

For immediate release:

**Cherry Blossom Party**

**Chikako Isshiki, Okamoto Mitsuhiro, Ryoko Kimura, Keiko Sakamoto, Yoshiko Shimada, Rika Nakashima and Takahiro Wada**

**2022.4.9-4.30**

eitoeiko is pleased to announce the exhibition 'Cherry Blossom Party' which will start from April 9. This exhibition will be the third edition of the series from 2019. Originally the cherry blossom viewing party organized by the imperial family for international goodwill. It ended when it was exposed as a hotbed of corruption by the cabinet of Shinzo Abe, who pretended to enjoy the double-flowered cherry blossoms in the Shinjuku Gyoen. I wonder if there was a successful Japanese painter or the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs among the entertainers and sports people who enjoyed the event. I don't know whether the invitees took the initiative to rub elbows with the ruling party or whether they were just being used as a dupe, but this exhibition will be the cultural sakura viewing party that started by voluntarily taking care of the aftermath.

This series of the exhibition, in which a variety of artists have participated so far, has taken a form that could be called a group exhibition, an Oogiri style, or a battle royal, but the artists' approach to and interpretation of motifs, their contact and development, and their cooking methods and finishes are astonishing. The director has set few restrictions other than size in order to show the potential of artists without any limitation. I request that performances will be difficult to realize due to the Corona Disaster, and I recommend that the artworks be material in nature. I aim that the medium of expression will be in different directions as much as possible.

Since Art Tokyo has withdrawn, it would have been nice to have Koto Utsumi's Treasure Pactry exhibition at the same time this year. However, I think it is the mission of art to connect the world that we cannot keep joking around in the midst of the invasion of Ukraine. This exhibition is regarded as a fearless exhibition simply because you see 'Sakura,' but I hope that you will avoid unnecessary trips to the outside world and appreciate it with a spirit of fortitude.

Ei Kibukawa, eitoeiko

**Chikako Isshiki**

B.1945, Tokyo. BA from Tokyo University of Arts. Studied at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg. Recent exhibitions include Chikako Isshiki and Goh Shigi, Soh Gallery, 2021, Goh Shigi Chikako Isshiki, 50 years retrospective, Galleria Grafica Tokyo, 2019, and others.

**Okamoto Mitsuhiro**

B.1968, Kyoto. MAE from Shiga University. Recent exhibitions include CARt SAITAMA 2022, Beside Suizokukangekijou, eitoeiko, 2021, Okinawan Steak, solo exhibition,

eitoeiko, 2021, Unfreedom of expression in Kansai, 2021, and others.

**Ryoko Kimura**

B.1971, Kyoto. MA from Tokyo University of Arts. Recent exhibitions include Whereabouts of Japanese Painting, Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, 2022, Feminisms, 21<sup>st</sup> century Museum of Contemporary Art Kanazawa, 2021, Handsome Men They Are, Iwami Art Museum, Museum of Modern Art Saitama, 2021, and others.

**Keiko Sakamoto**

B.1968, Osaka. MA from Tama Art University. Recent exhibitions include 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program of overseas study by Japanese Cultural Agency, Nihonbashi Takashimaya, 2017, YANGON, solo exhibition, Wada Fine Arts, 2015, Gateway Japan, Torrance Art Museum, 2011, and others.

**Yoshiko Shimada**

B.1959, Tokyo. PhD from Kingston University, London. Recent exhibitions include Flame, Ota Fine Arts, 2022, Unfreedom of expression in Kansai, 2021, organized an online project, Radical Spiritualism, 2021, and others.

**Rika Nakashima**

B.1995, Aichi. BA from University of the Arts London, Chelsea Collage of Arts. Currently in Tokyo University of Arts graduate school. Recent exhibitions include I tower over my dead body, solo exhibition, TOH, 2021, Bodies On The Matter, Tomotoshi Art Museum, 2021, A City Dreaming, Tokyo Metropolitan Arts Museum, 2020, and others.

**Takahiro Wada**

B.1963, Tokyo. Director of Light and Place Wet-plate Photo Studio. Recent exhibitions include To Travel with Glasses, Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Iwami Art Museum, Aomori Museum of Art, 2018, Photographs in Meiji era, from Dry-plates by Emberson, Verkehr Museum, 2016, and others.

Keiko Sakamoto courtesy of Wada Fine Arts

Yoshiko Shimada courtesy of Ota Fine Arts

**eitoeiko**

32-2 Yaraicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0805

+81 (0)3-6873-3830

[www.eitoeiko.com](http://www.eitoeiko.com)

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