

Sebastian Gladstone
944 Chung King Road
5523 Santa Monica Blvd
info@sebastiangladstone.com

Motoko Ishibashi

January 7th - February 11th 2022

Sebastian Gladstone is pleased to present “Wicked City,” the first US solo exhibition of London-based Japanese artist Motoko Ishibashi. The exhibition will open on Saturday, January 7th from 6-9pm at the Hollywood gallery, and will run through Saturday, February 11th, 2023. Ishibashi will present new paintings further developing her series of exaggerated female figures, as well as a new series of ceramics made as part of the collaborative duo “Willowfuck” with Robin von Einsiedel. The title for the exhibition comes from the 1987 sci-fi anime film by Yoshiaki Kawajiri, in which erotic-violent-supernatural female characters inhabit an underworld trying to break into the Earth.

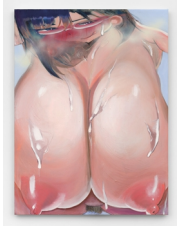
Motoko Ishibashi's paintings are a playful and provocative exploration of the female body and its representation in art historical and cultural contexts. By exaggerating the sexualized and fetishized parts of women's bodies—breasts, legs, and buttocks—Ishibashi's paintings critique and satirize the traditional objectification of the feminine form in art. In “Wicked City,” the incorporation of contemporary references to anime and internet fan-art further underscores the ways in which men's desires and perspectives have driven the representation of women's bodies in contemporary media and culture, as many of the most popular theoretical animated characters are drafted by men.

Gustav Courbet's “L'Origine du monde,” a painting that presents a cropped figure of female genitalia as a still-life object, serves as a touchstone canonical reference for Ishibashi's figures. At the time of its creation, the painting was a highly provocative and avant-garde presentation of art moving into the modern— an “intellectual” change of the times. The body becomes an object, and as in Ishibashi's paintings, once the head and limbs are removed, all that remains is a hypersexualized prop reduced to its visceral attributes. Moreover, in Ishibashi's figures, the smooth hyperreal rendering of “L'Origine du monde” is abandoned; the artist instead opts for the rough styling typically seen on DeviantArt and other online forums of self-taught artists.

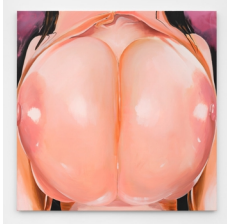
In the ceramics works, the paradigm of the paintings is flipped as the pots resemble fleshy bodies but exist as objects. Many of the forms take from ancient and traditional pottery, but become hyper-contemporary through image transfers of nude women, anime characters, and painted thongs. Some of the ceramics are directly related to the paintings—for example “Sandy Bum,” in which a small-wide pot is glazed to resemble a thong-clad buttocks freshly out of the sand. Others such as “La-lee-la dolly” present a series of vignettes on the surface, combined with a highly suggestive concave opening on the side of the pot. Taken as a whole, the pots and the paintings commingle to embody a grand vision of flesh, fantasy, and a comical eroticism.



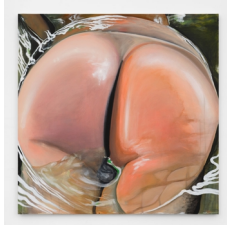
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Motoko Ishibashi
BBT 2, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
50 3/8"H x 37 3/4"W
(MOT03)



Motoko Ishibashi
BBT 1, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
59"H x 59"W
(MOT02)



Motoko Ishibashi
BBB 1, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
59"H x 59"W
(MOT01)



Motoko Ishibashi
A View, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
75"H x 59"W
(MI22)

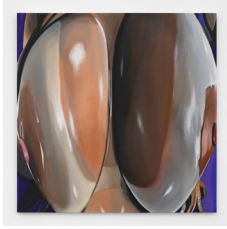


Motoko Ishibashi
BBB 5, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
59"H x 59"W
(MI21)

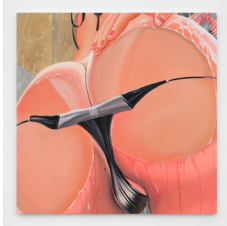


Motoko Ishibashi
BBB 4, 2022
acrylic on canvas
60"H x 60"W
(MI19)

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Motoko Ishibashi
BBT_3, 2022
acrylic on canvas
59"H x 59"W
(MI18)



Motoko Ishibashi
BBB_2, 2022
acrylic on canvas
60"H x 60"W
(MI17)



Willofuck
Monkey Quest, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
11"H x 9"W
27 x 23 cm
(MI16)



Willofuck
Figure with Heart, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
18.5"H x 8"W 47 x 21
cm
(MI15)



Willofuck
Sandy Bum, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
7"H x 10"W
17 x 26 cm
(MI14)



Willofuck
Trump, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
8"H x 9"W
20 x 23 cm
(MI13)



Willofuck
Jeans with Face, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
10"H x 9"H
26 x 23cm
(MI12)

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Willowfuck
Grabbed by Ass, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
9"H x 10"W
24 x 26 cm
(MI10)



Willowfuck
Blue Buttercup, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
14"H x 10"W
35 x 25 cm
(MI9)



Willowfuck
Stretched Power, 2022
Ceramic Glaze 15"H x
9"W
39 x 24 cm
(MI8)



Willowfuck
Yellow Buttercup,
2022 Ceramic and
Glaze 14"H x 8"W
35 x 20 cm
(MI7)



Willowfuck
Naked Umbrella, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze
14.5"H x 9"W 37 x 22 cm
(MI5)



Willowfuck
Two Girls in Chinese Vase, 2022
Ceramic and Glaze 16.5"H x 12"H
42cm x 30cm
(MI3)

MOTOKO ISHIBASHI

EDUCATION

2013 - 2015 MA Fine Art, Painting, Royal College of Art, London UK

2010 - 2013 BFA Fine Art, Painting (First Class Honours), Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, London UK

2006 - 2010 BA Aesthetics and Science of Arts in Philosophy, Department of Humanities and Social Science, Keio University, Tokyo Japan

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2022.11 *What looks good today may not look good tomorrow: The legacy of Michel Majerus* (performance/symposium), Grand Duke Jean Museum of Modern Art, Luxembourg

(solo,duo)

2023.01 *Wicked City*, Sebastian Gladstone Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA

2022.09 *On Being an Angel*, Ritsuki Fuisaki gallery, Tokyo Japan with Urara Tsuchiya

2021.12 *Beginning of the end*, Schwabinggrad, Munich, Germany with Willowfuck

2021.07 *Corpse Reviver*, Quench gallery, Margate, UK with Gray Wielebinski

2021.06 *Assholes*, V.O curations, London UK

2019.06 *The Sound of Rhubarb*, Lady Helen, London UK

with Alison Yip

2019.05 *Rachel Is*, Galerie Pact, Paris France

with Agata Ingarden

2018.11, *Séraphîta*, Polansky Gallery, Prague Czech Republic

with Nils Alix-Tabeling

2017.10 *écrin*, La Plage, Paris France

2017.04 *Guru Den*, Bosse&Baum, London UK

with performance by Yuki Kobayashi

2016.02 *Knots*, All welcome (except you), Vilnius Lithuania

(group)

2022.09 *Absence Makes the Heart*, General information, London UK

2022.06 *F*ck Art: The Body & Its Absence*, Museum of Sex, NY US

2022.02 *COPE*, no gallery, New York US

2022.02 *Pathways on Paper: In aid of Maggie's - "everyone's home of cancer care"*, South Parade London UK

2022.01 *Salon*, guts gallery, London UK

2021.10 Oslo Negativ, Det Gamle Biblioteket, Oslo Norway

2021.08 *Summer Fountain show*, Sundry, London UK

2021.04 *Old friends, New friends*, Collective Ending, London UK

2021.03 *Is self-caring while...*, nameagesexlocation, Mexico city, Mexico

2020.10 *Agitations: stirred portraits* organised by Kenji Hirasawa and Motoko Ishibashi, Tokyo Japan

2019.07 *Superhost*, Like a Little Disaster, Poglinano a Mare, Bari Italy

2019.05 *grot*, Horse Hospital, London UK

2019.03 *Role Play*, The orange garden x Postmasters gallery, Rome Italy

with Bea Bonafini, Arvida Byström, Tina Lugo, Olek, Pussy Picnic, Ruben Natal San-Miguel, Tabita Rezaire, Yngvild Saeter, Alexandria Smith

2018.12 *NADA Miami* at Galerie Pact, Florida US

with Amy Brener, Emily Ludwig Shaffer, Ivan Basic,

2018.08 *APPARITIONS*, Unit 17, Vancouver Canada

with Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill, Ursula Mayer and Douglas Watt

2018.01 *2:00*, Fig., Tokyo Japan curated by Motoko Ishibashi

with Stephan Backs, COBRA, Mathis Gasser, Robin von Einsiedel, E'wao Kagoshima, Sven Loven and Dan Venn

2017.10 *Hot Retelations (and Other Acts of Revenge) # I*, Clearview. ltd, London UK

2017.09 *Collection n.7, FOCUS Lyon Biennale*, Interior and the collectors, Lyon France

2017.07 *Dik Piks*, Lady Beck, Leeds UK (& publication)

2017.06 *If I left off dreaming about you?*, Like a little disaster, Bari, Italy

with Stine Deja, Gioia Di Girolamo, Lito Kattou, Botond Keresztesi and Maurizio Vicerè-Vice.

2017.04 *HYPOKEIMENON, en dessous du sang*, Galerie Nadine Feront, Brussels, Belgium

with Nils Alix-Tabeling, Aline Bouvy, Jude Crilly, Emeline Depas, Nicolas Deshayes, Justin Fitzpatrick, Anna Hulacova, Rebecca Jagoe and Birgit Jürgenssen

2016.11 *Honesty is the greatest fidelity*, Yamakiwa Gallery, Niigata Japan

with Zehra Arslan and Robin von Einsiedel

2016.04 *Caput-Medusae*, Westminster Waste, London UK

with Claire Boyd, Zadie Xa and Justin Fitzpatrick
2016 *RCA Secret*, Royal College of Art, London UK

2015 *RCA Degree Show*, Royal College of Art, London UK
2015 *SALAD*, L'escargot, London UK
2014 *Drake's x Hales Gallery x RCA Design Project*, London UK
2013 *Slade Summer Show*, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, London UK
2012 *Butter and Bread*, Mori and Stein Gallery, London UK

Residency

Shigaraki Ceramic Artist in Residency
V.O Curations

Award and Grant

Daiwa foundation
Sasakawa foundation
UCL William Coldstream prize