

DIRIMART

PRESS RELEASE

OSAMU KOBAYASHI'S *BEDFELLOW* EXHIBITION AT DIRIMART PERA

Bedfellow

Osamu Kobayashi

Opening: 20 February 2025

Venue: Dirimart Pera

The exhibition can be visited from 20 February to 9 March 2025. (Except on Mondays.)

A vibrant exploration of colour and movement, *Bedfellow* invites viewers into a world of minimalist and abstract forms.

ISTANBUL, 5.2.2025 — Dirimart announces *Bedfellow*, the first solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Osamu Kobayashi at the gallery. Marking his Istanbul debut, *Bedfellow* presents Kobayashi's 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.

The exhibition's title, *Bedfellow*, blends the words 'bed' and 'fellow', originally describing individuals who shared a bed out of economic necessity in the Middle Ages. The term conventionally signifies physical proximity and also suggests intimacy and closeness. In the exhibition, Kobayashi shifts from landscapes to floral shapes and aligns with the title's metaphorical connection to a flower bed – a small garden where blooms share space. The title *Bedfellow* merges the ideas of companionship and gardens, -reflecting the artist's interpretation. Kobayashi transforms roots and stems into abstract expressions, presenting distorted echoes of traditional flora.

Eight paintings in *Bedfellow* offer abstract floral representations that challenge conventional perception. Five depict elongated stems crowned with singular flowers, while three provide aerial perspectives of flowers in full bloom. With sweeping brushstrokes and radiant colour fields, Kobayashi distils the essence of natural forms into pure abstraction.

A poetic meditation on the infinite possibilities of gesture and form, *Bedfellow* will be on view at Dirimart Pera from 20 February to 9 March 2025.



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Osamu Kobayashi (b. 1984, Columbia) received a B.F.A. from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2006. His solo exhibitions include *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, Istanbul (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.

