

For immediate release

**Okokume**

***Utopia***

10 - 21 March, 2022



*Conocer*, 2022, acrylic on canvas, 170 by 125 cm. Courtesy of the artist and JPS Gallery

JPS Gallery is pleased to present *Utopia*, a solo exhibition by Okokume on view at Ginza Tsutaya Books, Tokyo. The exhibition is a continuation of the artist's previous solo show in Tokyo - *Reality*, and centres around the fundamental question of whether a perfect world could be realised.

In the previous series, Okokume calls for attention to the refugee problem in Europe and aspired to emphasise on the urgency of humanitarian aid to tackle the migrant crisis. Following the illustrations of the devastating aftermath of wars, Okokume envisions an alternate reality of a peaceful new world – a utopia where there is no damage or battering, and people live together harmoniously. In Okokume's model world of Cosmic Girl, now an iconic character she created as an ambassador of the universe, Cosmic Girl returned to Earth to tend to the pressing issues of this world.

The title of this show is inspired by Sir Thomas More and his book *Utopia*, a socio-political satire written in 1516. In his book More imagines a complex, self-contained community set on an island, in which people share a common culture and a way of life. Taken from the Greek

word *eutopos* meaning 'good place', Utopia refers to an imaginary world where everything is perfect. The artist believes that under intense globalisation, we are more connected to one another than ever, and humans are one common entity who share the responsibilities and duties for the world.

In all wars and conflicts, people suffer. The message of this exhibition seems all the more relevant under this current global situation. May this exhibition bring hope and light to these dark hours.

### **About Okokume**

Okokume, also known as Laura Mas Hernandez, is best known for her iconic character Cosmic Girl. The pink-haired spirit with turquoise skin is the universe's messenger who emphasises the importance of protecting the environment. She travels in space and tends to planets in need by restoring them to their former glory.

Her Lowbrow inspired style of painting reflects the influence of Japanese manga, American cartoons and street culture. Her gleeful and colourful works transport the audience into the universe of Cosmic Girl and her companions, spreading positive messages they believe in. Okokume's cheerful and positive style is met with much popularity, making her one of the fastest growing contemporary artists.

Okokume was born in 1985 in Barcelona. She graduated from Barcelona's renowned Llotja Advanced School of Art and Design. Her works have been widely exhibited in galleries and art fairs around the world, including Hong Kong, Tokyo, Taipei, Seoul, Los Angeles and Berlin. Her biggest solo exhibition to date was held in 2018 at K11 Hong Kong, and her works are most recently featured in Art Central 2021.

### **About JPS Gallery**

Established in Hong Kong (2014) and in Tokyo (2018), **JPS Gallery** is an independent contemporary art gallery presenting works of emerging and established artists from around the world.

The gallery was founded with a passionate spirit that dedicates to the new digital age and the exploration of fine art and pop culture. We aim to create an innovative environment for a new generation of artists and collectors, fostering a creative space for all. We focus on fun and playful works of the era that span across different medium and disciplines, showcasing a discerning selection of works that embody the aesthetics of today.

We are committed to supporting the culture and art scene both in Hong Kong and Japan, creating a vibrant local art community. The gallery regularly presents works of emerging artists in our gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Tokyo as well as international art fairs, giving them a platform to gain global exposure and supporting young artists to launch their careers. JPS has

also been an active contributor to society and the local art scene by sponsoring various charity events and auctions

**Location**

Ginza Tsutaya Books  
6-10-1 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061

**Media Enquiry**

For media enquires and press preview, please contact  
Nagai Yuri | [yuri@jpsgallery.com](mailto:yuri@jpsgallery.com)

**Social Media Hashtags**

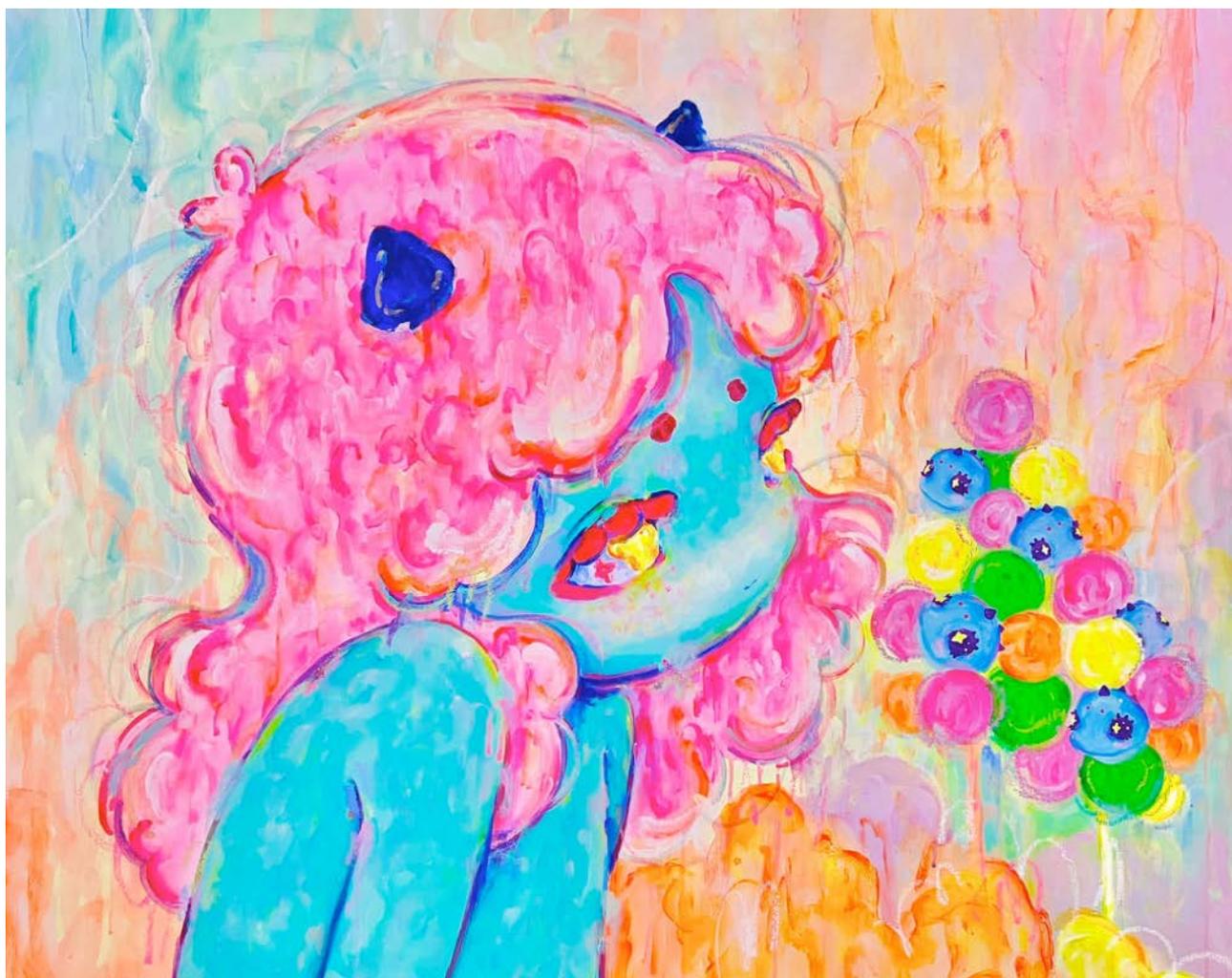
@okokume @jpsgallery  
#okokume #jpsgallery #utopia



***Mi Amanecer, 2022***

Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas

100 by 150 cm



**Observándote, 2022**

Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas

80 by 119 cm



***The Eyes of the Soul, 2022***

Zinc Alloy

H6 by W6 by D5 cm

Edition of 50, signed and numbered on wooden box