

KENTA TAKAHASHI





KENTA TAKAHASHI

(b. 1996, Aichi, Japan)

Kenta Takahashi approaches painting as a site of collision, where inherited tradition meets the visual language of contemporary urban life. Working within the framework of Nihonga, he recreates the overlooked textures of the city—most notably in his “diamond steel plate” series—using mineral pigment, silver leaf, and washi paper. These works transform an industrial surface typically associated with construction sites and infrastructure into something meticulously crafted and visually disorienting. Employing the moriage technique to build raised relief, Takahashi imbues these utilitarian forms with a quiet monumentality, inviting viewers to reconsider the boundaries between abstraction and figuration, image and object. What appears at first glance as a fragment of the street reveals itself, upon closer inspection, as an intricate negotiation between material, illusion, and cultural memory.

Central to Takahashi’s practice is an inquiry into the nature and future of Nihonga itself. Where figures such as Takashi Murakami have reinterpreted or departed from the tradition, Takahashi turns inward, asking what defines it and how it might evolve without losing its core identity. By applying its techniques to motifs of industrial repetition and urban anonymity, he collapses distinctions between the sacred and the everyday, the handcrafted and the mass-produced. His surfaces oscillate between reverence and replication, elevating the mundane while subtly destabilizing its familiarity. In this way, Takahashi does not merely preserve tradition but actively reconfigures it, proposing a vision of painting in which historical craft is not static, but elastic—capable of absorbing and reframing the visual realities of the present.

CURRICULUM VITAE

KENTA TAKAHASHI

EDUCATION

2023 MFA (printmaking) candidate, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2021 BFA in Nihonga, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

SOLO EXHIBITION (by selection)

2022 KENTA TAKAHASHI: Save as, SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2022 KENTA TAKAHASHI: RASTER IN FLUX, Ginza Tsutaya Books Art Wall Gallery,
Tokyo, Japan

2021 FILTER 1MG, MEDEL GALLERY SHU, Tokyo, Japan

2019 SAVE NOW, Tokyo Kudan Yoh Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

GROUP EXHIBITION (By selection)

2023 Summer Group Show, SEIZAN Gallery, New York

Art Fair Tokyo, Tokyo International Forum, Biscuit gallery booth, Tokyo, Japan

2022 HAKU: The Art of Gold and Silver Leafing, SEIZAN Gallery, New York

Art on Paper, SEIZAN Gallery booth, New York

Art Taipei, MEDEL GALLERY SHU booth. Taipei, Taiwan

2021 SCOPE Miami, SEIZAN Gallery Booth, Miami Beach, FL

Art Taipei, MEDEL GALLERY SHU booth, Taipei, Taiwan

Rabbit Hole Peeps, ANAGRA, Tokyo, Japan

2020 MIND THE GAP, The Blank Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2019 ATOM ART AWARD 2018, Courtyard Hiroo, Tokyo, Japan

2018 Geidai Arts in Marunouchi, Marunouchi Building, Tokyo, Japan

AWARDS

2021 Tawara Award, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2019 Ataka Award, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2018 Grand Prize, Atom Art Award 2018



INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *SPRING GROUP SHOW*
MARCH 19 - MAY 9 2026

SEIZAN GALLERY

INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *SUMMER GROUP SHOW 2023*
JUNE 29 - JULY 29, 2023





INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *HAKU: THE ART OF GOLD AND SILVER LEAFING*
MARCH 3 - APRIL 30, 2022



Kenta Takahashi

Parts of the city, 2025

Natural mineral pigment, metallic powder, gofun, art glue, animal glue, on washi paper
mounted on wooden panel

45.9 x 28.6 x 1.2 in (116.7 x 72.7 x 3 cm)



DETAIL

Kenta Takahashi

Parts of the city, 2025

Natural mineral pigment, metallic powder, gofun, art glue, animal glue, on washi paper
mounted on wooden panel

45.9 x 28.6 x 1.2 in (116.7 x 72.7 x 3 cm)

Kenta Takahashi
Parts of the city, 2025
Natural mineral pigment, metallic powder, gofun, art glue, animal glue, plywood,
on washi paper mounted on wooden panel
45.9 x 28.6 x 1.2 in (116.7 x 72.7 x 3 cm)





DETAIL

Kenta Takahashi

Parts of the city, 2025

Natural mineral pigment, metallic powder, gofun, art glue, animal glue, plywood,
on washi paper mounted on wooden panel

45.9 x 28.6 x 1.2 in (116.7 x 72.7 x 3 cm)

