

Takahiro Yamamoto | Aging Painting

Exhibition Title | Aging Painting

Artist | Takahiro Yamamoto

Dates | June 12 (Fri.) – July 18 (Sat.), 2020

Location | MAKI Gallery /

Omotesando, Tokyo 3F

*Please be informed that from June 2020,
our gallery name will change to MAKI Gallery.



Takahiro Yamamoto, *Untitled*, 2019-2020, oil on canvas, 183.0 x 152.0 cm

MAKI Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Takahiro Yamamoto, an artist who creates meticulous reproductions of old postcards and portraits. By engaging with motifs whose raison d'être is replication, Yamamoto inquires into the nature of uniqueness and originality. The artist's expression, a breathtakingly photorealistic technique in which a distinctive concept is hidden, captivates viewers. What does Yamamoto paint and what is he trying to reveal?

When Yamamoto replicates old postcards and photographic portraits, he absorbs the minutest details, including how the original has changed color over time, how it might be bent or peeled, reproducing them faithfully. 'Deterioration' imbues postcards and photographs with a certain, distinctive 'flavor', giving them a function that goes beyond recording people at certain times and places, and beyond advertising beautiful scenery, some sensational event or a beautiful woman (or man). These old postcards and photographs, unlike the masterpieces of famous artists, do not have any provenance associated with

them. They have merely managed to slip through time by being passed on from person to person. This invisible time is engraved on the motifs in the form of deterioration.

Behind the artist's choice of old postcards and photographs as motifs, lies his desire to investigate the relationship between an original and its reproduction. In general, the original is considered to have value, while reproductions are deemed lesser. If a reproduction (printed material or photographs) suffers fading or damage, and there is another reproduction which has survived through the same amount of time, the ways in which they deteriorate are not the same. Time bestows uniqueness on reproductions. It is here that the artist finds time itself, faithfully replicating it. Depicting 'time' in this way endows a reproduction with the value of an original.

Precisely because the technique that enables Yamamoto to execute these concepts is so masterful, there is a tendency to focus only on his technical

dexterity. However, this technique was merely a necessary means for the artist to express the significance and value of what time brings about. We

hope that through the artist's work, you will discover for yourselves his true intentions.

Artist

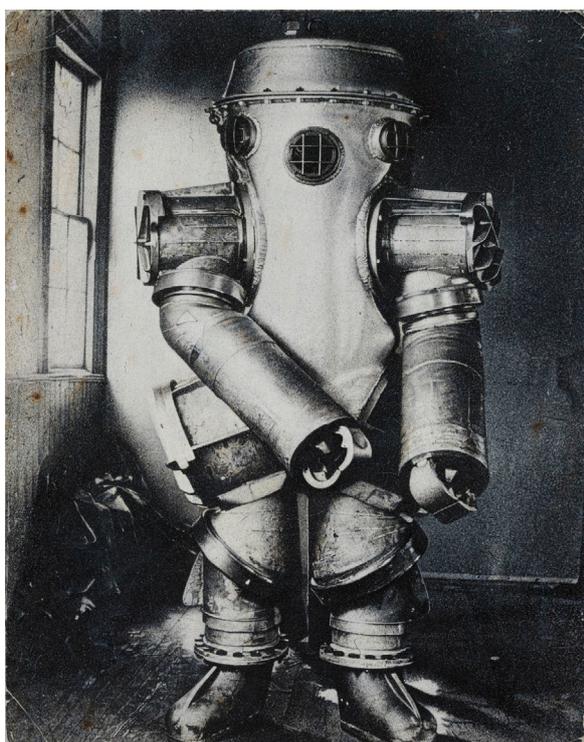
- Takahiro Yamamoto

Born in 1984 in Tottori, Japan, Takahiro Yamamoto graduated from high school in Japan, and moved to Spain and Singapore before settling in New York, where he now lives and works. Utilizing archival images and found objects, such as photographs and postcards, Yamamoto adopts a hyper-realistic style in his paintings to question the relationship between original and its reproduction, revealing the ability of the latter to achieve its own uniqueness through the passage of time. Besides the dexterity and meticulousness of his work, Yamamoto portrays the course of time in palpable ways, bringing the viewer into a new field of expression where time is materialized. His works were presented in various solo shows including *Aging Painting*, Gallery Kogure/



Hprp gallery (New York, 2017); *The genuine truth behind truths*, Gallery Kogure (New York, 2016); and *Where the artificial stops and the real starts*, Gallery Kogure (Tokyo, 2013), along with a number of group shows in Asia and beyond.

Artworks



Takahiro Yamamoto, *Untitled*, 2020, oil on canvas, 116.7x91.0cm

*For further inquiries, please contact