

# Tomoo Gokita

## Biography

Tomoo Gokita was born in 1969 in Tokyo, Japan, where he currently lives and works.

Now a leading Japanese contemporary artist on the international art scene, he started as a designer in the 90s, producing a series of newsprint books, some of which gained cult status, such as *Lingerie Wrestling* (2000). In 2000, he set aside graphic design and dedicated himself entirely to painting.

His work is inspired by 1960s and 70s Japanese and American subcultures as well as vintage magazines, film stills, pornography, and postcards. Combining abstract and expressive brushwork, deformed figures, and lowbrow imagery, Gokita's works are emotionally charged canvases. Although he is widely known for working in greyscale, color has been a recurring feature of his practice since the beginning of his career. Whether working in greyscale or color, Gokita's paintings have long been characterized by their psychologically charged subject matter. The subjects of his paintings are indeed uncanny portraits, disquieting still lifes, and dream-like abstractions

### Solo exhibitions

#### 2025

2025 - Tomoo Gokita, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris,

#### 2024

2024 - Gumbo, curated by Alberto Salvadori, ICA, Milano, I

#### 2023

2023 - Tomoo Gokita, Petzel Gallery, New York, USA

#### 2022

2022 - Diary, Taka Ishii Gallery Viewing Room, Tokyo, J

#### 2021

2021 - Get Down, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, USA. Catalogue

#### 2020

2020 - Game Over, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

#### 2019

2019 - Tomoo Gokita, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

#### 2018

2018 - PEEKABOO, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, J. Catalogue

2018 - HOTEL PARADISO, McNamara Art Projects, Hong Kong, PRC

2018 - Tomoo Gokita, SHOP Taka Ishii Gallery, Hong Kong, PRC

2018 - Tomoo Gokita, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, USA

**2017**

2017 - Beauty, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, USA  
2017 - Holy Cow, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, J. Catalogue

**2016**

2016 - Out of Sight, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, USA

**2015**

2015 - Damage Control, Bill Brady Gallery, Miami, USA  
2015 - Bésame Mucho, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

**2014**

2014 - The Great Circus , Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art, Sakura, J. Catalogue  
2014 - Tomoo Gokita, Mary Boone Gallery, New York , USA  
2014 - Variety Show, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, J

**2012**

2012 - Secret Life, Bill Brady Gallery, Kansas City, USA

**2010**

2010 - Funland, Aliceday Gallery, Brussels, B  
2010 - Wildest Dreams, ATM Gallery, New York, USA  
2010 - Tomoo Gokita, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, J

**2009**

2009 - Heaven, Honor Fraser, Los Angeles, USA  
2009 - Champion Carnival, ATM Gallery, New York, USA

**2008**

2008 - Tomoo Gokita, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, J

**2007**

2007 - Vanity Drunko, Honor Fraser, Los Angeles, USA

**2006**

2006 - Drunko, ATM Gallery, New York, USA

**2005**

2005 - Finger Prince, Gallery Trax, Yamanashi, J

**2004**

2004 - Black Gainers, Kyoto Art Zone, Kyoto, J

**2003**

2003 - Oh! Tengoku, Kirin Plaza Osaka and Nadif Gallery, Tokyo, J

**2002**

2002 - Merrow Master Cuts Vol. 2, Yasu Gallery, Tokyo, J  
2002 - Tomoo Gokita LP Exhibition, Record Shop Los Apson, Tokyo, J

**2000**

2000 - Lingerie Wrestling , Shibuya Parco Gallery, Nagoya Parco Gallery and Fukuoka Atrium, J

**1997**

1997 - Tomoo Gokita, Gallery Trax, Yamanashi, J

**Group exhibitions****2023**

2023 - An Apartment for Ghost: '57-'23, Petzel Gallery, New York, USA

## **2022**

2022 - Winter Wunderkammer, MASSIMODECARLO, VSpace, I

2022 - The Five story about ART – have always been there, Okazaki Mindscape Museum, Aichi, J

2022 - HANGA SHOP, Taka Ishii Gallery, Hong Kong, HK

2022 - Lynchland: Genre, Auteursism and a Fish in the Percolator, Torrance Museum of Art, Torrance, USA

## **2021**

2021 - Villa Chiuminatto, Villa Chiuminatto, Torino, I

2021 - West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai, PRC

## **2019**

2019 - MCMXXXIV, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

## **2018**

2018 - Taguchi Collection of 21st Century Art: From Andy Warhol to Yoshitomo Nara, Hiratsuka Museum of Art, Kanagawa, J

2018 - The Ubiquity of Borders: Japanese Contemporary, Gallery Baton, Seoul, ROK

## **2017**

2017 - Third Space / Shifting Conversations about Contemporary Art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, USA

2017 - Takahashi Collection Mindfulness 2017, Yamagata Museum of Art, Yagamata, J

## **2016**

2016 - The Encyclopedia of Masamichi Katayama: Life is hard... Let's go shopping, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, J

2016 - Moved, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, J

## **2015**

2015 - A Shared Space: KAWS, Karl Wirsum and Tomoo Gokita, Newcomb Art Museum, Tulane University, New Orleans, USA

## **2014**

2014 - OK, I'll rename it': Tomoo Gokita, Todd James, KVAS, Erik Parker, Bill Brady KC, Kansas City, USA

## **2013**

2013 - Wonderful My Art, Kawaguchiko Museum of Art, Yamanashi, J

2013 - 20th Anniversary Trax Exhibition, Gallery Trax, Yamanashi, J

## **2012**

2012 - East West Shift to the Middle Part II, Bill Brady KC, Kansas City, USA

2012 - The Unseen Relationship: Form and Abstraction, Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art, Chiba, J

## **2011**

2011 - Black and White, Nanzuka Underground, Tokyo, J

2011 - Akatsuka Fujio Manga University Exhibition, Kyoto International Manga Museum, Kyoto, J

2011 - New York Minute Moscow, Garage Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow, RUS

2011 - GUMPTION, ZieherSmith, New York, USA

2011 - Gateway: Japan, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, USA

2011 - FACEMAKER, Royal/T, Los Angeles, USA

2011 - Rinus van de Velde / Tomoo Gokita / Hiroki Tsukuda, Nanzuka Underground, Tokyo, J

## **2010**

2010 - The Pencil Show, Foxy Production, New York, USA

2010 - The Osara Show - Plate paintings by Four Artists, Gallery Target, Tokyo, J

2010 - Disorder Disorder - Ulterior Motives in Contemporary Art, Penrith Regional Gallery, New South Wales, AUS

2010 - It Ain't Fair, OHWOW Gallery, Miami, USA  
2010 - Baker, Braunig, Gokita, Hopkins, Foxy Production, New York , USA  
2010 - The Franks-Suss Collection, Saatchi Gallery, London , UK

#### **2009**

2009 - Bande Annonce II, Aliceday Gallery, Brussels, B  
2009 - VOCA 2009: The Vision of Contemporary Art, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, J  
2009 - Stage, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris, F  
2009 - Stage, Deitch projects, New York, USA  
2009 - Stage, OHWOW Gallery, Miami, USA  
2009 - Gallery Trax Selections'09, Gallery Trax, Yamanashi, J  
2009 - New York Minute, MACRO Future Museum, Rome, I  
2009 - Defining a Moment: 25 New York Artists, House of Campari Presents, New York, USA  
2009 - Ambivalent Figuration, People at Samson Projects, Boston, USA  
2009 - Collected Visions, Pera Museum, Istanbul, TR

#### **2008**

2008 - Sonic Youth etc.: Sensational Fix, Le LiFE, St. Nazaire, F  
2008 - Sonic Youth etc.: Sensational Fix, Museion, Bolzano, I  
2008 - Sonic Youth etc.: Sensational Fix, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, D  
2008 - Sonic Youth etc.: Sensational Fix, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, SW  
2008 - Sonic Youth etc.: Sensational Fix, CA2M, Madrid, ES

#### **2007**

2007 - Cabinet of Curiosities, Journal Gallery, New York, USA  
2007 - Macronauts, Andreas Melas Presents, Athens, GR  
2007 - Mail Order Monsters, Deitch Projects, New York, USA  
2007 - Mail Order Monsters, Andrea Melas Presents, Athens, GR  
2007 - Mail Order Monsters, Peres Projects, Berlin, D  
2007 - Mail Order Monsters, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK  
2007 - Summer Group Exhibition, Aliceday Gallery, Brussels, B

#### **2006**

2006 - Gallery Trax Selections '06, Gallery Trax, Yamanashi, J

#### **2005**

2005 - Remarkable Hands, ATM Gallery, New York, USA  
2005 - Stranger Town, Dinter Fine Art, New York, USA

#### **2004**

2004 - Psionic Distortion, Super Deluxe, Tokyo, J

#### **2003**

2003 - Lead Poisoning, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
2003 - Jungle LP Show, Gallery Rocket, Tokyo, J

#### **2002**

2002 - East Meets West, Coningsby Gallery, London, UK  
2002 - Tomoo Gokita LP Exhibition??, Los Apson Record Shop, Tokyo, J

#### **1999**

1999 - Group Exhibition, Speak For Gallery, Tokyo, J

#### **1997**

1997 - NYORO-TEN, P-House, Tokyo, J

#### **1990**

1990 - '90 Contemporary Art Festival, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, J

# Bibliography

## 2020

De Beni, Eleonora. "GAME OVER di Tomoo Gokita", *ATP diary*, July 19 2020.  
Suzuki, Satoshi. "A Conversation with Tomoo Gokita", *Fun Palace*, September 2020.

## 2018

Garreffa, Nirvana . "The Surreal Paintings of Tomoo Gokita Inspired by Vintage Playboys", *HYPEBEAST*, 28 January 2018.

## 2017

Bogojev, Sasha. "Tomoo Gokita's 'Beauty' @ Mary Boone Gallery, NYC", *JUXTAPOZ*, 17 October 2017.

## 2015

Ng, Elaine W.. "Tomoo Gokita: One Thousand Shades of Gray", *ART ASIA PACIFIC*, July/August 2015, pp. 60-69.

## 2014

Laster, Paul. "Tomoo Gokita", *TIME OUT NEW YORK*, 6-12 February 2014 , p. 32 .  
Masushio, Taro. "Tomoo Gokita Exhibition", *SHIFT (Japan)*, April 2014.  
Rian, Jeff . "Visual Essay: Introducing the World of Tomoo Gokita", *PURPLE FASHION*, September 2014, pp. 505-512.

## 2011

Rawlings, Ashley. "Where I Work: Tomoo Gokita", *ART ASIA PACIFIC*, March-April 2011.

## 2010

Taft, Catherine. "Tomoo Gokita/Honor Fraser", *ARTFORUM*, February 2010, p. 210.

## 2009

Brennan, Drury. "Tomoo Gokita: The Grayscale Pleasure of Altered Domesticity", *FLAUNT*, n. Number 104, 2009.  
Knight, Christopher. "Tomoo Gokita at Honor Fraser Gallery", *LOS ANGELES TIMES*, 27 November 2009 .  
Laster, Paul. "New York Minute: 60 Artists on the New York Scene", *FLAVORPILL*, October 2009.  
Rosenberg, Karen. "Tomoo Gokita 'Champion Carnival'", *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, 24 April 2009.

## 2008

Eaker, Adam. "One to Watch: Tomoo Gokita", *ARTKRUSH*, June 2008.

## **2007**

- C., A.. "On the Walls Now: Vanity Drunko, Tomoo Gokita", *FRONTIERS*, May 2007.  
Dambrot, Shana Nys. *MODERN PAINTERS*, June 2007, p. 113.  
Fowler, Brendan. "Tomoo Gokita", *ANP QUARTERLY*, n. 9, 2007.  
Goodrich, John .*NEW YORK SUN*, 13 September 2007.  
Grayson, Kathy. "Tomoo Gokita", *THE JOURNAL*, n. 21, 2007, pp. 90-100.  
Renzi, Jen. *HOUSE AND GARDEN*, June 2007, p. 120.  
Taft, Catherine. "Tomoo Gokita: Vanity Drunko", *ART REVIEW*, June 2007, p. 150.

## **2006**

- Coomer, Martin. "Introducing: Tomoo Gokita", *MODERN PAINTERS*, December-January 2006, pp. 82-83.  
Smith, Roberta. "Tomoo Gokita", *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, 15 September 2006.

## **2005**

- Smith, Roberta. "Stranger Town: Invading Genres Breach the Art World's Porous Borders", *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, 9 March 2005.

# Public Collections

## **China**

X Museum, Beijing

## **Japan**

Japigozzi Collection

Oketa Collection, Tokyo

Taguchi Art Collection, Kanagawa

## **Spain**

Colección SOLO, Madrid

## **United States of America**

Collection of Kaws, New York

High Museum of Art, Atlanta

Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles

The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland

The José Parlá Collection