

Do you feel me

Koshiro Akiyama, Lily Ashley, Tal Regev, Jessie Stevenson

Opening night: Wednesday 27 July, 6-8pm
27 July - 20 August 2022

Sapling presents *Do you feel me*, a group exhibition featuring works by Koshiro Akiyama, Lily Ashley, Tal Regev, and Jessie Stevenson. This exhibition explores the intention to affect the viewer emotionally as a driving motivation behind an artistic practice.

Has a new cultural front been forming? A tendency among some emerging artists today reflects a turn toward empathy. The resulting artworks can have a healing quality by opening windows into the viewer's emotional life. Negation, the act of destroying the past to build the future, has influenced contemporary art production since the 1970's. This empathetic streak seems to occur in an altogether different dialogue to such postmodernist strategies. Instead, Akiyama, Ashley, Regev, and Stevenson, plant a future with roots in a holistic view. They draw from all pasts, from art history to intimate inner lives of memory. This approach is open-eyed, generous, and compassionate.

Stirring up emotion is a simple enough idea. However in practice it is a difficult task. This might be because this kind of work only functions if the source, the artist, is wholehearted. Reaching a state of tuning into, and then drawing from, one's emotions requires bravery. This show hopes to generate a moment where the audience might have an emotive reaction. An artwork, designed to exist beyond us, whether a painting or a poem, is patient. Filled with suggestions and then rendered into a fixed entity, an artwork can look back at you, unfolding as your affective system comes alive.

"I have learnt something I have felt something I am something I am going to become something else"

- Lily Ashley, Playing Catch with Nature, 2022

Koshiro Akiyama (b. 1994, Tokyo, Japan) is a graduate of Camberwell College of Arts, (MA Fine Art, Painting, 2021) and Tokyo University of the Arts (BA, MA) in Japanese-style Painting. Using mineral pigments and animal glue, Akiyama's figurative paintings are intimate and vulnerable. His characters' surroundings reveal their emotional inner worlds while acting as a form of compassionate protection.

Lily Ashley (b. 1992) is a graduate of Central Saint Martins (BA Performance, 2013) and nurtures a multidisciplinary practice as an artist, writer, and performer. Her new piece of video art, *Playing Catch with Nature*, brings together all three elements of her creativity. Ashley performs beneath an oak tree in Wales, while her voice narrates a poem designed to reach into you with characteristic raw sincerity.

Jessie Stevenson (b. 1993, Norwich, UK) lives and works between North Norfolk and London. She graduated from Central Saint Martins (BA Fine Art, 2017) and the Slade School of Fine Art (MFA Painting, 2022). For Stevenson, landscape becomes a vehicle for the mind, expressing the vitality of being alive. Each composition is intended to elicit a certain sense of phenomenological awe: seeing yourself see into her visions of land as filtered through feeling.

Tal Regev (b. 1985, London, UK) is a graduate of Goldsmiths (BA Fine Art, 2011) and the Royal College of Art (MA Painting, 2017). Regev subtly brings us into the world of the intangible, desire mingles with fear as suggestive elements rise through the surface to provoke conscious thoughts in the viewer. The painter aims to generate a healing experience for the viewer through a moment of recognition and catharsis.

Enquiries

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Visit

124 Mount Street Mews
London W1K 3NR
Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6pm
Exhibition: 27 July - 20 August 2022

Links

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