

Osamu Kobayashi

Bedfellow

20 FEBRUARY–9 MARCH 2025

DIRIMART PERA



Moon Flower, 2024
Oil on canvas
127 x 116.84 cm

Dirimart is delighted to present *Bedfellow*, the first solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Osamu Kobayashi at the gallery. Marking his Istanbul debut, Kobayashi introduces the viewer to his unique gestural abstractions and minimalist forms, characterised by bold colours, simplified shapes, and a playful, lyrical sensibility. Exploring form, colour, and minimalism, the artist draws viewers into layered vortices and landscapes while skilfully creating captivating optical effects.

In his practice, Osamu Kobayashi delves into the vast possibilities of painting with oversized brushes and deliberate, singular strokes of vivid pigment that glide across the canvas. His abstract works create striking visual contrasts, metaphorically reflecting his perception of the world through an intuitive interplay of colours, forms, and textures. Through reductive shapes and flat planes of colour, Kobayashi deconstructs his surroundings, distilling them into their essence. Beyond their aesthetic allure, his paintings delve into broader abstract concepts such as spirituality, humour, nature, relationships, psychology, and time. His meditative compositions balance tension and intimacy, drawing inspiration from the natural world – landscapes, human forms, flora, and imagined creatures.

The title of the show, *Bedfellow*, originates from the mid-15th century, blending the words 'bed' and 'fellow' to mean a close friend, roommate, or bed-sharer, be they families, co-workers, or strangers, commonly sharing a bed as it was not affordable for most people in the Middle Ages. While the term historically refers to physical proximity, it also carries a metaphorical resonance, suggesting intimacy and closeness. Kobayashi's paintings evoke this layered intimacy, feeling both sensual and contemplative.

In this exhibition, Kobayashi shifts from landscapes to floral shapes, aligning with the title's metaphorical connection to a flower bed – a small garden where blooms share space. The abstract expressions of roots and trunks expand beyond their simplified forms, leading to imagined worlds. Kobayashi's 'plants' are distorted approximations of traditional flora. Their long stems, crowned by single blossoms, resemble figures, while broad, gestural brushstrokes encircle their shapes, creating radiant effects that evoke spiritual transcendence.

The eight paintings in *Bedfellow* delve into floral archetypes, presenting abstracted representations of blooms that challenge conventional perception. Five works feature elongated stems topped with singular flowers, while the other three provide aerial perspectives, suggesting blossoms in full bloom. Humorous, playful, and otherworldly, these forms invite viewers into portals that transcend their seemingly simplified shapes. Exploring the interplay between the familiar and the alien, Kobayashi distorts botanical forms, drawing on their figurative and spiritual resonance. Rather than directly mimicking nature, these works offer a poetic meditation on the infinite possibilities of gesture and form, distilling the essence of nature's beauty into pure abstraction.

Osamu Kobayashi's *Bedfellow*, featuring his latest works, will be on view at Dirimart Pera from 20 February to 9 March 2025.



DIRIMART

Osamu Kobayashi (b. 1984, Columbia) received a B.F.A. from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2006. His solo exhibitions include *Bedfellow*, Dirimart Pera, İstanbul (2025); *On Apparition*, Hollis Taggart Gallery, New York (2024); *Lost Stranger*, BEERS, London (2024); *Foreign Relations*, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami (2023); *Floating Head*, A+B Gallery, Brescia (2020); *Mound*, 701 CCA, Columbia (2017) and *62 Miles Above Sea Level*, Greenwich House, New York (2013). Among his selected group exhibitions are *Dirimart Presents X: Living in Colour*, Dirimart Dolapdere, İstanbul (2023); *New Beginnings*, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong (2022); *La Banda*, Tappeto Volante Gallery, Brooklyn (2021); *Osamu Kobayashi and Francesco De Prezzo*, Spazio Leonardo, Milan (2020); *Smaller Beckons II*, Tapp's Arts Center, Columbia (2017); *Big and Bold: Selections from the Collection*, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia (2016) and Premio Lissone, Lissone Contemporary Art Museum, Lissone (2014). In 2013, Kobayashi received the Hassam, Speicher, Betts, and Symons Purchase Fund Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2021, he was honoured with a NYFA Artist Fellowship. Osamu Kobayashi lives and works in Brooklyn.

Ayrıntılı bilgi için press@dirimart.com veya +90 212 232 66 66 üzerinden galeriyle irtibata geçebilirsiniz. Tüm görseller telif hakkı yasası ile korunmaktadır, galerinin onayı olmadan kullanılamaz.



press@dirimart.com
dirimart.com

DIRİMART DOLAPDERE
Irmak Caddesi 1-9
34440 Dolapdere İstanbul
+90 212 232 66 66

DIRİMART PERA
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 99
34430 Beyoğlu İstanbul