



Taka Ishii

Gallery

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## **Tomoo Gokita “HOTEL PARAIISO”**

**Dates: Jan 12 – Feb 10, 2018**

**Location: McNamara Art Projects (Hong Kong)**

**Opening reception with the artist: Friday, Jan 12, 18:00 – 20:00**

Taka Ishii Gallery is pleased to present “HOTEL PARAIISO”, Tomoo Gokita’s first solo exhibition in Hong Kong featuring new paintings at McNamara Art Projects from January 12 to February 10.

Gokita has been producing black and white gouache paintings inspired by magazines and photographs of the 1960s and 1970s. He employs a unique method and collage-like approach to create paintings of varied subjects including portraits, still lifes, and abstracts that are sophisticatedly rendered and diversely expressive.

This exhibition features paintings of the colorful people who gather at an imaginary place called “HOTEL PARAIISO”. Although Gokita visited an actual hotel of the same name while in Mexico, the HOTEL PARAIISO of his new paintings is fictional and, like “paradise”, can be located neither in space nor time. HOTEL PARAIISO is a constructed image comprising the artist’s fragmentary memories of his trip to Mexico and his childhood introduction to the word “Paraiso” through Haruomi Hosono’s 1978 album of the same name. The extraordinary space of the hotel functions as a stage for narratives concerning the painted characters’ emotions and secrets. The vividly depicted scenes and meticulously rendered backgrounds, organic forms, and other pictorial elements enhance the works’ depth and appeal.

Tomoo Gokita was born in 1969 in Tokyo. His drawings made with pencil, charcoal and ink on paper first began to receive attention in the late 1990s. In 2000, *Lingerie Wrestling*, a book collecting the same works was published. After an exhibition in New York, his works were featured in numerous solo exhibitions in Japan and abroad. In 2012, his work was featured in “The Unseen Relationship: Form and Abstraction” at the Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art. In 2014, “THE GREAT CIRCUS”, a solo exhibition of Gokita’s works, was held at the same museum. A solo exhibition of Gokita’s works will be held at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery in April 2018. He is currently based in Tokyo.

Cooperation: McNamara Art Projects

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Tue-Sat 10:00-18:00 Closed on Sun, Mon, and National Holidays

For further information please contact: Exhibition: Junko Yasumaru / Press: Takayuki Mashiyama

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Tue-Sat 11:00-19:00 Closed on Sun, Mon, and National Holidays



Tomoo Gokita

*Please Be Kind, 2017*

Acrylic gouache on canvas, 162 x 130 cm © Tomoo Gokita