

For immediate release

August Vilella

Memories

2-18 July, 2022



Sweet Home, 2022, oil on canvas, 24 by 33 cm. Courtesy of the artist and JPS Gallery.

JPS Gallery is pleased to announce *Memories*, a solo exhibition by August Vilella, on view at the historic mansion kudan house, Tokyo. Suiting the building's rich historical background, this exhibition embodies August's ability to create works that incorporate contemporary styles into classical art.

The presented works are the manifestation of the artist's imagination, resulting in a group of dreamlike characters drawn with hyperrealistic details. His melancholic characters are painted with elaborate and technical brushstrokes that recall the works of old masters, yet his creative process is entirely intuitive and improvisational. The audience are encouraged to see his works as an opportunity to engage with their subconscious and explore their deeper emotions.

Similar to August's artistic style that fuses contemporary with classical art, the exhibition space also reflects the unifying of the old and new. The kudan house, built in 1927, is the former residence of wealthy businessman Mankichi Yamaguchi and is admired for its fascinating combination of Japanese and Spanish architecture. It is also the embodiment of a miracle for its long history in withstanding tumultuous times, such as surviving World War II whilst most of the city was severely damaged. In

May 2018, the property was registered as “Tangible Cultural Property” in the Cultural Property registry. Since then, the kudan house has been an example of protecting and reinventing cultural legacy by being the voice of new culture in Japan and globally.

We are honoured to be present August’s work in one of the rarest and most unique architectural sites in Tokyo. We also hope that his work will not only encourage audiences to reflect upon their memories but also on the exceptional history of the kudan house.

About August Vilella

August Vilella is a self-taught painter who creates oil paintings that open dialogue with contemporary and classical art. Working in the Surrealist automatism method, he creates without any previous sketches or ideas. Each painting has a unique psychical opening and meaning that reflect the subconscious mind.

Using classical oil techniques, his works evoke a dream-like aura in a magical, metaphorical and philosophical language. The use of light and shadows and refined brushstrokes in his works recall works of the old masters, presenting an interesting juxtaposition with his cartoonish characters. Vilella’s characters often feature big stylised eyes, and through their insightful gaze, the audience is invited to engage with their deep emotions and explore them with quiet introspections.

Born in Barcelona in 1986, Vilella was the winner of numerous artist prizes including, Best Artist at the Tokyo International Art Fair in 2016; Best Innovative Art at The Global Art Awards of Dubai (UAE) in 2017; International Artist Grand Prize and Chairman’s Award in the Art Revolution Taipei in 2018. His works are also featured in various media outlets, including Vice, Hi-Fructose and Beautiful Bizarre.

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

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active contributor to society and the local art scene by sponsoring various charity events and auctions.

Location

Kudan-Kita 1-15-9, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0073, Japan

Media Enquiry

For media enquires and press preview, please contact
Yuri Nagai | yuri@jpsgallery.com

Admission reservations are required to attend the event.
Please make a reservation from the following link.

<https://airrsv.net/jpsgallerytokyo/calendar>

Courtesy of

JPS Gallery Tokyo

6 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001

Tobu Daini Bldg. 1F, 6-27-4 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Social Media Hashtags

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