

**MIZUMA GALLERY**  
 22 LOCK ROAD #01-34, GILLMAN BARRACKS,  
 SINGAPORE 108939, SINGAPORE  
 T. +65 6570 2505 F. +65 6570 2506  
 WWW.MIZUMASG.INFO@MIZUMA.SG  
 HOURS: TUE-SAT 11AM-7PM SUN 11AM-6PM  
 TWITTER@MIZUMAGALLERYSG  
 YOUTUBE.COM/MIZUMAGALLERY  
 FACEBOOK.COM/MIZUMAGALLERY

luminescent creatures, light beams, macabre monsters, naked women and fish-like beings. When he became gravely ill at the age of 45 and stood on the verge of death, his medications gave him hallucinations often featuring pine trees that since then often appear in his creations. This episode renewed Tanaami's creative energy, exacerbating his consciousness of the fragility of life. This close encounter with death also eventually brought him to the idea of the bridge as a connection between this world and the next, but also as a metaphor for the journey of life itself as the title of this exhibition suggests.

Tanaami's painting style mimics various techniques such as isometric perspective, reminding of Edo period ukiyo-e, anamorphosis, which is often used on packaging, Ben-Day dots from the printing industry (and fellow-pop artist Roy Lichtenstein) and a sense of collage as initiated by the Dada movement at the dawn of the 20th century, mixing religious symbols and popular culture icons. However despite its mechanical appearance, Tanaami's paintings' surface betrays the true sensuality that animates his brush. "Even today I feel a physiological pleasure when I am layering on coats of paint," he says.

Since 1965, Tanaami has exhibited extensively on 5 continents in prestigious venues such as the MoMA, New York (USA), the Centre Pompidou, Paris (France), the Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin (Germany), The OCT Museum, Shenzhen (China), or the Fondation Speerstra, Apples (Switzerland). His work is in the collection of over 25 public institutions and museums worldwide, including the Singapore Art Museum.



**Birth and Death Bridge**  
 Keiichi Tanaami  
 6 AUGUST - 29 SEPTEMBER 2013

Mizuma Gallery is pleased to present *Birth and Death Bridge*, a solo exhibition by Japanese artist Keiichi Tanaami (77). In this show the artist reveals the depths of his personal universe through 12 sharp and vivid acrylic paintings.

Keiichi Tanaami was born in Tokyo in 1936 and graduated from Musashino Art University's college of design. As a successful graphic designer, he worked for legendary rock bands like The Monkees, was the first artistic director of the Japanese monthly edition of *Play Boy* and collaborated with numerous fashion designers such as Paul Smith and Mary Quant. Since the 1960s, when his work played a significant role in introducing pop art and psychedelic culture into Japan, he has crossed the boundaries of media and genre, going beyond the confines of graphic design such as art direction and illustration, to work with a wide variety of mediums including animation, experimental film, painting and sculpture. An iconic forerunner as a multitalented artist, Tanaami continues influencing generations of artists across the globe.

His own influences range from pre-war kamishibai heroes to American B movies, from manga author legend Tezuka Osamu to pop art guru Andy Warhol, from film icon Marilyn Monroe to Sergei Eisenstein's montage theory. The subject matter of his work, however, is deeply rooted into his experience of the Tokyo bombings through World War II: roaring American bombers, Japanese searchlights scanning the skies, firebombs and flares dropped from planes, the city a sea of fire, fleeing masses, and the flashes of the bombs reflecting off of his grandfather's deformed goldfish swimming in his tank. "Dreams and reality are all jumbled up in my memories" says Tanaami, and "these memories change daily as if at their own convenience, greatly sway who I am."

These half-dream, half-memory visions appear in his work as grotesque,



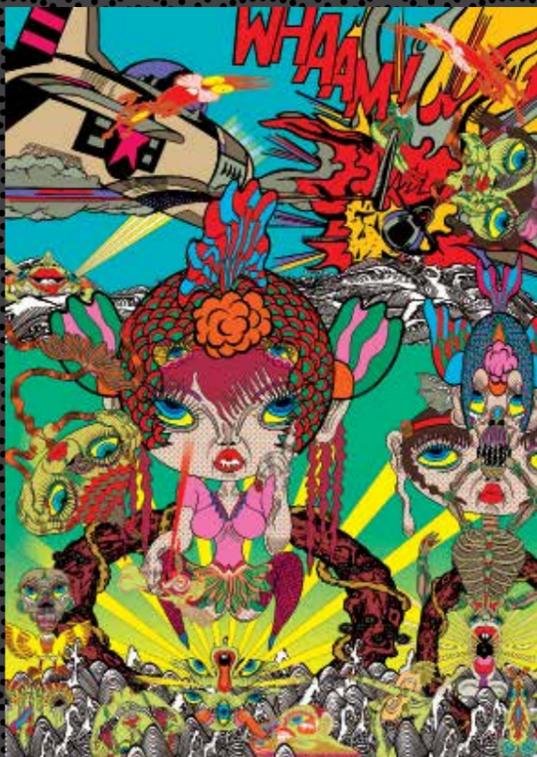
*Death Bridge* | 2012, Acrylic on canvas, 200 x 300 cm (triptych)



**Arched Bridge to Labyrinth**  
2012, Acrylic on canvas, 200 × 300 cm (triptych)



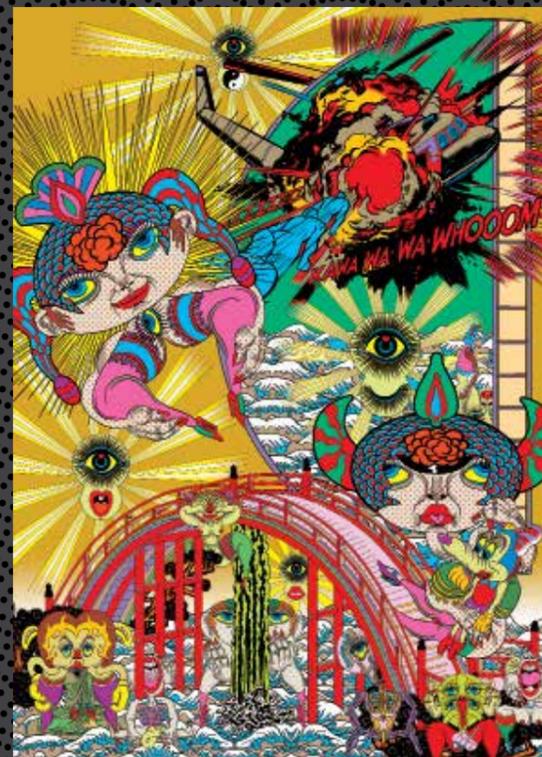
**Buddhist Cross and the Red Bridge**  
2012, Acrylic on canvas, 200 × 300 cm (triptych)



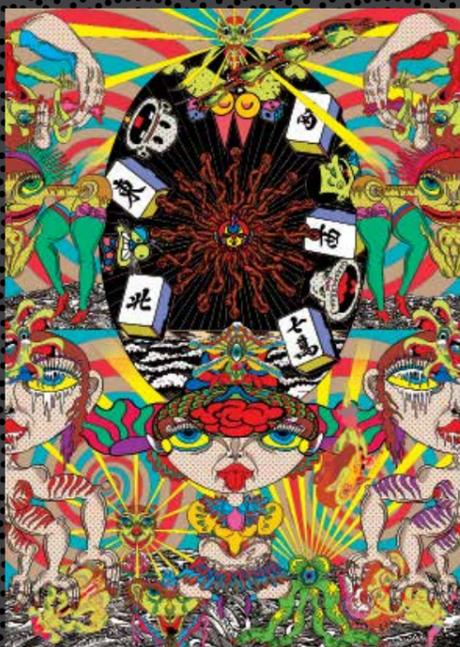
**The Moment of an Explosion**  
2009, Acrylic on canvas, 194 × 145 cm (diptych)



**The Adventurer's Paradise**  
2013, Acrylic, digital print, glass on canvas, 200 × 200 cm (diptych)



**Red Colored Bridge**  
2011, Acrylic on canvas, 200 × 140 cm (diptych)



**North, South, East and West**  
2011, Acrylic on canvas, 116 × 82 cm



**A Feast with Freaks**  
2011, Acrylic on canvas, 150 × 195 cm (diptych)



**Flying Human Figure**  
2011, Acrylic on canvas, 200 × 148 cm (diptych)



from left to right

**Pink Cherry Blossoms Falling**  
2013, Acrylic on canvas, 116 × 82 cm

**Cherry Blossoms Falling on White Bridge**  
2013, Acrylic on canvas, 116 × 82 cm

**Cherry Blossoms Falling on the Arched Bridge**  
2013, Acrylic on canvas, 116 × 82 cm