

TOSHIKI HAYASAKA:
EPHEMERAL SAMURAI

Curated by Kyoko Sato

November 28 - December 4, 2023

Nov 28-30: 12-6pm | Dec 1 and 3: Closed | Dec 2 and 4 : 12-3pm

Opening Reception: Friday, December 1, 6-8 pm

Live Performance by Toshiki Hayasaka

Tenri Cultural Institute | 43A W 13th St, New York, NY 10011 tel. (212)645-2800



Ephemeral Samurai, Second Stroke, 2023
Dia. 39.2 in. | 100 cm
Gold leaf, acrylic on wooden board

The importance of being committed to the moment, "living now." The realization that single moments can accumulate to become a lifetime. Noticing the value of life by living each "fleeting" moment to the fullest. Toshiki learned this from *bushido*, because *samurai* knew the death could come at any moment. The deeper the shadow of death, the brighter light of life, so they spent their days living in the moment.

Toshiki was born in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, and experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. He was a member of the fire brigade while still in college, and was involved in lifesaving efforts. The debris after the tsunami hit was a scene that made it hard to believe that people had lived peacefully where the houses were the day before. Through this experience, Hayasaka realized the preciousness of life and decided to live in the moment, "now," and to live as an artist for that purpose.

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), the father of India's independence, said, "Live as if you would die tomorrow," and Steve Jobs (1955-2011), founder of Apple Inc. (1955-2011) said, "If today was the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am doing today?" Hayasaka has experienced these words firsthand through his own devastating experience of the earthquake and tsunami, and he puts them all into his work.

His works reflect the aesthetics of Japan. The simplicity and sophistication of his expression translates into "wabi-sabi." The "circle" of the round canvas, he believes is the shape of our hearts, and reminds us of the sun, the moon, and harmony, reminiscent of the Japanese flag. While Zen is quiet, its expressiveness, combined with vivid colors, is as powerful as magma flowing from a volcano. In fact, the pigment used, andesite, is a rock that has been ground to powder by magma from Mt. Fuji that has cooled and hardened. In this way, the dialectic of 'stillness' and 'motion' are beautifully expressed in his works.



TOSHIKI HAYASAKA

Born in 1990 in Miyagi, Japan, Hayasaka is a self taught multidisciplinary artist based in Tokyo. His works have been exhibited in the US, Japan, France, and Czech Republic, including the exhibitions "The 2nd Kyoto Daimonji Art Lovers' Meeting"(2023), "Toshiki Hayasaka:Sword Strokes" curated by Kyoko Sato (Time Gallery, New York, 2022), "Paris Salon de Art Japonais" (Linda Farrell Gallery, Paris, 2022), "Anniversary of 100 Years, Japan and Czech Cultural Exchange Art Show" (Czech Prague Castle, 2021), and "L'Art Sous Le Feu Du Daimonji" (Consul General of France in Kyoto, 2022).

He opened the Kyoto Gallery ENISHI in 2023. Hayasaka has a special right to use jade from Itoigawa river in Niigata, Japan for his paintings. He received a Bachelors in Economics from the Tohoku Gakuin University in 2012, and participated in the London Olympic trials as a swimmer in 2010.

The exhibition is sponsored by:

KINNIKUMAN, Yoshitaka Fumoto, Victoria Cigar Morioka, Mr. Nakagawa at Nakagawa Kōkan Co., SHIROKIMONO, E&P Co., Gomeisa GALLERY, Masako Watase, Sasagawa Consultancy

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