

PRESS RELEASE

Kyoko Idetsu
Where Words Fail

May 17 - July 12, 2025

Kyoko Idetsu's paintings are dense with life. Her compositions depict subtle moments nestled with portals to distant places or thoughts. Facial expressions may cue empathetic story telling in the foreground, but equally rich backgrounds jump time and space filling every corner of her paintings with scenes of intention.

Idetsu's approach to painting feels urgent yet considered; her brushwork is loose and yet sensitive. Whether it's a mother hurrying from one obligation to the next or a figure paused at a window watching the outside world unravel there's an immediacy to her style that feels less like documentation and more like direct transmission.

Where Words Fail, Idetsu's second solo exhibition in New York, continues to build on themes she is known for. Her paintings don't just portray individuals, they echo collective feelings of anxiety, transition, and resilience. Everyday scenes—doing laundry, making eye contact across a restaurant, falling ill—are charged with tension and tenderness.

Idetsu's paintings make existence visible in a fractured world while holding onto intimate details that make life meaningful. Her paintings toe the line between public and private experience, revealing how global concerns seep into even the most mundane corners of our lives. Through honest imagery we witness how the political and personal are constantly entangled. She offers no easy answers, only scenes that ask to be felt as much as they are seen. With a visual language that moves as fast as life itself and a sensitivity to the moments we often overlook, Idetsu affirms her place as a vital chronicler of our times—one who understands that the truth of the world often lies in the way we move through it, distracted, determined, and quietly enduring.

Kyoko Idetsu (b. 1986, Tokyo, Japan) lives and works in Tokyo, Japan. Selected solo exhibitions include *Slow to Act*, Echigo-Tsumari Satoyama Museum of Contemporary Art, Niigata (JP); *What can an ideology do for me?*, Nonaka-Hill; *Kyoko Idetsu*, Crèvecœur, Paris (2023); *I want to wear a warm sweater.*, Bridget Donahue, New York (2022–2023); *He had no choice but to do so.*, Brulee (Shunsuke Imai Studio), Tokyo (2020); *Emotion*, ArtCenter Ongoing, Tokyo (2019); *Draw me a beautiful picture to hang in my house.*, LUCKY HAPPY STUDIO, Tokyo (2017); *Milky Way*, ArtCenter Ongoing, Tokyo (2017); *The Landscape I Saw the Other Day*, ArtCenter Ongoing, Tokyo (2012). Selected group exhibitions include *Burning Down the House: Rethinking Family*, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (CH) (2024); *The Postmodern Child Part II*, Busan Museum of Contemporary Art, Busan (KR) (2023); *Presence in the Pause: Interiority and its Radical Immanence*, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha (NE) (2023); *Kyoko Idetsu and Leo Okubo*, Lavender Open Chair, Tokyo (2021); *Fictions of Everyday Life*, Akibatambi 21, Tokyo (2021); *Natsuyasumi*, Nonaka-Hill (2021); *TERATOTERA Festival 2015* (open production), Tokyo (2015); *The best view from here*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo (2021).