

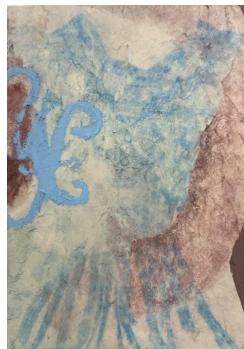
Ishiguro Hikaru's work traces the space between presence and absence, beginning from an experience of loss. Butterflies, moths, and seashells appear as signs of transience and return, while floating faces drift between memory and the unconscious. What emerges is not a narrative, but a condition—an opening through which viewers encounter their own sense of impermanence.



Whispered Conspiracy, 2025, Cotton cloth, art glue, ink, and watercolor pencil on wooden panel, 375 x 315 mm (14.8 x 12.4 inches)



Utsuse no Himitsu ha Watashi nomi zo Shiru, 2024, Cotton cloth, mineral pigments (Iwa-enogu), powdered pigments (Suihi-enogu), ink, oil varnish, cement, gold leaf, 2500 x 4000 mm (98.4 x 157.5 inches)



Sleep with one body, 2025, Gassan washi paper, glue, water-based ink, mineral pigments (Suihi-enogu), oil pastel, 227 x 158 mm (8.9 x 6.2 inches)



Cipher, 2024, Canvas, pencil, animal glue, mineral pigments (Iwa-enogu), and sand on wooden panel, 466 x 527 mm (18.3 x 20.7 inches)



Return Everything, Shadow and All, 2025, Cotton cloth, art glue, mineral pigments (Suihi-enogu), ink, pencil, and watercolor pencil on wooden panel, 715 x 542 mm (28.1 x 21.3 inches)

ARTIST STATEMENT

Ishiguro Hikaru's works transcend from personal experiences to universal themes, offering sharp insights into modern society through deep inner exploration. The themes her works question — existence and absence — overlap with questions many people face today, creating a dialogue with the works.

The motifs of butterflies, moths, and seashells that frequently appear in her works symbolize the transience and cycle of life beyond the boundaries of material existence. They function beyond mere visual stimulation, serving as vessels for confronting impermanence, encouraging viewers toward inner exploration. The floating women's faces that appear in her paintings. The figures depicted as "precious children" leave an impression as beings exploring the boundary between reality and deep consciousness, with expressions that could be interpreted as either girlish or adult. Their timeless appearance suggests both eternity and the existence of hidden stories, leaving room for the viewer's imagination.

The description of her creative process as Freud's "work of mourning"[1] gives her works a deep psychological layer. This process, which begins with personal loss, evokes themes of grief and

regeneration in the viewer, and emotions overflowing from her inner self trigger empathy and introspection. Beyond the artist's experience, her works resonate with many people.

Ishiguro Hikaru's works connect Japanese spirituality and cultural background with contemporary psychological themes, engaging in dialogue with the human interior in today's complex world.

Reference: [1] Sigmund Freud, Shingu Kazushige (Supervisor), Freud Complete Works Volume 14 1914-15, Iwanami Shoten, 2010

BIOGRAPHY

Positions painting at the interface arising between the material and spiritual realms. Retrieves the contours of unspoken dissonance, tremors, and presences stripped of substance.

Selected exhibitions include *witch craft* (solo, haco-art brewing gallery-, Tokyo, 2024) and *Chiasmus* (group, aaploit, Tokyo, 2025). Awards include the Excellence Award, 44th International Takifuji Art Award (2023) and the Special Prize, 9th Ishimoto Sho Nihonga Grand Prize Exhibition (2024).

Born 2002 in Yamagata, Japan. Tohoku University of Art and Design, BFA and MFA in Japanese Painting.

CV

EDUCATION

2024 BFA in Japanese Painting, Tohoku University of Art and Design

2026 MFA in Painting, Tohoku University of Art and Design

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *I Am Probably Not the Right Voice for These Paintings*, aaploit, Tokyo

2024 *Ishiguro Hikaru (24th Kura no Machi Art Burari)*, Gallery Tsujirushi, Fukushima
witch craft, haco, Tokyo

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2025 *Dust in the Teeth of the Comb*, aaploit, Tokyo

The 33rd Nihonga Exhibition: Tohoku University of Art and Design Graduate School Three-Person Exhibition, The Sync, UNPEL GALLERY, Tokyo

- 2024 *The 9th Ishimoto Sho Japanese Painting Grand Prize Exhibition*, Sekisho Art Museum,
Shimane Minamihara
Art Week, Yonezawa
SQUARE EXHIBITION, ART FOR THOUGHT, Tokyo
Emerging Echoes: Presenting Realism, Seoul, South Korea
Amadare 2024, Garo Suiran, Gunma

ART FAIRS

- 2025 Incheon Art Show 2025, Incheon, South Korea (aaploit)
- 2024 AFAF – Art Fair Asia Fukuoka, Fukuoka (aaploit)

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2024 *The 9th Ishimoto Sho Japanese Painting Grand Prize Exhibition*, Special Prize (Nihonkai
Shinkin Bank President's Award)
- 2023 *The 44th International Takifuji Art Award*, Excellence Prize

aaploit

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<https://aaploit.com/en/artists/ishiguro-hikaru>

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