

染谷悠子 土や星や

2026年7月31日 [金] - 9月12日 [土]

July 31(Fri.) - September 12(Sat.), 2026

Yuko Someya *Soil and Stars*

TOMIO KOYAMA GALLERY KYOBASHI

染谷悠子

Yuko Someya



photo by Kenji Takahashi

Yuko Someya was born in 1980 in Chiba. She completed her Master's degree in printmaking at Tokyo University of Arts, the Department of Art, in 2006. She received awards for her work at Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts, Tokyo in 2004 and her works are now part of the museum collection. "I move my pencil as if I was spelling a word," Someya says of her works, intricately drawing and coloring motifs such as flowers, birds, plants, and animals. The paintings often embrace generous blank spaces in which the motifs are given the sense of floating, releasing strong brightness as if to invite the viewers into the stories, and to continue them. Her specialized method using ink and distinctive transparency in color and texture created by layered washi paper are also attractive.

Soil and Stars

In recent years, Yuko Someya relocated her home and studio to Okayama Prefecture. The area in which she resides, known as “Hiokidani” (日置谷), translates literally to “sun-placed valley” (with the character 日 meaning “sun,” 置 meaning “to place/put,” and 谷 meaning “valley”). This exhibition presents works that the artist created while living among those mountains and valleys, and while grounded in the earth’s soil.

Yuko Someya is an artist who has developed a unique and new style of expression, intertwining familiar landscapes with memories from her own childhood, experiences of life changes, and fundamental aspects of life, such as death, birth, and nature. Her fantastical artworks, where various flora and fauna intermingle, in all their vibrancy could be described as contemporary renditions of the traditional bird-and-flower painting. However, the new works presented in this exhibition, while building upon those past expressions, were born from an engagement with nature that far transcends the artist’s own imagination.



View of Yuko Someya's studio

"Since I started my vegetable garden, I have become acutely aware of the sky. I feel an intimate closeness to every living thing above and beneath the soil, while simultaneously sensing an overwhelming distance opening up between us. I've come to realize that it's much like gazing at the stars or peering into deep space. It's right there before my eyes, yet I cannot see anything of what I truly wish to know. I'm always lost, still with no idea where to place the dots. I've started to think that a whole cosmic, multidimensional world is unfolding even beneath the soil."

Living together with the soil, Someya states that she began to imagine that

"there might be a connection between what happens in the soil and how the light of the stars reaches our eyes"

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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

美星町 *Bisei-cho*

2026

Chinese ink, watercolor on paper

230.0 x 420.0 cm

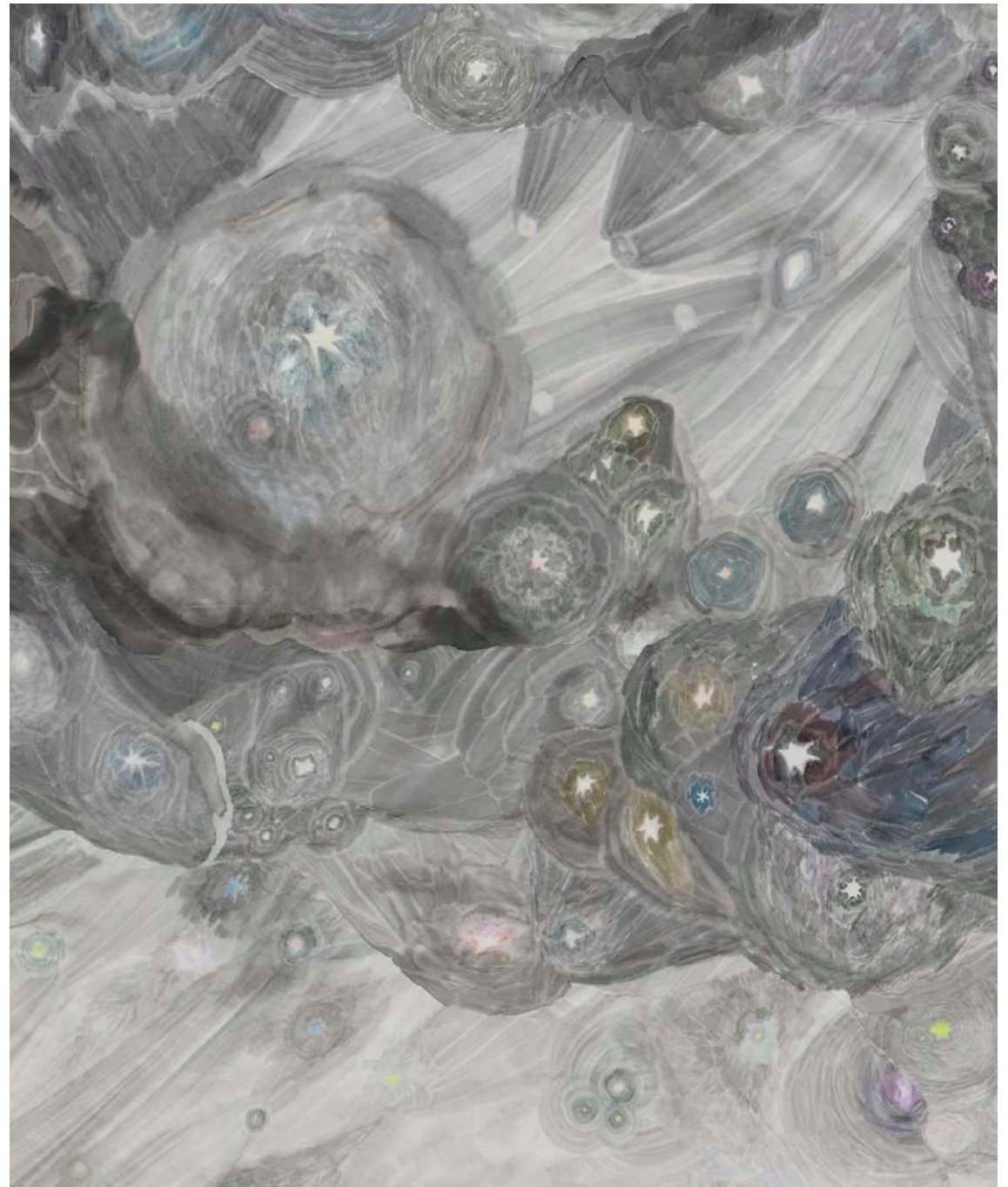
YuS-Pa-26-02



"Looking up at the starry sky and the universe stretching beyond it in the town of Bisei, where the darkness of the night is cherished, I feel liberated from the confines of human existence, allowing a pure, unclouded beauty to surface.

At the same time, this deeply frightens me."

— Yuko Someya



Bisei-cho, 2026, 230.0 x 420.0 cm, Chinese ink, watercolor on paper



染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

樂園 *Circulating Soil*

2026

Chinese ink, watercolor on paper

202.0 x 400.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-01

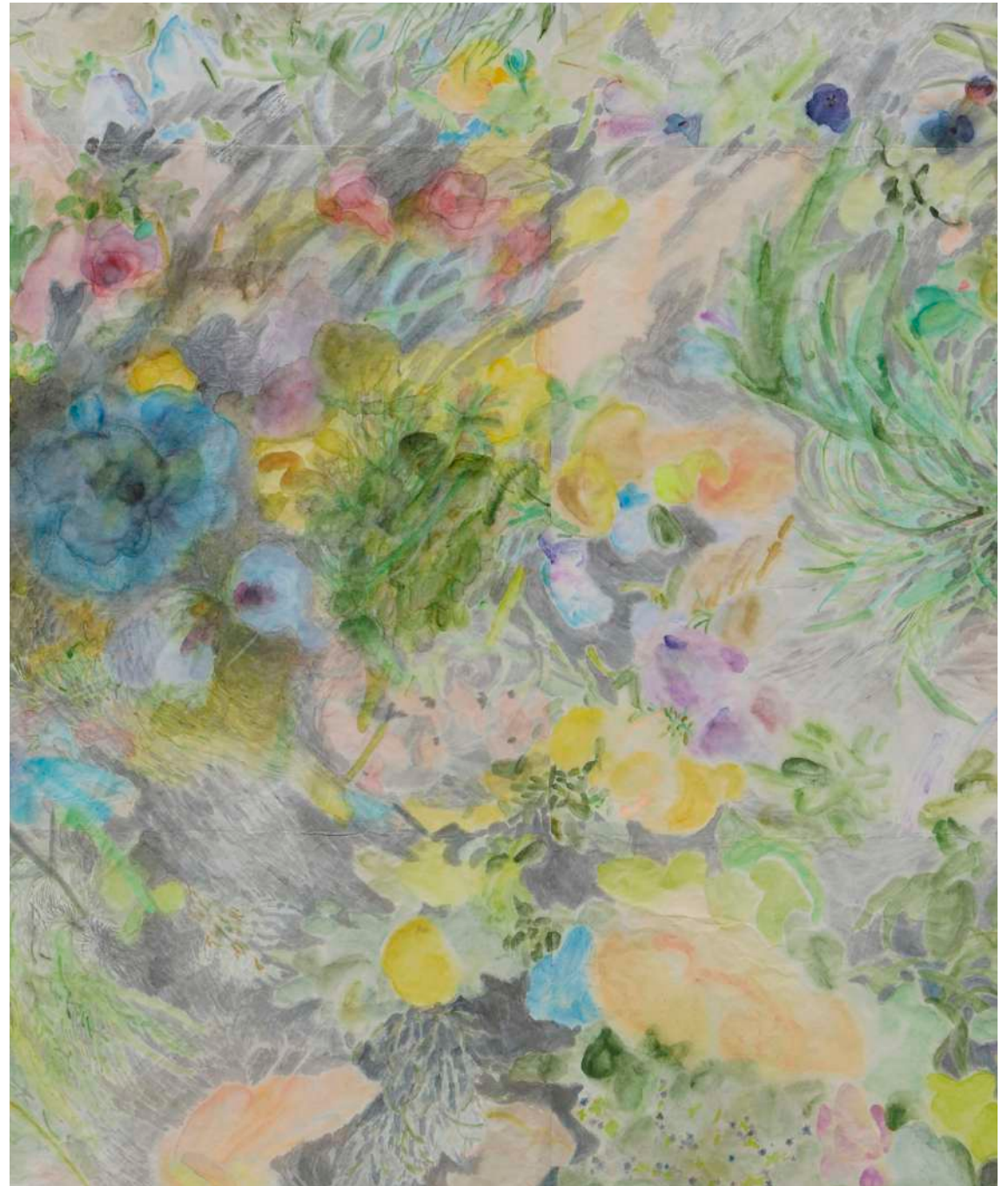


"A four-legged creature lay dead in the grass. Just inches from its carcass—where countless maggots swarmed and writhed over its flesh—vibrant greenery burst forth in abundance. Meanwhile, butterflies floated soundlessly around the still-lush grasses and flowers that had been mowed and cast aside to nourish the coming soil. Although it was a truly beautiful place, the overwhelming stench of decay compelled me to leave at once."

— Yuko Someya



Click the button above to view a video of the artwork *Circulating Soil*.



Circulating Soil, 2026, 202.0 x 400.0 cm, Chinese ink, water color on paper



染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

トメヨさんの庭 *Tomeyo's Garden*

2025

Chinese ink, watercolor on Japanese paper

87.0 x 135.0 cm

YuS-Pa-25-01





染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

トメヨさんの庭 *Tomeyo's Garden*

2025

Chinese ink, watercolor on Japanese paper

71.0 x 142.0 cm

YuS-Pa-25-02





染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

トメヨさんの庭 *Tomeyo's Garden*

2025

Chinese ink, watercolor on Japanese paper

69.5 x 135.5 cm

YuS-Pa-25-03



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

白雨 *Evening Shower*

2026

oil, lithograph ink, Japanese paper on canvas mounted on panel

90.2 x 90.2 cm

YuS-Pa-26-10





染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

星山 *Hoshi-yama*

2026

oil on canvas

72.5 x 100.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-03



“Why do people paint mountains?” Whenever I visit a museum, there is always a painting of mountains somewhere. Having lived in places where mountains were not visible, I began living this spring in a gently mountainous region. That was when I started to paint mountains.

When I use the bleeding of ink to depict continuous forms—such as mountains, waves, or petals—a subtle and soft space emerges.

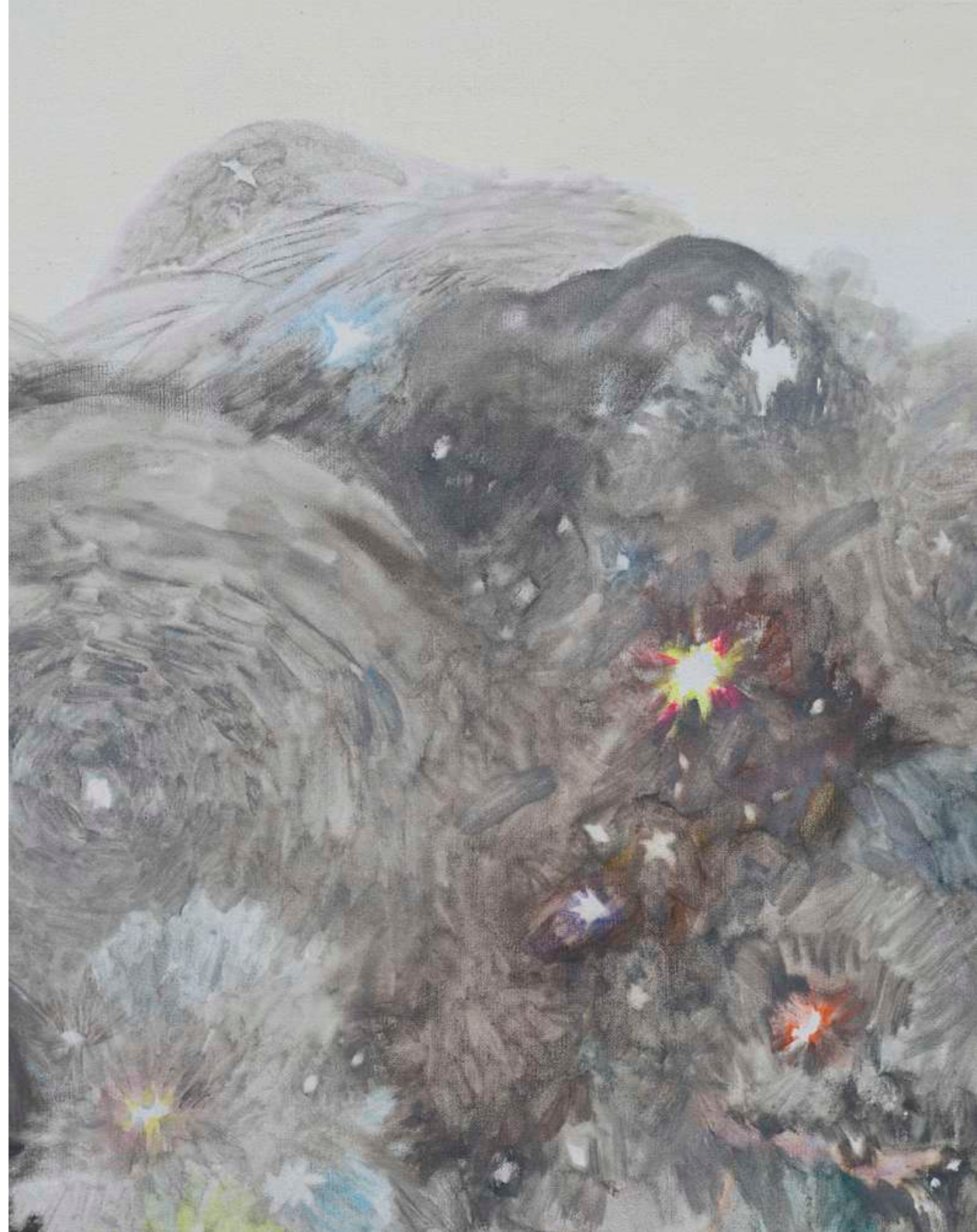
“Since April this year, I have been living in a place in Okayama Prefecture surrounded by mountains. Although I had stayed there for a few weeks at a time in previous years, it was my first experience of constantly having mountains in view.

The scenery changes every day: some days seem filled with rising vapor, and after the rain, a strong sense of life descends with the scent in the air. Sometimes the breeze carries a pleasant fragrance, while at other times there is a slightly raw, organic smell. It stimulates all five senses, but above all, it is the visual experience that leaves the strongest impression.”

— Yuko Someya

*Musée Hamaguchi Yozo: Yamasa Collection, group exhibition
“A New World of Nanga,” 2025.*

*Quoted from the exhibition catalogue and related Artists Talk
(July 13, 2025).*



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

いっておかえり *Take Care, See You Later*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

70.0 x 85.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-04



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

トメヨさんの庭 *Tomeyo's Garden*

2025

Chinese ink, watercolor on Japanese paper

62.5 x 70.0 cm

YuS-Pa-25-04



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

星山水 *Star Landscape*

2026

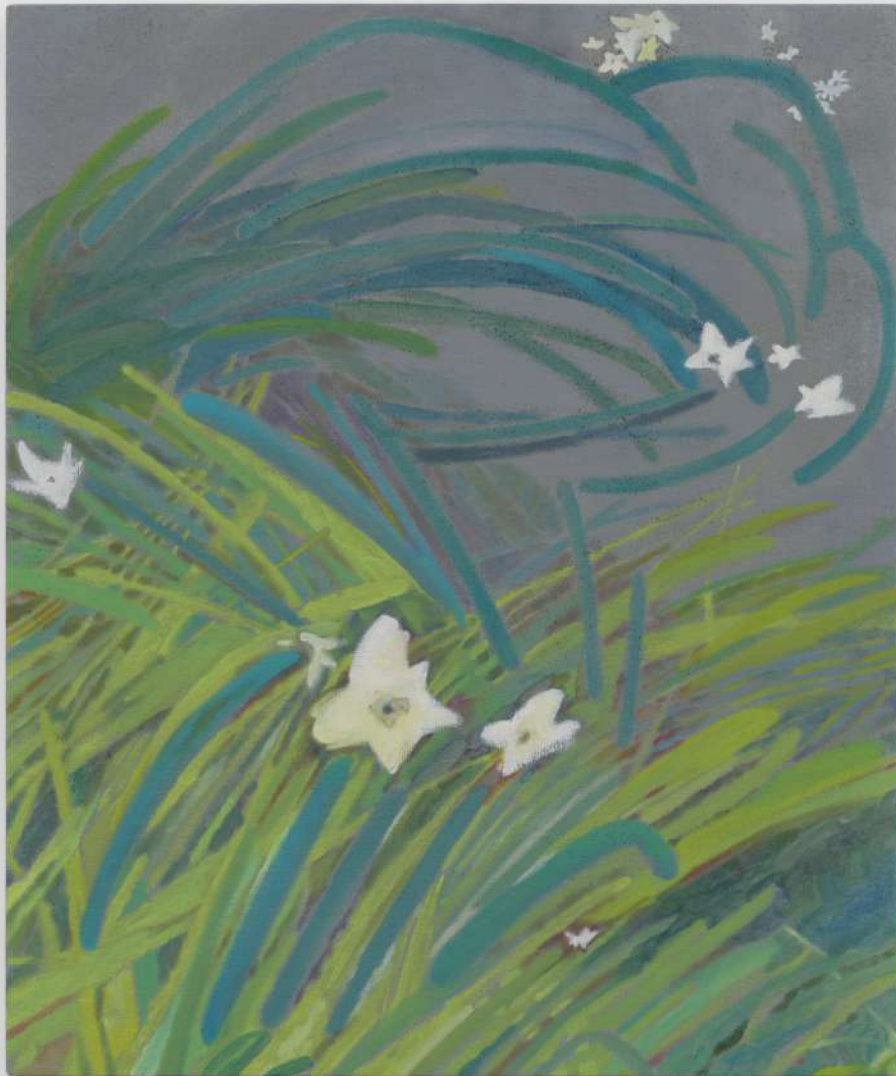
oil on canvas mounted on panel

67.0 x 56.2 cm

YuS-Pa-26-12



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

風をながれる風 *Wind Flowing Through the Wind*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

66.8 x 56.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-11



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

少女のような人 ***Someone Like a Girl***

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

70.0 x 51.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-05





染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

顔色の悪い人 (トゥルパ) *The One Looking Pale (Tulpa)*

2022

Chinese ink, watercolor, pencil, lithograph ink, Japanese paper
on canvas mounted on wood panel

68.5 x 52.5 cm

YuS-Pa-22-07





染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

星山 *Hoshi-yama*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

32.0 x 56.3 cm

YuS-Pa-26-13





染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

犯人 *The Culprit*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

32.2 x 56.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-14





染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

投げ草 *Grasscycling*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

22.0 x 36.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-06



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

美星町 *Bisei-cho*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

22.0 x 36.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-07



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GALLERY



染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

投げ草 *Grasscycling*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

22.0 x 36.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-08



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染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

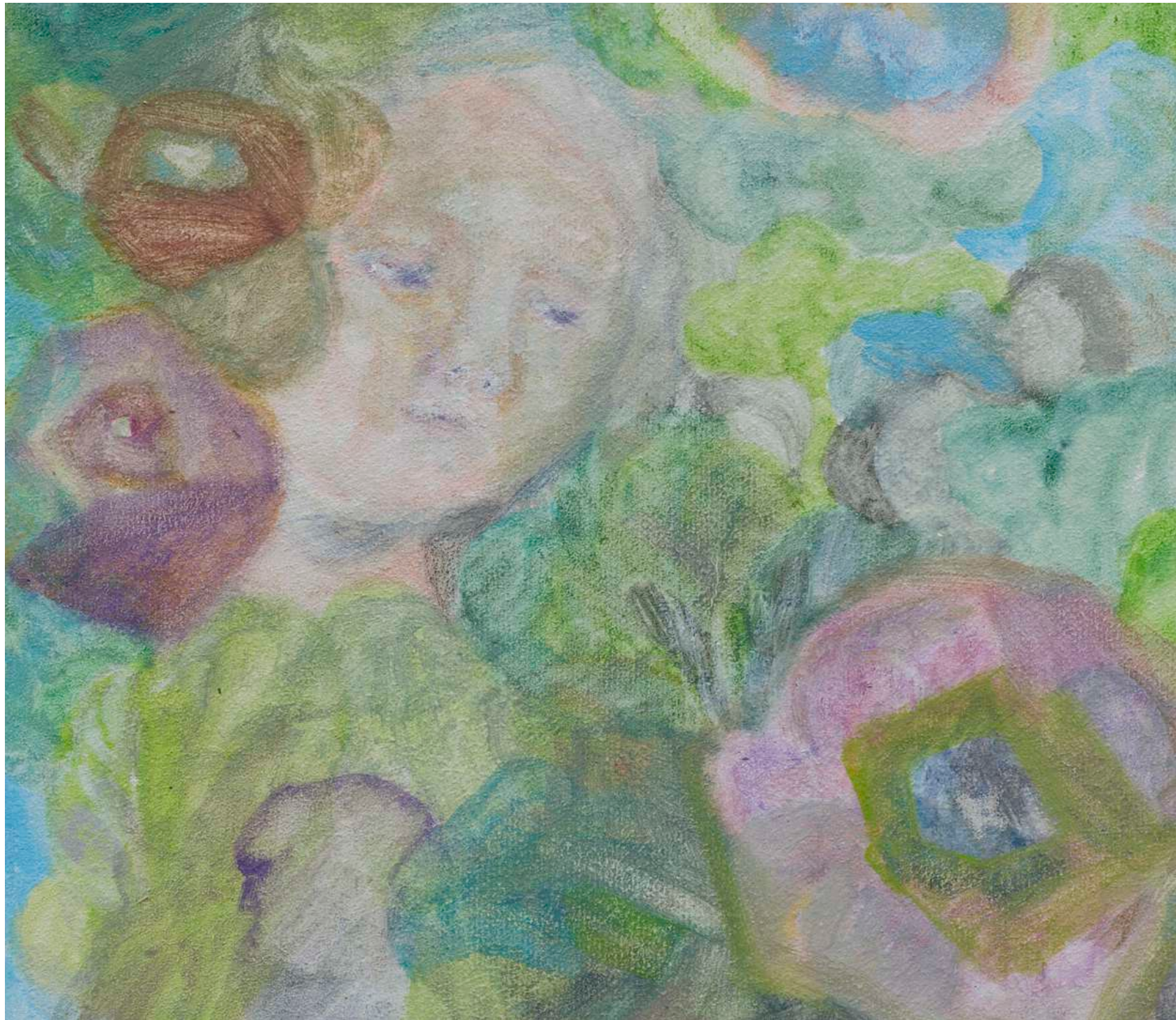
ひとやすみ *A Short Rest*

2026

oil on canvas mounted on panel

36.0 x 22.0 cm

YuS-Pa-26-09



染谷悠子 Yuko Someya

Solo Exhibitions

2026	"Earth and Stars" Tomio Koyama Gallery Kyobashi, Tokyo, Japan
2024	"I See You in the Wild Flowers" Tomio Koyama Gallery Tennoz, Tokyo, Japan
2017	"Listening to the sound of flowers blooming" 8/ ART GALLERY/ Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2014	Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
2013	8/ ART GALLERY/ Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2010	Tomio Koyama Gallery Kyoto, Japan
2010	Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
	Itamuro Onsen Daikokuya, Tochigi, Japan
2006	Gallery Kaku, Tokyo, Japan

Group Exhibitions

2026	"Unknown Beings" Tomio Koyama Gallery Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan
2025	"Three Hot Springs of Mimasaka Art Temperature" Ikedaya Kajikaen, Okutsu, Okayama, Japan
	"The New World of Nanga-HAMAGUCHI Yozo and GOTO Rie, SHIGENO Katsuaki, SOMEYA Yuko, NISHIHISAMATSU Ryo, YOSHIMATSU Gozo" Musée Hamaguchi Yozo: Yamasa Collection, Tokyo, Japan

2024	"Forest Festival of the Arts Okayama: Clear-skies Country" 12 municipalities in Okayama Prefecture (the cities of Tsuyama, Takahashi, Niimi, Maniwa, and Mimasaka; the towns of Kagamino, Shoo, Nagi, Kumenan, and Misaki; and the villages of Shinjo and Nishiawakura), Japan "The 9th Higashiyama Kaii Memorial Nikkei Nihonga Award" The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2022	"When I get old" Omuro Museum, Mie, Japan "Obon Night" ZaisyohouseKoide, Aichi, Japan "Flower of Life" Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, Japan "Hit Parade II" Yoseido Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2021	"FLOWERS & BIRDS" Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan "Coexist" galleryfixa, Nagi, Okayama "Chaosmos6 Into the Silent Spring" Sakura City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan
2020	"Daikokuya Collection" Itamuro Onsan Daikokuya, Tochigi, Japan "Hit Parade II " Yoseido Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2018	"Colorful Things" A+SPACE, Hangzhou, China "Hit Parade" Yoseido Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2016	"All Living Things" Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, Japan "A Drawing Show" Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo "JAPAN 7" SILVERLENS, Manila, Philippines
2014	VOCA 2014 The Vision of Contemporary Art The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan "PIOON PROJECT" Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, Japan "CSP2" Kuwasawa Design School, Tokyo
2013	"flowers 80.1" TRAUMARIS SPACE, NADiff apart 3 floor, Tokyo, Japan tessen, Clematis no Oka, Shizuoka, Japan
2008	Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
2007	"Contemporary Prints from Tokyo" Highpoint Center For Printmaking, Minneapolis, MN, USA
2005	O gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Public Collections

Bernard Buffet Museum, Shizuoka, Japan
Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts, Tokyo, Japan

Awards

2024	"The 9th Higashiyama Kaii Memorial Nikkei Nihonga Award" The Honorable Mention Award
2014	"VOCA '14" Encouragement Prize
2004	"29th Annual Exhibition of the Association of Japanese Art Colleges" Purchase Prize / Audience Prize