

# LYONS WIER GALLERY

542 West 24th Street • New York • NY • 10011

## KAORUKO

### “Animism”

February 27 – March 21, 2020

#### Opening Reception

Thursday, February 27 (6-8pm)

Lyons Wier Gallery  
542 West 24th St.  
New York, NY 10011

Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm



*Carp Climbing Up A Waterfall, 2019*

Acrylic and silver leaf on canvas, 60 x 54 in / 152 x 137 cm

Lyons Wier Gallery is pleased to present “**Animism**” by former teen pop star and present-day painter **Kaoruko**.

“Animism” explores the complex cultural and ideological divide between traditional and contemporary ideals that are inherently placed upon Japanese women by using carefully crafted narratives to navigate and call attention to the cultural contemporary standards. By drawing upon her first-hand experience with pop culture now seen through a mature gaze, Kaoruko sets her sights upon the cultural expectation of the ‘feminine’ in a society that is deeply steeped in history and one that is forging new frontiers.

Interspersed throughout her highly detailed compositions are subtle nods to “Animism,” the ancient belief that objects, places and creatures all possess a distinct spiritual essence. Potentially, animism perceives all things--animate and inanimate--as animated and alive. Traditional Japanese motifs such as a cute Koma dog and a carp swimming upstream are subtly found within Kaoruko’s colorful and meticulous illustrations.

Kaoruko’s painting process pays homage to both traditional and contemporary Japanese artistic methodologies by using water-based paint (acrylic), gold leaf, sumi-e (traditional calligraphy techniques), ukiyo-e (traditional Japanese woodblock prints) and silkscreened kimono patterns on canvas.

By juxtaposing all these similar yet separate elements, Kaoruko weaves together narratives of the young and old, the burgeoning and bygone to deliver poignant paintings that straddle cultural, sexual and geographic beliefs and stereotypes of feminine identity at a crucial time that is rewriting the narrative on what it is to be female both here and abroad.

*Kaoruko has exhibited throughout Japan at institutions such as Laforet Museum (Tokyo), Parko Museum (Tokyo), Takashimaya Gallery (Osaka), Tenpozan Museum of Modern Art (Osaka), Loft Gallery (Kumamoto), the Kyoto International Art Festival (Kyoto), and has shown at the Chelsea Art Museum (New York), Jim Kempner Fine Art (New York), Waterfall Gallery (New York), Mike Weiss Gallery (New York), White Box (New York), Ethan Cohen Fine Arts Gallery (New York) and Mana Contemporary (Jersey City, NJ). Kaoruko lives and works in New York and Jersey City.*

For further information, contact:

Lyons Wier Gallery  
542 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011  
Tel: +1 212 242 6220  
Email: [galler@lyonswiergallery.com](mailto:galler@lyonswiergallery.com)  
[www.lyonswiergallery.com](http://www.lyonswiergallery.com)  
[@lyonswiergallery](https://www.instagram.com/lyonswiergallery)

Tel: +1 212 242 6220 / [galler@lyonswiergallery.com](mailto:galler@lyonswiergallery.com) / [www.LyonsWierGallery.com](http://www.LyonsWierGallery.com)