

We are pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Katsuyuki Takahashi, "Bottom of the hole" at Communication Gallery Fugensha from January 5 to January 21, 2024. This will be Katsuyuki Takahashi's third solo exhibition at the gallery in two years.

Katsuyuki Takahashi is an oil painter born and living in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture in 1967.

He graduated from the Faculty of Education, Fukushima University in 1992 and completed his graduate studies at Fukushima University in 1995.

He won the Grand Prize at the 4th Liquitex Biennale in 1993 and exhibited at the VOCA Exhibition (Ueno Royal Museum) in 1994 and 2003, "New Sprits Fukushima - On Stories" (Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art) in 2005 and the Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition (Ueno Royal Museum) in 2016 and 2017, and is currently working as an art teacher while continuing her artistic activities.

Takahashi's works are characterized by absurd and allegorical narratives that take place in fictional "towns", such as hotels, hospitals, meeting halls, castles, and ruins, where the characters move and change from one scene to the next. In addition, the three-dimensional, tree-trunk-like, life-like textures created by the use of synthetic lacquer, the supposedly fictitious story rises up realistically before the viewer's eyes.

This exhibition will feature 16 pieces from his new work "Bottom of the Hole". Inspired by Bruegel's painting "The Parable of the Blind", which is based on a New Testament passage ("Matthew 15:14") that says, "If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit".

This series is the result of Takahashi's repeated copying and arranging of the "The Parable of the Blind", which he felt symbolized a certain conversation with a caster and commentator he often saw on news programs after the spread of the coronavirus.

The "town" that Takahashi has been creating for the past 30 years has been repeatedly extended in a parallel direction, but this time, the scene develops vertically and vertically.

How will we see the continuation of the famous fable, the story unfolding at the "bottom of the hole" into which the blind man and his blind guide fell? Please enjoy the world of this strange tale, which is not bound by time or place, and which seems to absorb everyone.

## **1. On the ground**

A blind person and a guide helper are walking in a thick fog.

The guide helper is explaining the scene to the blind person.

"Over there, you can see the gate."

When they reached the gate, a man who called himself "Keeper of the Gate" appeared.

"Could you please go to the back of the gate?"

They proceeded to the back of the gate, where they found a hole.

When they reached the end of the hole, they saw a man who called himself the "Keeper of the Hole".

"Could you go down to the bottom of the hole, please?"

## **2. Bottom of the hole**

As they descended down the hole, they found a tower.

As they descended down the hole, they found a tower.

When they entered the tower, they saw a statue of a face about 2 meters high.

When they reached the statue of a face, the mouth of the statue began to open.

A dwarf came out of the mouth.

The dwarf came out of the mouth and went up the nose of the statue, then up the forehead.

When the dwarf reached the top of the statue, the statue began to float and rise.

When it stopped rising, the dwarf began to call out loudly, "No".

The blind man heard this and went out of the tower.

There was a fence.

A fence guard appeared and showed them the way to Gokuraku-hama Beach.

They walked along the rocky beach toward the paradise beach.

As they walked along the darkening rocks, they found a large hole.

They kept walking, not noticing the hole, and fell into the bottom of the hole.

When they looked up at the bottom of the hole, they could vaguely see the face of a person peering into the hole.

The face was the same as that of the blind man.

The man began to speak.

The bottom of the hole is your swamp.

Enter the swamp and fall into the hole.

From there you will be in the Kashi hotel.

## Katsuyuki Takahashi

Born in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture in 1967, graduated from the Faculty of Education, Fukushima University in 1992, and completed the graduate course at Fukushima University in 1995.

Exhibitions: 1994 and 2003 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum), 1995-2014 Solo Exhibition (Toho Gallery, Kyobashi), 1998 "Fukushima New Generation 98" (Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art), 1999 "The Vision of Contemporary Japanese Painting" (Tokyo Station Gallery), 2001 Solo Exhibition (Kitakata City Museum of Art), 2001 "Katachi wo motomete: 11 Japanese Artists" (Pusan Museum of Art, Pusan, Korea), 2005 "New Sprits Fukushima: Around the Story" (Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art), 2011 Selected Encouragement Exhibition (Sompo Japan Museum of Art, Shinjuku), 2012 New Collections Exhibition (Saku City Museum of Modern Art, Saku), 2016, 2017 The Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum), etc.; 2018 Solo Exhibition "Illusion - It is made of illusion" (Fugensha/Tsukiji); 2021 Solo Exhibition "Face to face" (Fugensha/Meguro), etc.

Public Collection: Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art, Kitakata City Museum of Art, Saku City Museum of Modern Art, Fuchu Art Museum, Okawa Art Museum

<https://k-takahashi.net/>