

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Eguchi Ayane**

### *Ode to Wonderland*

3 March – 8 April 2018

Opening reception: Saturday, 3 March 2018, 4pm - 7pm

Artist-led tour: Saturday, 3 March 2018, 4pm – 5pm

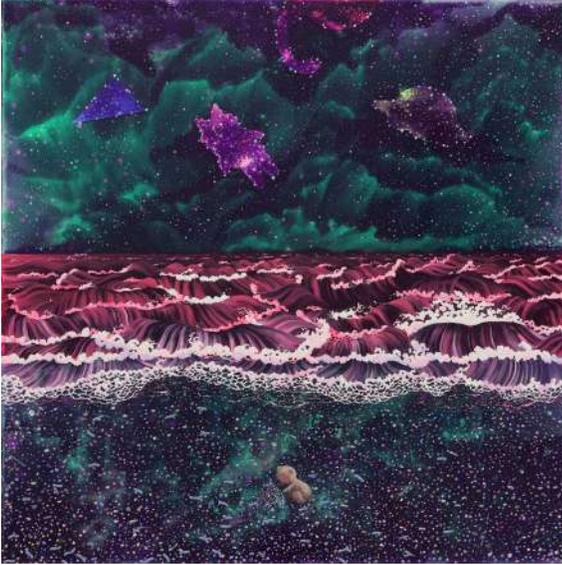


Mizuma Gallery is pleased to announce *Ode to Wonderland*, a solo exhibition by Japanese artist Eguchi Ayane.

In her third solo exhibition, the first in Singapore, Eguchi Ayane presents new works inspired by her childhood, her recent residency in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and her inner thoughts. The works in this exhibition invite the viewers to reflect on their perspective on life and mortality, as quoted from Charlie Chaplin, "*Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long shot*".

The character 'KUMA' appears in all of Eguchi's paintings. According to her, 'KUMA' are things that live and die; they are everywhere and yet nowhere. Having a resemblance to *kuma*, the Japanese word for 'bear', they look superficially cute, but what is inside of them remains unknown.

At a glance, Eguchi's world is a candy-coloured whimsical wonderland but on closer inspection her paintings reveal a macabre narrative. Bitterness and sweetness coexist like a yin and yang diagram of opposing forces in nature, and like a Möbius strip, they support one another inseparably. To her, the world is both Paradise and Hell, and to be able to keep on living she has to find a way to mask the bitterness of life.



### About the Artist

Eguchi Ayane (b. 1985, Hokkaido, Japan) graduated in 2011 with an M.A. in Oil Painting from the Kanazawa College of Art in Kanazawa, Japan. Her solo exhibitions to date are *Ode to Wonderland* at Mizuma Gallery, Singapore (2018), *Mystical Kingdom* at MIZUMA ACTION, Tokyo, Japan (2013) and *Fuwa·moko·sarasa·ra* at Tokyo Wonder Site Hongo, Tokyo, Japan (2011). She has participated extensively in group exhibitions both in Japan and abroad such as Indonesia, United States, Switzerland, and Singapore. Eguchi Ayane lives and works in Kanazawa, Japan.

### About the Gallery

Mizuma Gallery was established in 1994 in Tokyo, and since its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore in 2012, it aims for the promotion of Japanese artists in the region as well as the introduction of new and promising young talents from Southeast Asia to the international art scene. The gallery creates a new vector of dialogue within Asia, by exchanging art projects between East Asia and Southeast Asia.

### About Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is a focal point of Singapore's arts landscape, and anchors the development of visual art in the region and beyond. For more information: [www.gillmanbarracks.com](http://www.gillmanbarracks.com)

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**Mizuma Gallery**

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## Gallery hours:

Tue-Sat: 11am-7pm

Sun: 11am-6pm

Closed on Mondays &  
Public Holidays

[www.mizuma.sg](http://www.mizuma.sg)  
[www.mizuma-art.co.jp](http://www.mizuma-art.co.jp)

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Eguchi Ayane  
*Theater* (2017)  
oil on canvas  
194.5 x 325 cm  
© Eguchi Ayane,  
courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery

Eguchi Ayane  
*Star sign UMA* (2017)  
oil on canvas  
91.1 x 73 cm  
© Eguchi Ayane,  
courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery

Eguchi Ayane  
*Memento mori* (2017)  
oil on canvas  
130.2 x 162.2 cm  
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courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery