

For immediate release

Saki Fujikawa

From the cutting board to the bottom of a stomach

9 February - 5 March, 2024

Opening Reception: Thursday, 8 February 2024, 6 - 9 pm



What's inside I, 2024, oil on canvas, 72.7 by 91 cm. Courtesy of the artist and JPS Gallery.

Eat or be eaten has been the law of nature since the dawn of time. The innate human desire to survive has always been a part of our genetic makeup. However, in recent years, our biggest threats may come from within our own species. The upcoming solo exhibition of Japanese artist Saki Fujikawa in Paris, France, will showcase a series of food-themed oil paintings that reflect how the 'eat or be eaten' mentality fits in today's society. Additionally, the exhibition aims to inspire visitors to meditate on the incomprehensibility and infinite love that arises from individuals' inevitable cycle of 'eating' and 'being eaten' in order to coexist with others.



The act of eating takes on two meanings in Fujikawa's paintings: the consumption of nutrients for physical nourishment and the intake of information for mental stimulation. Fujikawa's heavy texturing and layering techniques mirror society's desperation and insatiable hunger for stimulation. The impulse to insert our opinions into current happenings by labelling them as right or wrong seems to be just as critical for survival as the basic sustenance needs in modern-day society. Similar to how fast food is widely favoured for its speed and affordability, Fujikawa believes that people nowadays prefer simple and easily understandable information as it gives them a sense of satisfaction when they can comprehend things quickly. On the other hand, the art of slowing down, contemplating uncertainties, and carefully observing them without hastily drawing conclusions has become increasingly rare in our fast-paced world that values speed above all else.

Perhaps staying busy is a way to calm our fluctuating emotions or alleviate our fears. The reality we cannot escape is that on some days, new information, opportunities and answers will be served to us like a delicious meal. At other times, we become the food that awaits to be shredded apart and feasted upon by others. Fujikawa believes that the inextricable emptiness that comes with knowing that everything will end someday would cause one to question one's identity and purpose in life. This contemplation brings them face to face with the realisation that they are much more fragile than they previously believed. Only then will they come to terms with the fact that the world does not provide easy or immediate answers to life's most profound questions. Life is too complex to be categorised as 'eat or be eaten' or 'right or wrong'; for us to accomplish what we want, it may not necessarily be at the expense of others.

From the cutting board to the bottom of a stomach forces us to confront what has been sitting in the pit of our stomach all this time. Is it pride? Fear? Our dreams and aspirations? We may feel a sense of dread about what will remain in our gut forever, but the truth is that we value it more than anyone else.

About Saki Fujikawa (b. 1990, Japan)

Saki Fujikawa's inspiration comes from her observation of the people around her, such as the questions and conflicts that arose in her life. Using oil paint as the main medium, her creation process is similar to an endless debate where each application of colour, stroke and outline is part of the erratic process of Fujikawa questioning herself.

Captured within her expressive brushstrokes and heavy layers of oil paints is the strong flow of emotions, fleeting inspirations and dialogues she has with the world around her. Simultaneously, viewers will not only witness the complex emotions Fujikawa poured into her works, but as her creative process is a form of an endless response to the happenings around her, each work is a glimpse into how the world's influence on Fujikawa has been progressively increasing throughout her artistic journey.



About JPS Gallery

Established in Hong Kong in 2014 and later in Tokyo, Paris and Barcelona, JPS Gallery is an independent contemporary art gallery presenting works of emerging and established artists from around the world.

The gallery is founded with a passionate spirit that dedicates to the new digital age and the exploration of the world 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 spans across different mediums and disciplines, showcasing a discerning selection of works that embody the aesthetics of today.

We are committed to supporting the culture and art scene in Asia and Europe, creating a vibrant local art community. The gallery regularly presents works of emerging artists in our gallery spaces as well as international art fairs, giving them a platform to gain global exposure, supporting young artists to launch their careers. JPS Gallery has also been an active contributor to society and the local art scene by sponsoring various charity events and auctions.

Location

12 rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth, 75003 Paris

Media Enquiry

For media enquires and press preview, please contact
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