

## Why Don't You Dance? : Fumimaro Ayano

23 March to 26 April, 2025

Artist: Fumimaro Ayano

Venue: 18, Murata, Tokyo, Japan

Exhibition Title: Why Don't You Dance?

Date: 23 March to 26 April, 2025

Photography: Fumimaro Ayano and Fuyumi Murata

### Press release:

18, Murata proudly presents *Why Don't You Dance?*, the debut solo exhibition by Fumimaro Ayano. This marks Ayano's first-ever solo exhibition. Last year, he participated in the artist-in-residence program at Wiels in Brussels, Belgium, where he spent three months developing new works. During his stay, he frequently visited the daily flea markets, collecting a vast number of found photographs as part of his ongoing exploration of photography-based artistic practices. Among these, he was particularly drawn to photographs from what appears to be furniture exhibitions from the 1990s, as well as catalogs featuring diagrams illustrating how different pieces of furniture could be combined according to buyers' preferences. These materials connect two key aspects of Ayano's artistic practice: his personal fascination with furniture, and his conceptual investigation into how objects and actions lose their original context, turning into transient, decontextualized images. Ayano classifies and arranges the found photographs through a typological approach, while simultaneously challenging conventional modes of photographic display. Through these explorations, he critically examines the role and meaning of photography as a recurrent reference in art history, as well as the act of artistic expression itself. This exhibition presents these inquiries through sculptural installations referencing furniture and two-dimensional works composed of multiple found photographs, constructing a unique exhibition space. We invite you to immerse yourself in Ayano's evocative exploration of materiality, representation, and spatial composition.

### Fumimaro Ayano

Born in 1992 in Fukuoka. Grew up between the UK and Japan. Currently Lives and works in Tokyo. Graduated with an MA in Global Art Practice from Graduate School of Fine Art, Tokyo University of the Arts in 2023.

Works span from installation to performance using aspects of photography, sculpture and painting. Recent exhibitions include "Same as the street" LAVENDER OPENER CHAIR (Tokyo / 2024), "motivated bodies" Komagome SOKO (Tokyo / 2024), "Angel Pin Boogie" Paichu (Tokyo / 2023), "Tsukide Art Camp 2022," Ars Tsukide (Chiba / 2022), "Camera simulacra" Bunka Union and Awobaso (Tokyo / 2020).

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Fumimaro Ayano

Born in Fukuoka, Japan, 1992

Raised in the UK & Japan

Based in Tokyo, Japan

### Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2025 "Why Don't You Dance?" 18, Murata, Tokyo

2024 "Same as the street" LAVENDER OPENER CHAIR, Tokyo (w/ Rob Halverson)

2021 "Half & Half" Kunstakademie Muenster, Muenster (w/ Elliot Dijol)

2020 "ex\on" dragged out studio, Tokyo (w/ Eiki Mizutani)

### Group Exhibitions

2024 "motivated bodies" KOMAGOME SOKO, Tokyo

2023 "Angel Pin Boogie" Paichu, Tokyo

2023 "Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2023" Gyoko-dori Underground Gallery, Tokyo

2023 "2023 Purchase Prize" Ueno Art Gallery, Tokyo

2023 "Roots" Hotel Graphy, Tokyo

2023 Diploma show, Tokyo University of the Arts, The University Museum, Tokyo

2022 "Tsukide Art Camp 2022" Ars Tsukide, Chiba

2022 "Comic ecke" Kunstakademie Muenster, Muenster

2021 "Mokyontüser Toaster" Kunstakademie Muenster, Muenster

2021 "The End of Summer" Sansakizaka, Tokyo

2021 "De' Construction" Toride Annex, Ibaragi

2020 "Camera Simulacra", Bunka Union (Marginal Studio) and Awoba-soh, Tokyo

2019 "Oru★Tera4", Myozen-ji, Tokyo

### Residencies

2024 Sept.-Dec. Wiels, Belgium

2022 Sept.-Nov. Tsukide Art Camp 2022, Ars Tsukide, Chiba



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Education

2023 M.F.A., Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Global Art Practice

2021-22 Exchange to Kunstakademie Muenster (Germany)

2020 B.A., Saitama University, Department of Liberal Arts, Art Theory

Awards and Grants

2023 Tokyo University of the Arts Purchase Award

2023 Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2023 Shigeru Goto Award

2021 Ataka Award Scholarship Grant

2017 TOKYO FRONTLINE PHOTO AWARD 2017 Masaya Chiba Prize

Public Collections

2023 Tokyo University of the Arts, The University Art Museum, Tokyo

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## *Why Don't You Dance?*

2025

Varnished wood

h.200 x w.81 x d.214cm



## *his side, her side*

2025

Lambda print, face-mounted to acrylic  
edition 3 +AP

h.19.5 x w.24.5 x d.0.5cm



## *Will you look at this shit?*

2025

Lambda print, face-mounted to acrylic  
edition 3 +AP1

h.21.5 x w.8.5 x d.0.5cm



## *Wouldn't it be funny if*

2025

Lambda print, face-mounted to acrylic  
edition 3 +AP

h.21.5 x w.8.5 x d.0.5cm

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## *well, I'm drunk*

2025

Lambda print, face-mounted to acrylic  
edition 3 +AP

h.8.5 x w.21.5 x d.0.5cm



## *everything goes*

2025

Lambda print, face-mounted to acrylic  
edition 3 +AP

h.21.5 x w.8.5 x d.0.5cm



## *That's another story*

2025

Lambda print  
edition 3 +AP

h.29.5 x w.41.5 x d.0.7cm

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So everything starts at Place du Jeu de Balle Flea Market. That infamous fleamarket. Happens everyday. I think a lot of artists go there as I have heard. But anyway there was this wooden life size statue of the virgin mary carrying baby Jesus. Around it were double stacked cardboard boxes. I don't know where the vendors get them but everyone seems to have them. They are filled with mostly junk, unusable junk. Parts of plastic appliances, half used damp matches, tampons, miscellaneous beaten up toys. You name it they had it. It was as if life had abruptly stopped for someone and all the things they had were put on display.

I had a mission on hand. It was to find something useful and quirky for my art project. I needed photographs. I was looking for slides. Someone, well this one photographer friend told me if you find kodachrome slides they were a keeper.

As you would rummage around the boxes you could start to feel the dust accumulating on your fingers. You would look up for a second and see all the competition around you. You would look back down at the boxes, disappointed nothing of any value was there.

Jeu de balle isn't that big but the flea market seems vast.

I find a box of slides and a cigar box with Antwerp written on it. I ask the vendor "how much?" He looks at my findings, counts them and hurriedly says "4 euros". Not bad. I wasn't in the mood for hackling. I stuck my hand in my pocket and took out two 2 euro coins and handed it to the vendor. I was about to walk away when I was stopped by

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another vendor, probably the previous vendor's accomplice. He said to me “three euros”. I was confused but replied "I already paid" he looked to his accomplice then nodded back “ok”.

As I was walking away I stuffed my items in my rucksack.

Later that day I was at a HEMA store. I was stopped by security and was told to show my bag. I took out two boxes of tissues that I had bought then, my items from the flea market.

The security guard told me to show the receipt. He looked at it then looked confused. He said “what about those? ”

I said “they are mine” pointing to the box of slides and the cigar box.

I was back at the residency. I had found some old postcards of the Atomium and I gave it to my studio neighbor. She likes the Atomium. I've never been. I hear it's expensive to get in. She went on her birthday.

I told my story to her, about how I found some stuff at the flea market and how I was stopped at HEMA. she laughed. Made a remark.

I still think about why I didn't tell her about the second vendor. Maybe it doesn't make any sense.