

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.



**Sleep with one body** , 2025



**Whispered Conspiracy** , 2025



**Utsuse no Himitsu ha Watashi nomi zo Shiru** , 2024

## 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

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## BIOGRAPHY

Ishiguro Hikaru works from a commitment to painting itself, rather than alignment with any particular genre or technique. Organic motifs — butterflies, moths, shells — function as bearers of transience, while suspended faces introduce a temporality on the picture plane severed from experienced time. Grounded in the experience of loss, the work can be read as a work of mourning — reorganizing emotion and opening it toward a shared perceptual space. BFA in Nihonga, Tohoku University of Art and Design, 2024; currently enrolled in the Graduate Program in Art and Culture, Painting Research Area at the same institution (expected 2026). Solo exhibition: *I Would Not Be a Good Narrator of These Paintings* (aaploit, Tokyo, 2025). Special Prize, 9th Ishimoto Tadashi Nihonga Award (2024), among others. Born in 2002.

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## CV

### EDUCATION

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

2026 MFA in Painting, Tohoku University of Art and Design

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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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)

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

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

## AWARDS & GRANTS

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- 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

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### aaploit

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View more works

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

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