

KAYOKOYUKI

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July 11 - August 29

Opening Reception:
July 11, 18:00-19:30

Summer Holidays:
August 12 - 15

吉村 宗浩
Munehiro Yoshimura

町はずれの幻術
Illusion on Outskirts of Town



ピンクの家 / Pink House (detail), 2026, oil on canvas 91 x 72.7 cm

Munehiro Yoshimura***Illusion on outskirts of town***

2026.7.11 Sat. - 8.29 Sat.

Opening Reception : 7.11 Sat., 17:00-19:00

Summer Holidays : 8.12-15

Munehiro Yoshimura has long created paintings centered on suburban landscapes and human figures. Houses standing in the woods, buildings lining the roadside, roads leading to the edge of town, and public squares where people gather. The scenes he depicts are familiar to us, yet at the same time they seem slightly displaced from reality, carrying an unsettling undertone. Vivid colors, figures with a peculiar presence, and the suggestion of stories that remain unexplained. Within Yoshimura's paintings, familiarity and unease, nostalgia and estrangement coexist, gradually drawing the viewer into their world.

The title of this exhibition, "Illusion on outskirts of town", is a phrase the artist has used in the past. In interviews, Yoshimura has spoken of the "outskirts of town" as a place that evokes the edge of civilization—a landscape touched by a subtle sense of ending. It reflects his fascination with the distinctive atmosphere that lingers just outside the urban center. Buildings along arterial roads, the outskirts of residential neighborhoods, places that seem as though, if one were to venture a little farther, everything might suddenly disappear. This sensibility runs throughout works such as "Pink House" and "The Town Where the Giant Twins Live", both of which are included in the exhibition. They convey a feeling of being an extension of everyday life while somehow remaining connected to another world.

At the same time, Yoshimura's paintings are populated by a cast of distinctive recurring figures. They are by no means heroic. They often appear vulnerable, awkward, and at times even comical. As he has remarked, "I don't want to paint things that are cool." Yet his gaze is never dismissive of humanity. Rather, it seems sustained by a sense of familiarity and empathy toward people who live with weakness, sorrow, and discomfort, as well as by a warm affection and lighthearted humor toward the imperfect nature of human existence.

Yoshimura has said that he repeatedly reworks his paintings, even after they appear complete. Asked why, he simply answers, "It's about beauty," adding that "the purpose of painting is simply to make a good painting." This approach—at once remarkably straightforward, stubborn, and sincere—of confronting painting itself above all else is a defining aspect of Yoshimura's practice. It also serves as the foundation for the material strength and solidity of his works as paintings. The motifs that recur throughout his paintings may not merely be characters within a narrative; they may also be figures that have emerged through his ongoing exploration of painting itself. Yoshimura has also stated that he seeks "not photographic realism, but painterly realism." Grounded in a deep engagement with the history of Western painting, his enduring pursuit of a better painting resonates throughout the works presented in this exhibition.

Infused with both humor and melancholy, Yoshimura's paintings are stories for someone living somewhere in the world, while also serving as mirrors that reflect ourselves. Reality and imagination, familiarity and dissonance, beauty and absurdity—embracing these opposing elements, Yoshimura's paintings lead us to the town's edge, a place suspended between the real and the imagined. Just beyond the landscapes we know well, there may be a small doorway opening onto another world hidden within everyday life.



Munehiro Yoshimura

Munehiro Yoshimura was born in Hyogo, Japan in 1961, where he currently lives and works. He graduated from the Department of Economics at Kobe University of Commerce in 1984 and from the Department of Oil Painting at Musashino Art University in 1990.

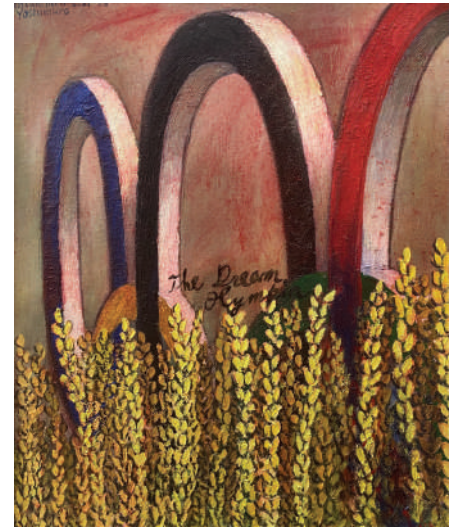
Munehiro has presented his work in: Solo show “Illusions on the Outskirts”, KAYOKOYUKI, Tokyo, 2026; solo show “Illusions on the Outskirts”, Gallery of the Fine Art Laboratory gFAL, Tokyo, 2024; solo show “The Artist and the Atelier – The Training of the Métier”, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art / Hyogo, 2022; solo show “Portraits and Rearranging the Studio”, FARO Kagurazaka Tokyo, 2019; solo show “Munehiro Yoshimura Solo Exhibition”, Hohorindo Gallery, Motomachi, Kobe Hyogo, 2019; solo show “Welcome, Humans”, STUDIO Y3, Hyogo, 2018; solo show “Munehiro Yoshimura Solo Exhibition”, Sakuragi Gallery, Tokyo, 2016, solo show “Problem Priest”, 888books / pearl book shop gallery, Tokyo, 2016; solo show “Traveler of the North”, 6 Jigen, Tokyo, 2013; “Planet of Sorrow”, Kobe Art Village Center, Hyogo, 2012.



top: 講評会 / *The Critique Session*, 2026, 145.5 x 112 cm

left: ピンクの家 / *Pink House*, 2026, 91 x 72.7 cm

right: トロコ列車 / *Trolley Train*, 2026, 45.5 x 38 cm



left:

真夏の試食会 / *The Tasting Session, Midsummer*, 2026, 100 x 80.3 cm

right:

憧れのオリンピア / *Yearning for Olympia*, 2025, 45.5 x 38 cm

bottom:

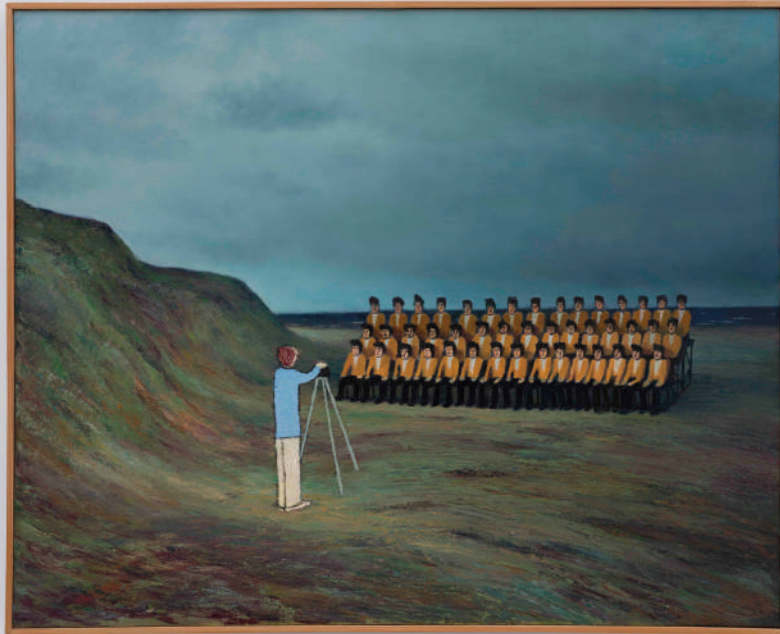
双子の大男が住む町 / *The Town Where the Giant Twins Live*, 2026, 91 x 72.7 cm





top: 頭痛 / *The Headache*, 2026, 45.5 x 38 cm

bottom: アトリエの様様替え / *Studio Rearrangement*, 2026, 72.7 x 91 cm



top:

海辺の記念撮影 / Group Portrait by the Sea, 2024, oil on canvas, 91 x 72.7 cm

left:

不動産屋の女 / The Real Estate Woman, 2012 - 2024, oil on canvas, 72.7 x 60.6 cm

right:

病院の改修工事 / Hospital under Renovation, 2022, oil on canvas, 53 x 45.5 cm



top: 砂丘で戯れる教授と大学院生 / Professor and Graduate Student Playing in the Dunes, 2025, oil on canvas, 91 x 72.7 cm

left: 芝生に建つ抽象セット / Abstract Set on the Lawn, 2024 - 2025, oil on canvas, 47 x 40 cm

right: 北方の旅行者 (赤いセーターの女性) / Northern Traveler (Woman in a Red Sweater), 2024 - 2025, panel on canvas, 42.5 x 46.6 cm

YOSHIMURA MUNEHIRO

1961 Born in Hyogo Prefecture

1984 Kobe University of Commerce, Hyogo Prefecture

1990 Musashino Art University, Oil Painting

Lives and works in Hyogo, Japan

Solo Exhibitions

2026 Illusions on the Outskirts (KAYOKOYUKI / Tokyo)

2025 The Northern Traveler (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

Munehiro Yoshimura Solo Exhibition (Gallery Woo / Busan)

2024 Illusions on the Outskirts (Gallery of The Fine Art Laboratory gFAL / Tokyo)

Penguin Police Vacation (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

Munehiro Yoshimura : Woman With Cedar Seedings (YIRI ARTS / Taipei)

2023 Master of Despair (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Hyogo)

Mr. Palomar and the Problematic Priest (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

2022 Tragedy (888books, pearl book shop gallery / Tokyo)

The Artist and the Atelier – The Training of the Métier (Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art / Hyogo)

The Farmer and the Stag (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

2021 The Furniture Shop Owner's Son (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

Straight, No Chasing (FARO Kagurazaka / Tokyo)

The Age of Mixed Living (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Hyogo)

2020 UNREALISM (GALLERY NAO, Tokyo)

Mr. Palomar and the Phantom Olympics (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

Beyond Hope (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery/ Hyogo)

2019 Portrait and Makeover someone's Atelier (FARO Kagurazaka / Tokyo)

Solo Exhibition (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Hyogo)

Abstract Set (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

2018 Welcome to Humanity 2 (STUDIO Y3 / Hyogo)

Welcome to Humanity (888books, pearl book shop gallery / Tokyo)

2017 Solo Exhibition (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

Brave New World (Kobe Art Village Center / Hyogo)

Love Anyway (Fm / Tokyo)

2016 The Problematic Priest (888books, pearl book shop gallery / Tokyo)

Solo Exhibition (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

2015 The Adventures of a Dreamer (Kobe Art Village Center / Hyogo)

2014 Fantasy on the Outskirts of Town, (Kobe Art Village Center / Hyogo)

Solo Exhibition (Sakuragi Gallery / Tokyo)

2013 Northern Traveler (Gallery Rokujigen / Tokyo)

2012 Planet of Sorrow (Kobe Art Village Center / Hyogo)

1991 Solo Exhibition (Hibiya Gallery / Tokyo)

Group Exhibitions

2026 Group show (VINYL GALLERY / Tokyo) Upcoming

2025 New Space Preview (KAYKOYUKI / Tokyo)

Blooming Show by KAYOKOYUKI (OIL by Bijutsu Techo Gallery / Tokyo)

2024 The Yoshimura Family (VINYL GALLERY / Tokyo)

Two Masks (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Kobe)

ALWAYS IMAGINE, (Gallery Woo / Busan)

2023 NEO PAINTING TOKYO 3 [PART2] (AKIO NAGASAWA Gallery / Tokyo)

The Irony of Silence (VINYL GALLERY / Tokyo)

2022 The Yoshimura family 2 (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Hyogo)

small works (FARO Kagurazaka / Tokyo)

The Yoshimura family (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Hyogo)

2021 After Report 'REAL by ArtSticker DAIKANYAMA ART WEEK' (Daikanyama Hillside Forum / Tokyo)

Group Exhibition (FARO Kagurazaka / Tokyo)

Wise Monkey x 3 (BIOME / Hyogo)

2020 Art Festival (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Hyogo)

2019 Art Festival (Kobe Motomachi Buburindo Gallery / Hyogo)

2011 Three-Person Exhibition: A Peephole to a Twisted Otherworld (Shinjuku Ophthalmology Gallery / Tokyo)

Art & Photo Book Exhibition (Shinjuku Ophthalmology Gallery / Tokyo)

2010 ART & PHOTO BOOK EXHIBITION (Shinjuku Ganka Gallery / Tokyo)

1993 Two-Person Exhibition – Yuichi Yokoyama & Munehiro Yoshimura (The Museum of Modern Art / Saitama)

1987 Two-Person Exhibition (MATSUO MEGUMI+VOICE GALLERY pfs/w / Kyoto)

Awards

2016 33rd The Choice Annual Illustration Award, Excellence Award (Genkosha)

Selected for the 197th The Choice Illustration Award (Genkosha)

2015 Selected for the 196th The Choice Illustration Award (Genkosha)

2013 Finalist, Big Mac Award Art Contest (McDonald's Japan)

2012 Award of Excellence, 29th The Choice Annual Illustration Award (Genkosha)

2011 Selected for the 179th The Choice Illustration Award (Genkosha)

1995 Selected for the '95 Japan Sea Art Exhibition (Toyama Prefectural Museum of Modern Art)

1994 Selected for Parco Urbanado (Shibuya Parco)

1992 Honorable Mention, 6th THE.ART FROM A (Harajuku Spiri Hall)

1990 Award of Excellence, TAMON Award (Kashiwa City Cultural Forum)

1989 Selected for the '89 Japan Sea Art Exhibition (The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama)

Book and Publication Collaborations

2023 Cover illustration for Petit Kashima's "The Culture of Antonio Inoki" (Futabasha)

2021 Cover illustration for Rintaro Hamaguchi's "Laugh" (Shogakukan)

2020 Cover illustration for Koki Mitani's "Someone's Watching" (Amazon Prime Video)

2016 Cover illustration for Brian Evenson, translated by Motoyuki Shibata, Wind Eye (Shinchosha Crest Books)

2014 Advertising for Penguin Pull Pale Piles Theater #18 Shoes

2012 Promotional artwork for play In a World Without Sound (New National Theatre, Tokyo)