

IONE & MANN

PRESS RELEASE – February 2024

Love-in-a-Mist

ALICE KEMP and YUICHIRO KIKUMA

Exhibition Dates: 9 February – 9 March 2024 | **Private View:** 8 February 6-8 pm

IONE & MANN is excited to present “Love-in-a-Mist”, an exhibition of new work by London-based artists **Alice Kemp** and **Yuichiro Kikuma**. Although the artists have exhibited side by side in several group exhibitions over the years, this is the first time Alice and Yuichiro’s work is presented in dialogue.

Viewers are invited to explore the relationship present within the works, a tale of synchronicities, idiosyncrasies, perspective and a deep connection with the natural world, its patterns and rhythms, both seen and unseen.

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Alice Kemp and Yuichiro Kikuma are two artists enthralled by nature, drawn to the details that often go unnoticed. Sharing a studio, the same things often inspire them in distinctly different ways. While Alice might gaze through the gaps between a tree’s branches, Yuichiro will examine its trunk. They choose to depict their observations not through traditional landscape portrayals, but in abstracted expressions that offer few clues. Presented together for the first time outside of a group exhibition, the dialogue poses more questions than answers. Mostly because both bodies of work represent the first steps in a new direction for each artist.

Alice’s recent work retains the core motifs for which she is known – bold figures against blurred, patterned backgrounds – but has now shifted towards the gestural. Previously she’d meticulously paint the details with thick, impasto strokes, creating recognisable imagery such as lettuce or birds. Those bold strokes are now mere outlines. The blurred shape of a leaf in free fall, or the abstract edges of the negative space of the bare apple tree in her garden in winter. The change of direction could be interpreted as an attempt to look through nature, rather than at it, in an effort to capture one of life’s inevitabilities: the passing of time itself, which is precious and fleeting.

Yuichiro’s body of work involves the use of found objects that he uses to make marks. His latest series introduces colour into the process, adding both vibrancy and an enhanced sense of mystery to his abstract patterns. What they are isn’t something he’ll reveal, other than to admit they’ve been transferred to canvas via the method of Frottage, or rubbing. Influenced by his upbringing in Japan, where there is an ingrained reverence for nature, Yuichiro talks about “surrendering” to nature. Surrendering to the elements and the patterns that one might say choose him instead of the other way around. It is a process of patience, and quite tiring rubbing the canvas, but also the most authentic way to capture the essence.

The evolution of these artists’ practices has been gradual and organic, and it feels right for them to now pause and reflect on their journey. Each focusses on different parts of an entity, but presented together their work represents a natural whole. That’s a conceptual assessment, but it’s also, excitingly, another tentative step towards continued evolution. Though Alice and Yuichiro have already made a few things together, this is the first time both have contributed to a single canvas.

Text by @LondonArtRoundup

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ABOUT:

Alice Kemp (b. 1987, Brighton, UK) is a visual artist and educator living and working in London.

She finds inspiration in nature and the mundane, painting traditionally decorative subjects like plants, flowers, animals and landscapes yet choosing to accentuate both their beauty and inherent asymmetry, what she describes as natural “crookedness or bulginess”. Influenced by the Japanese approach to art where the distance between art, decoration and nature is shorter, she approaches her subjects with a conscious mix of expression and restraint, minimalism and visual overload. Recent solo exhibitions include *In the Night Garden* (September 2022). *Love-in-a-Mist* is her ninth exhibition with the gallery.

Alice is a graduate of University College Falmouth (BA First class Honours in Fine Art, 2010), Central Saint Martins (MA Fine Art, 2016) and University College London : The Institute of Education (PGCE Art and Design, 2019).

Yuichiro Kikuma (b. 1982, Chiba, Japan) is a visual artist living and working in London.

His work attempts to visualise the invisible forces, patterns or rhythms that exist around us in daily life, in the same way as any landscapes are created as a result of their specific climate. His paintings often incorporate non-painterly methods to create conditions for unexpected images to emerge. In recent years he has predominantly explored using found objects as mark making tools, enabling him to work indirectly, often in a mechanical and repetitive manner which leaves space for calculated chance. Driven by rhythm and pattern in both inspiration and process, his fluid, abstract style appears as a manifestation of energy favouring perceived spirit over direct imitation. Recent solo exhibitions include *Fleeting Shadows* at Martch Art Project in Istanbul. *Love-in-a-Mist* is his fifth exhibition with the gallery.

Yuichiro is a graduate of Wimbledon College of Arts (BA Fine Art, 2010) and Central Saint Martins (MA Fine Art, 2016).

NOTE to editors: Alice and Yuichiro are partners and parents, sharing a home and a studio in South London. Most of the work in ‘Love-in-a-Mist’ is inspired by observing and interacting with nature around Morden Hall Park.

IONE & MANN is a London-based contemporary art gallery established in 2015.

Independent and female-owned, artist-focused and not driven by trends, the gallery is dedicated to thoughtfully curated exhibitions and championing early to mid-career artists.

IONE & MANN favours a slower, more considered approach to presenting, experiencing and engaging with art and artists, one that allows for long term relationships and ongoing dialogues between gallery, collectors and artists.

Founding Director: Alkistis Koukoulidou [alkistis@ioneandmann.com]

Love-in-a-Mist :: Alice Kemp and Yuichiro Kikuma :: 9 February– 9 March 2024

IONE & MANN

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Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday 11 am - 6 pm, Saturday 12-4 pm and by appointment.

For additional information, images, or interview access to the artists please contact us at: info@ioneandmann.com
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