

SEIZAN GALLERY

TOKYO NEW YORK

TOSHIYUKI KAJIOKA





TOSHIYUKI KAJIOKA (b. 1978, Tokyo, Japan)

Toshiyuki Kajioka has devoted over two decades to a singular, inexhaustible subject: the surface of a flowing river. Trained in Nihonga, the traditional discipline of Japanese painting, he arrived early at a quiet but decisive realization that this motif would become his lifelong focus. Working in sumi ink and graphite pencil, Kajioka constructs images that hover between representation and abstraction, where the river is both a physical place and a perceptual experience. From afar, his paintings appear as dense, nearly monochrome fields; up close, they unfold into intricate networks of marks, where the labor of graphite subtly catches and reflects light. This duality—between stillness and movement, opacity and revelation—mirrors the paradoxical nature of water itself, at once tranquil and unruly, tangible and unknowable.

Kajioka's practice is rooted in sustained observation and memory. For years, he has maintained a daily ritual of walking to nearby rivers at dusk, often remaining until sunrise, absorbing the shifting surfaces of water under darkness. These encounters are not directly transcribed but internalized, later reconstructed in the studio as distilled impressions of time, motion, and atmosphere. The resulting works are less depictions of specific places than meditations on duration and presence, capturing fleeting states that resist fixation. Though he describes his images as riverscapes, their immersive, almost hypnotic quality aligns them with the language of abstract painting, inviting viewers into a contemplative space where perception slows and deepens. In this way, Kajioka's work becomes an ongoing inquiry into the act of seeing—an attempt to render the ephemeral visible, and to hold, however briefly, the boundless flow of the natural world.

CURRICULUM VITAE

TOSHIYUKI KAJIOKA

EDUCATION

2005 MFA, Kyoto University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan

SOLO EXHIBITION (by selection)

2021 Art On Paper, SEIZAN Gallery Booth, New York

2021 The Edge of Night, SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2020 While Night Reigns, SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2013 G/P + g3/gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2011 Shinya-ko, Deep Night, g3/gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2009 Art – life + vol. 11 The Birth Canal—Miraihen Uner, Spiral, Tokyo, Japan

2009 Mokushi, Masayoshi Suzuki Gallery, Aichi, Japan

GROUP EXHIBITION (By selection)

2022 Toshiyuki Kajiooka & Kengo Takahashi, SEIZAN Gallery, New York

2022 Art on Paper, SEIZAN Gallery booth, New York

2022 ART PARIS, Grand Palais, Galerie Taménaga Booth, Paris, France

2022 Art Fair Tokyo, Tokyo International Forum, Galerie Taménaga Booth, Tokyo, Japan

2021 META, Kanagawa Kenmin Hall, Kanagawa, Japan

2021 Terada Kotaro, Aizu Museum, Tokyo, Japan

2021 Paris wo Miryou suru Wano Hachinin-ten, Galerie Taménaga, Tokyo, Japan

2020 Nihonga o Hiraku Sakkatachi: The Triennial Competition in Toyohashi Awarded Works, Toyohashi City Museum of Art & History, Aichi, Japan

2020 On This Shore, SEIZAN Gallery, New York

2020 Art On Paper, SEIZAN Gallery Booth, New York

2020 ART PARIS, Grand Palais, Galerie Taménaga Booth, Paris, France

2020 Abstraction Japonaise, Galerie Tamégana, Paris, France

2020 Tomei-ten, 2kw Gallery, Shiga, Japan

2020 Monokuro-ten, Gallery Egaku, Kyoto, Japan

2019 Sumi: Japanese Ink Painting from Post-War to the Present, SEIZAN Gallery, New York

2019 Seattle Art Fair, SEIZAN Gallery Booth, Seattle, WA

2019 Kyoto Nihonga Shin-ten in Nijo-jo Castle: 100 nin no Gaka Sagano-sen o Tabi shite, Nijo-jo Castle, Kyoto, Japan

2017 25 nin no Sakka-tachi: SICSF 25th Anniversary Selective Scholarship Recipients, The Sato Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan

2016 Gendai Suiboku 2015-ten, Nagai Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2016 META II, Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery, Kanagawa, Japan

2014 Nichijo / Off the Record, Kanagawa Arts Theatre, Kanagawa, Japan

2014 Sumi no Iro, Toyohashi City Museum of Art & History, Aichi, Japan

2014 ART TAIPEI 2011, Taipei, Taiwan

2014 Konton Kara Odorideru Hoshitachi, Spiral Garden, Tokyo, Japan

2013 24 mei no Sakka niyoru Konnichi no Sumi Hyogen-ten, The Sato Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan

2013 ART TAIPEI 2011, Taipei, Taiwan

2013 Imago Mundi, Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Italy

2012 ART TAIPEI 2011, Taipei, Taiwan

2011 TOKYO FRONTLINE, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan

2011 Trans-Plex, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan

AWARDS

2018 The 2018 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Finalist, Christie's Hong Kong, Hong Kong

2016 The 2016 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Finalist, Christie's Hong Kong, Hong Kong

2015 The 6th Higashiyama Kaii Memorial Nikkei Nihonga Award, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan

2005 Hoshino Shingo Prize, The 3rd The Triennial competition in Toyohashi, Toyohashi City Museum of Art and History, Aichi, Japan

2002 Hoshino Shingo Prize, Excellence Award, The 2nd The Triennial competition in Toyohashi, Toyohashi City Museum of Art and History, Aichi, Japan



INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *TOSHIYUKI KAJIOKA & KENGO TAKAHASHI*
SEPTEMBER 8 - OCTOBER 29, 2022



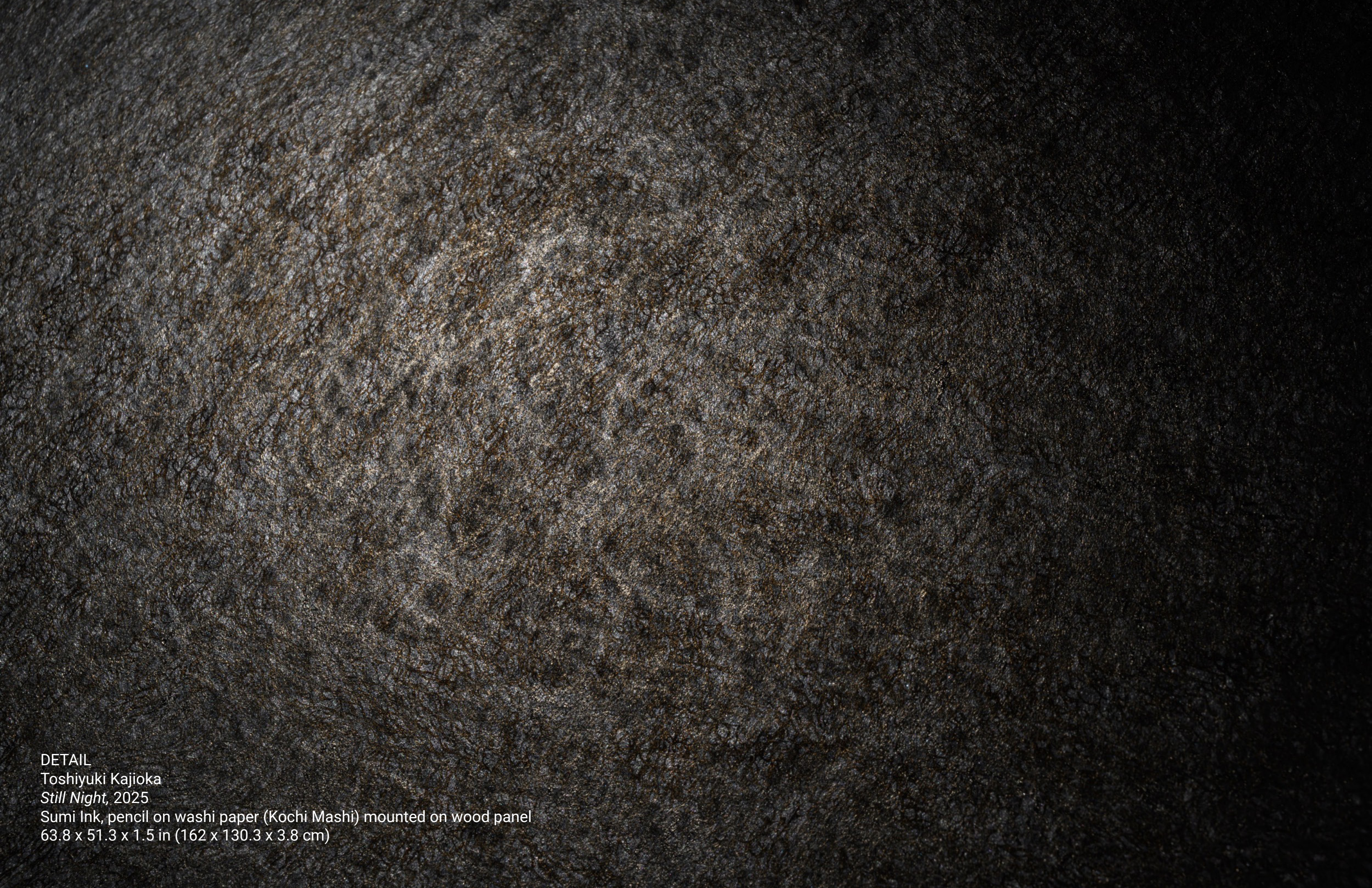
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Toshiyuki Kajioka
Still Night, 2025
Sumi Ink, pencil on washi paper (Kochi Mashi) mounted on wood panel
63.8 x 51.3 x 1.5 in (162 x 130.3 x 3.8 cm)



DETAIL

Toshiyuki Kajioka

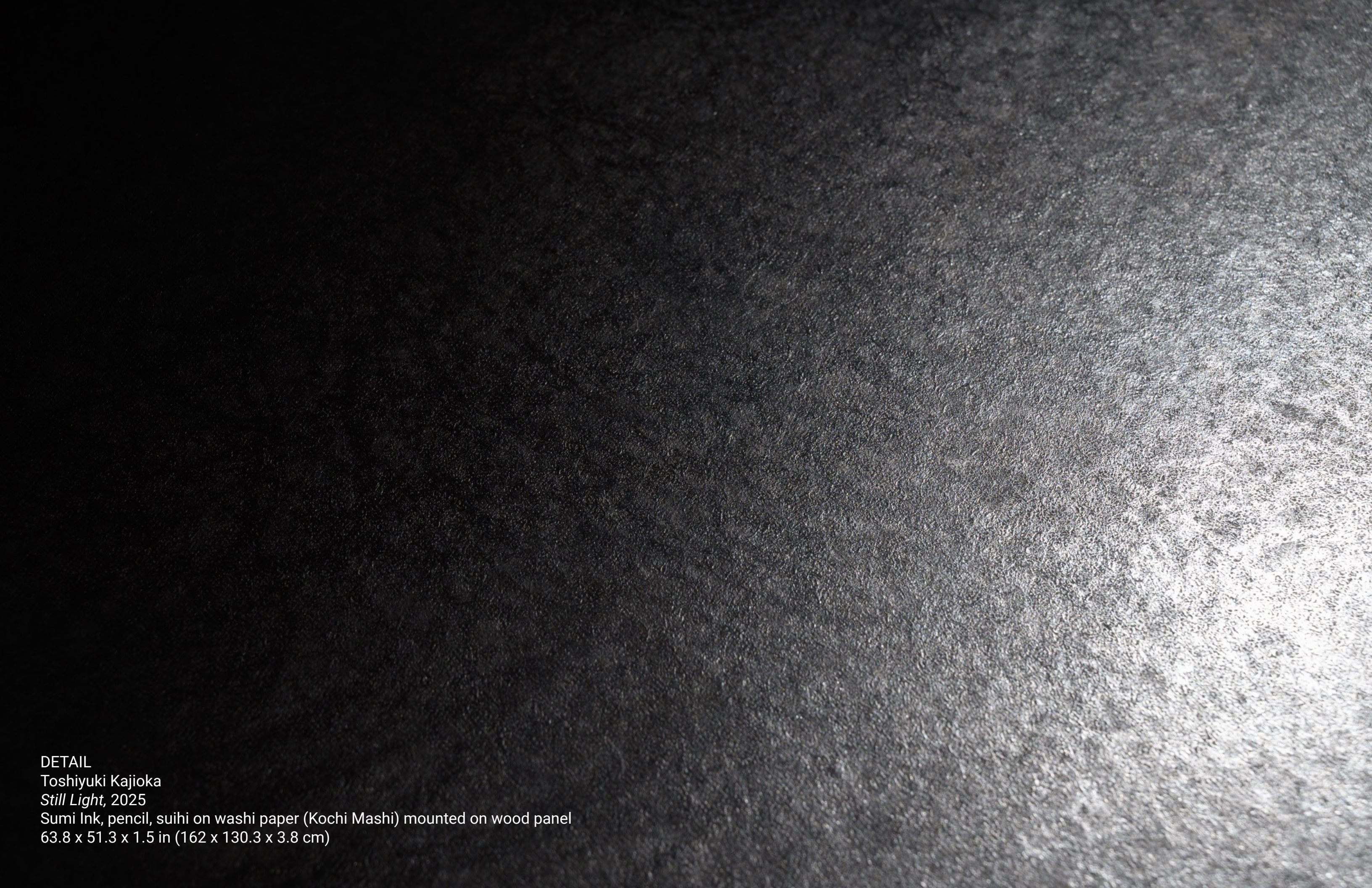
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For inquiries
director@seizan-gallery.com