

Alchemilla+

Yumi Karasumaru
Yumi's New School - ユミの新しい学校
Curated by Roberto Pinto

May 10 – June 1, 2024
Opening: Friday May 10, 19:00-22:00

Alchemilla, Palazzo Vizzani
Via Santo Stefano 43, Bologna



Yumi Karasumaru, *The Storyteller - il narratore, The Double Pop Songs*, 2023

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Friday, May 10, 2024, at 7 PM, at Palazzo Vizzani, headquarters of the Bologna-based association **Alchemilla**, marks the public opening of **Yumi's New School - ユミの新しい学校**, a solo exhibition by **Yumi Karasumaru**, curated by **Roberto Pinto**.

The project *Yumi's New School* was tailored around the figure of the artist Yumi Karasumaru to unveil some of the most significant aspects of her work. In Yumi Karasumaru's artistic journey, the relationship with her roots in Japan and her arrival in Italy are intertwined. This distance from her culture of origin has allowed her to revisit memories, personal and collective traumas, rituals and customs of the Land of the Rising Sun, without falling into the traps of the rhetoric or the celebratory tones, but rather with an inquisitive and knowledgeable perspective. In her works—both paintings and drawings, as well as performances—we find the need to create a dialogue with the audience through a mix of "History" and personal stories, between the collective, the public, and the private, the intimate.

With *Yumi's New School*, the artist aims to further narrow the distance with the audience by creating a shared experience through two distinct performances and by transforming a part of the exhibition space into her temporary studio where visitors are invited to work alongside her throughout the duration of the exhibition, sharing the creative and the execution processes.

The live performance that can be seen in the occasion of the opening on May 10, *Onoda's Memorandum - the last samurai*, focuses on the incredible experience of Hiroo Onoda, a Japanese soldier who remained for nearly thirty years in the jungle of a remote island in the Philippines archipelago, believing that World War II had not ended. The performance scheduled for May 22, *The Double Pop Songs*, features a selection of Japanese pop songs stripped of their music, which lyrics are projected onto the artist's body clad in a white kimono, as if it were a screen.

Two rooms will be set up with a series of paintings: the first will include about ten works selected from the extensive series "*Facing Histories*" created in 2015 in occasion of the memorial of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the second room will feature medium-sized works on canvas and Japanese paper from the new series "*Learning from the past*", inspired by Japanese art from the Edo period. The third room will be dedicated to the projection of videos of performances by the artist throughout her career.

Finally, the fourth room will host her temporary atelier, an open workshop for everyone whose goal is to work together, discuss, offer her perspectives and welcome others'. Visitors can witness the artist's creative process, understand her poetics from the inside, and even try drawing alongside her.

Performance:

May 10, at 9 PM

Onoda's Memorandum - the last samurai

May 22, at 8 PM and 9 PM (reservation required)

The Storyteller - the narrator, The Double Pop Songs

Talk Sessions:

May 16, at 6 PM, with Roberto Pinto

May 23, at 6 PM, with Uliana Zanetti

May 30, at 6 PM, with Igort

Yumi Karasumaru was born in Osaka and currently lives and works between Bologna and Kawanishi, Japan. She earned her degree from the Kyoto University of Art and a diploma from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna. Since the early 1990s, Yumi's research has developed in parallel between pictorial imagery and performance, pursuing an intense cultural investigation into the relationship between the present and the past of her country of origin. During this same period, she has participated as a painter and performer in significant international exhibitions in Europe, United States and Japan. From her most recent exhibitions: *Learning from the Past - 温故*

知新 (2024, L'Ariete artecontemporanea, 2023, Katsuya Susuki Gallery, Tokyo), *Facing Histories* (2023, Paola Verrengia Gallery, Salerno, 2016, Museum of Modern Art in Bologna; 2015, Roppongi Hills A/D gallery, Tokyo, @Kcua Kyoto City University Arts Art Gallery, Kyoto; 2014, Galerie Houg, Lyon), *Woven* (2021, Katsuya Susuki Gallery, Tokyo). From her performances: *Storyteller – the narrator, A brief history of Japan in three paintings and 93 words* (L'Ariete artecontemporanea, Bologna, 2024), *The Double Pop Songs for Salerno* (Paola Verrengia Gallery, Salerno, 2023). www.karasumaru.net

Alchemilla is a non-profit cultural association that supports research, experimentation, and production of projects in the field of visual and performing arts, connecting the professionals involved, with particular attention and care towards young talents. The space of Alchemilla is designed to host artists, curators, performers, and intellectuals, either visiting or in residence. The association has four studios where it hosts artists for extended periods, a room dedicated to the residence of artists under 30, and organizes exhibitions, performances, talk sessions, presentations, and workshops. The hybrid and interdisciplinary nature of the proposed projects makes Alchemilla a place for experimentation and cross-pollination. The association's spaces are multifunctional and versatile, and are located inside Palazzo Vizzani, one of the most significant buildings from the late 1500s in Bologna, where the past and present meet and invigorate each other.

Yumi Karasumaru

Yumi's New School - ユミの新しい学校

Curated by: Roberto Pinto

Duration: May 10 - June 1, 2024

Opening: Friday, May 10, from 7 PM to 10 PM

Location: Alchemilla | Palazzo Vizzani, Via Santo Stefano 43, Bologna

Promoted by: Alchemilla

Special thanks to: Banca di Bologna

Supported by: Associazione Culturale Acribia

Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, from 3 PM to 8 PM

Admission: Free

Graphic design: Michele Battaglioli

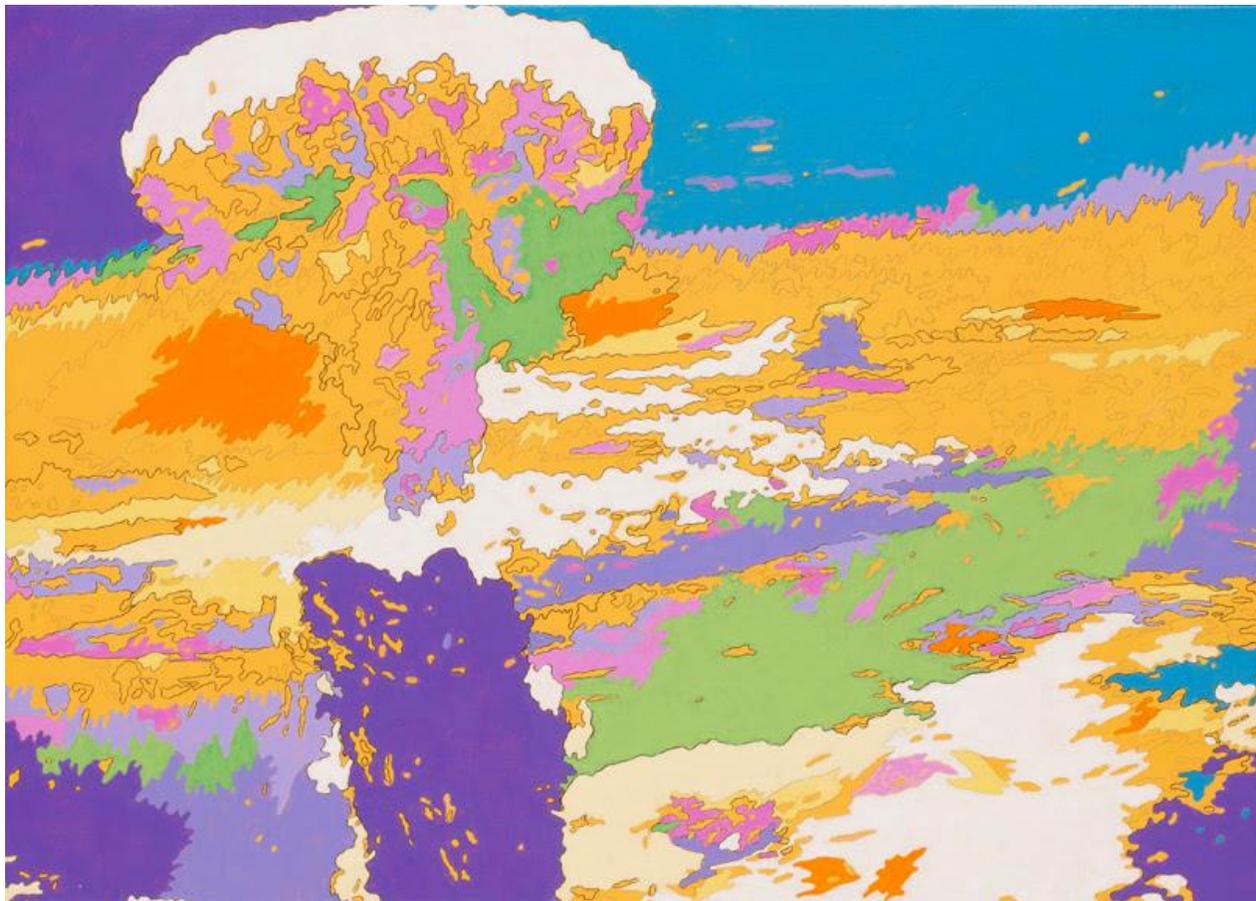
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Yumi Karasumaru, *FACING HISTORIES* n.9 *Rosed Himeyuri*, 2015, 25x35 cm



Yumi Karasumaru, *FACING HISTORIES n.11 Atomic Series - Nagasaki*, 2015, 25x35 cm



Yumi Karasumaru, *LEARNING FROM THE PAST - 温故知新* n.19, 2023, 35x35x4 cm
