painting of a face is created. The act of drawing a face, so to speak, is an image of recognition of the other and the self after questioning myself. By depicting others, the ego, the "I," emerges and the self becomes more distinct.

Nanae Mitobe

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Graduated from Nagoya Zokei University of Art & Design in 2011. Enrolled in the Master of oil painting at Tokyo University of the Arts from 2021.

Her major exhibitions include “APMoA, ARCH vol.18 DEPTH -Dynamite Pigment - ” at Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art (2016), “I am yellow” at Maki Fine Arts (2019), “Rock is Dead” at biscuit gallery (2021), and “project N85 Nanae Mitobe, I am not an Object” at Tokyo Opera City (2022). Her major groups exhibitions are “Takahashi Collection Face and Abstraction - together with Kiyoharushirakaba Museum Collection” at Kiyoharushirakaba Museum (2018), “Exhibition of results for Holbein Scholarship” at Sato Museum (2020), and “VOCA Exhibition” at Ueno Royal Museum (2021), and others.

Open 11:00 - 19:00 Closed on Monday and Tuesday

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