

For immediate release:

Katsuko Ishigaki

Landscape With Base

March 3 - March 24, 2018

eitoeiko is pleased to announce a solo exhibition 'Landscape With Base' by Katsuko Ishigaki. This exhibition is her second exhibition with eitoeiko. After World War II, there were an art village called 'Nishimui' in Okinawa. The paintings by Nishimui group became foundations of postwar art in Okinawa. At the exhibition, Ishigaki depicts Okinawa after 60 years later from Nishimui. Under the strong sunlight, the life in Okinawa is coexist with evergreen trees and plants around sea. However, behind the landscape, there is a history with war and occupation. Ishigaki will show various size of fifteen oil paintings.

'Okinawa without US Bases'. I have heard a lot since my elementary school days. What do you think about? I was born in Ishigaki island, 1967. When I was born, Okinawa was occupied under the US and there was Ryukyu government instead of Japan. I was not born as Japanese. When Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972, I moved from Ishigaki to Naha with my parents, my sister and my brother. 27 years passed from the WWII had ended. I still live in Naha where I raised up. One year after I graduated my high school, Okinawa Prefectural Art University was founded. I was able to study art without moving out from Okinawa. Though I didn't understand what I could do, I entered the university. I had only my passion to live by art. A lot of great encounters and the advice, I can continue my activities as an artist today. I appreciate it.

73 years passed since the WWII had ended. 46 years from the return. It is a fact that both of in Japan and in Okinawa, almost all the people were born after the war. Nevertheless, 'Okinawa without US Bases' is a long held desire for Okinawan people. Without any interests or disinterests, there should be no more anything about warfare in Okinawa. Suffering, pain and sadness by those who have gone before us should not repeat again. Okinawa should be a peaceful island.

I was a part time artist when I worked as a lecturer in high school and junior high school. In 2008, I quit my job and moved my studio from Naha to Koza. In 10 years of round trip from my home to my studio, I saw the landscape with base changed to be returned. There seems to be a difference of recognition between the people living with base, and the people living without base. In Naha City, the base has already be returned and has rebuilt to a new town. For example, Gajanbira in Oroku area, where I made one of my paintings, was completely returned in 1986 and there are parks, schools, residency areas, shopping malls and mono-rail stations. The area called 'Ameku-kaihouchi' was returned in 1987. And that time there was a land which was covered with a weed. After long years, the new road opened and the development started. I saw the reconstruction with expecting and I made an artwork titled 'Resurrection of land' in 2000. In my painting, two person standing on the land, the one had a plant. That was my imagined scenery. The area became Omoromachi. There are a museum, schools, parks, a business district and hotels. People can't find the place what it used to be.

On my way to my studio, there are fencing around Futenma base in Okinawa City. It is decided that some bases will be returned. Some places have already became a shopping mall. Some places are waiting for reconstruction. I depict my landscape with base, hope to be

returned in future, and remember what was happened. I hope my attempt makes you an opportunity for thinking about. I will continue to make my painting until the phrase 'Okinawa without US bases' stops sounding in my head.

Katsuko Ishigaki (b.1967, Okinawa)

1991 received her BA from Okinawa Prefectural Art University

2014 Introducing Katsuko Ishigaki, eitoeiko

2015 Mabuni Peace Project, Okinawa

2016 Hanarart Core, Nara

2017 Ichihanari Art Project, Okinawa

2018 3331 Art Fair, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo



Left: View from Gajanbira Park, 53x72.7cm, oil on canvas, painted in 2018



Right: Torn Clouds, Camp Kinser, 53x72.7cm, oil on canvas, painted in 2018

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Opening Party: March 3, 6PM-8PM

eitoeiko

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

+81 (0)3.6873.3830

<http://eitoeiko.com>

Contact: ei@eitoeiko.com