



April 03 - 27, 2024

at MtK Contemporary Art, Kyoto, Japan

MtK  
Contemporary  
Art

# *La Promesse d'Avril*

*galerie frank elbaz.*

Sheila Hicks

Yasuko Hirano

Yasuhisa Kohyama

Kenjiro Okazaki

Kaz Oshiro

Tobias Pils

Mungo Thomson

*galerie frank elbaz.*

## ***La Promesse d'Avril***

20-1 Okazaki Minamigoshochō  
Sakyo Ward, Kyoto  
606-8334 Japan

**April 03 – 27, 2024**

“ One afternoon in the space of a cherry tree in Kyoto, and here I am lifted to the highest heights of the inebriation of existing.”

- René Depestre

galerie frank elbaz is delighted to announce its upcoming exhibition, *La Promesse d'Avril*, to be held in Kyoto throughout the month of April.

The idea to open an exhibition in Kyoto during the cherry blossom season reflects our desire to introduce the local audience to the works of various artists with the intention to pursue further exchanges and to mark the beginning of new collaborations. Much like blooming spring announces the forthcoming fruit, this exhibition is also a promise of exciting future projects.

For over two decades, galerie frank elbaz has been dedicated to promoting both international and Japanese contemporary artists. On the occasion of the *La Promesse d'Avril* group exhibition, we will present a selection of works by Sheila Hicks, Yasuko Hirano, Yasuhisa Kohyama, Kenjiro Okazaki, Kaz Oshiro, Tobias Pils, and Mungo Thomson.

ギャラリー・フランク・エルバス

## *La Promesse d'Avril* - 4月の萌

〒 606-8334

京都府京都市左京区岡崎南御所町 20-1

2024年4月3日～27日

“ある日の午後京都の桜咲く空間で、私は生きているという喜びの境地に達した。”

- ルネ・デペストル

ギャラリー・フランク・エルバスは、この4月京都にて、展覧会 *La Promesse d'Avril* - 4月の萌を開催いたします。

桜の季節に京都で展覧会を開くという考えは、様々なアーティストの作品を地域の皆様に紹介することでさらなる交流を深め、新たな結びつきの始まりをここに記したいという、私達の思いを表しています。花咲く春が果実の実りをも告げるように、この展覧会は心踊る未来のプロジェクトを予期するものでもあるのです。

ギャラリー・フランク・エルバスは20年以上にわたり、国内外で活躍する現代アーティストの紹介に尽力して参りました。この度のグループ展 *La Promesse d'Avril* - 4月の萌では、シーラ・ヒックス、平野泰子、神山易久、岡崎乾二郎、カズ・オオシロ、トビアス・ピルス、マンゴ・トムソンの作品を展示いたします。

*galerie frank elbaz.*

## Tobias Pils

Born in 1971, Linz, Austria.

Working within a palette of blacks and whites and the range of grays that can be made from them, Tobias Pils creates mixed media paintings full of abstract and representational elements. These elements are often arranged so that they flow from one to the next seemingly of their own accord, obeying the dictates of a painterly logic that generates meaning through the accumulation of many small moments. As such, Pils's works are endlessly captivating as arrangements of textures, flows, and material invention—in a sense, as symphonic, non-objective compositions, even when their mythological content and primal imagery tempt narrative readings. This syncretic approach reflects a mind that revels in contradictions, even as it seeks to suture together contrasting passages with a subtle and virtuosic array of mark-making strategies that are alternately bold, incisive, impressionistic, and completely open to the innate properties of paint medium and support. Pils works at a variety of scales and in different contexts, responding to the urgency of his own intuition and the external constraints of architectural and institutional settings with equal fluency. In each of these forums, he locates the places where the vast and the intimate meet, both in the physical world and the human psyche alike.



galerie frank elbaz.



**Tobias Pils**

*Appletree (lovers)*, 2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

155,5 x 100 cm (61 1/4 x 39 3/8 in.)

Unique

PIL2019-3435







*galerie frank elbaz.*

## Mungo Thomson

Born in 1969, Davis, USA.

The wide-ranging, multi-media work of Mungo Thomson approaches mass culture and everyday perceptual experience through a lens of deep time and cosmic scale, implicating the spaces of production and exhibition along the way in ever-widening extrapolations.

Mungo Thomson's TIME mirrors are person-sized, silkscreened mirrors bearing the iconic logo and red border of the international weekly news magazine TIME. The mirrors are based on individual covers of the magazine that reference cultural or cosmological notions of time, history, perception and encounter.

galerie frank elbaz.



**Mungo Thomson**

*January 1, 2000 (Welcome to a New Century), 2022*

Enamel on low-iron mirror, poplar and anodized aluminum

188 x 142 x 6 cm (74 x 55 7/8 x 2 3/8 in.)

Unique

THO2022-2942



*galerie frank elbaz.*

## Kenjiro Okazaki

Born in 1955, Tokyo, Japan.

Kenjiro Okazaki is a Japanese visual artist whose works span over several genres, including painting, sculpture, as well as landscape and architecture. Many of his works has been featured in public collections throughout Japan and in various exhibitions around the world. In 2002, Okazaki was selected as the director of the Japanese pavilion of the International Architecture Exhibition in Venice Biennale. His works include a collaborative performance «I Love my Robot» with choreographer Trisha Brown. He received Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship at Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (HMSG) in 2014.

Okazaki is also extremely active as a theoretician and critic, and is the author or co-author of several books, including *Renaissance: «Condition of Experience»* (Bunshun Gakugei Library, 2015) featuring his analysis of Filippo Brunelleschi, and «Abstract Art as Impact: The Concrete Genealogy of Abstract Art» (Akishobo, 2018), which received the Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts in 2019.

galerie frank elbaz.



**Kenjiro Okazaki**

*How Many Generations Has the Princess Pine on the Banks of Suminoe Been / 日月山水, 2023*

Acrylic on canvas

18,2 x 25,1 x 3 cm (7 1/8 x 9 7/8 x 1 1/8 in.)

Unique

OKA2023-3377



*galerie frank elbaz.*

## Sheila Hicks

Born in 1934, Hastings, USA.

Since the late 1950s, Sheila Hicks has been producing work exceptionally difficult to categorise. Knotting, wrapping, folding, twisting and stacking wool, linen and cotton: these are only some of the techniques and materials that have seen her undermine conventional artistic categories and their hierarchical relationships. A pupil of Josef Albers at Yale, Sheila Hicks is the heir to both a Modernist spirit that holds the distinctions between fine art, decoration and design to be unimportant and a textile practice that has its roots in pre-Columbian America.

If Sheila Hicks chose textiles, it is because from clothes to furniture, interior decoration and on to the canvas that undergirds the high art of painting, these are materials that life constantly puts in our way, in a vast variety of contexts. It also allows works to remain alive, taking different forms each time they are shown. Ductile and tactile, Hicks's work occupies a singular place in the art of our time. It combines forms typical of modernism with non-Western traditions, the play of colour, and a concern to maintain the vital openness of the work.

galerie frank elbaz.



**Sheila Hicks**

*TBD, 2024*

Synthetic fiber, cotton and linen

Variable dimensions

Unique

HIC2024-3437



*galerie frank elbaz.*

## Yasuhisa Kohyama

Born in 1936, Shigaraki, Japan.

Shigaraki is a historical ceramics production centre in Japan, Yasuhisa Kohyama has played a significant part in reviving the use of the traditional Japanese anagama wood-firing kiln, being the first potter in the area to build such a kiln since the Middle Ages. He is a contemporary master of the ancient practice of Sueki, a method that originated in southern China, which accounts for his unglazed yet glassy surface textures.

Kohyama's pieces are collected internationally and exhibited widely in Japan and overseas. His works are included in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Art and Design in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Denver Art Museum or The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as well as in several museums across the Netherlands and Germany.

*galerie frank elbaz.*



**Yasuhisa Kohyama**

*Sora*, 2005

Stoneware, unglazed wood firing

48 x 51 x 51 cm (18 7/8 x 20 1/8 x 20 1/8 in.)

Unique

KOH2005-3430



*galerie frank elbaz.*

## Kaz Oshiro

Born in 1967, Okinawa, Japan.

Creating sculptures from paintings, Kaz Oshiro pushes the limits of both mediums, merging abstraction, conceptualism, and representation.

« At first glance, California Calligraphy may seem to deviate from Oshiro's previous works, which meticulously replicate everyday objects down to the finest details. Nevertheless, the artist has always considered the dust, stains, and scratches he intentionally applies to amplifiers, trash bins, and steel beams as part of his abstract expression. Oshiro firmly acknowledges the transformative impact the Abstract Expressionist movement and the «death of painting» had on the medium—yet as he continues to seek the true essence and meaning of painting, he maintains the belief that the ultimate purpose of art is the pursuit of abstract ideas. His practice represents a continuous endeavor to create work that aligns with such inner convictions, and this new series embodies the artist's unwavering commitment to abstraction more strongly than ever before. »

— Haruna Takeda

galerie frank elbaz.



**Kaz Oshiro**

*California Calligraphy (Founder)*, 2024

Acrylic and Polyurethane on stretched canvas.

61 x 91,4 x 4,4 cm (24 x 36 x 1 3/4 in.)

Unique

OSH2024-3446

*galerie frank elbaz.*

## Yasuko Hirano

Born in 1985, Toyama prefecture, Japan.

There is a profound «scenery» embedded in her artworks. She began to observe the space or phenomena that emerged through the layering of paints. Her pursuit while creating her works is to reinforce the perspective she holds while exploring «uncertain matters».

Her major solo exhibitions include «Twilight» (Masayoshi Suzuki Gallery, 2019), «Twilight» (Masayoshi Suzuki Gallery, 2012), «To Be Called» (Gallery PARC, 2018), «Uncertain Map» (CALM & PUNK GALLERY, 2018), «Yasuko Hirano: Unfold Room» (Gallery Stoop, 2020).

Additionally, her prominent group exhibitions encompass «VOCA 2015» (The Ueno Royal Museum, 2015) and «New Positions 2021» (Taguchi Fine Art, 2021).



galerie frank elbaz.



**Yasuko Hirano**

*Superposition 2403, 2024*

Oil, plaster and glue on canvas and woodenpanel

41 x 38 cm

Unique

*galerie frank elbaz.*

## *La Promesse d'Avril*

April 03 - 27, 2024  
opening April 03

galerie frank elbaz in Kyoto  
at MtK Contemporary Art, Kyoto, Japan

more information: [jana@galeriefrankelbaz.com](mailto:jana@galeriefrankelbaz.com)  
in Japanese: [zaal@mtkcontemporaryart.com](mailto:zaal@mtkcontemporaryart.com)

