

Tang Contemporary Art presents:

## Tools are Validated : Kaito Itsuki Solo Exhibition

Artist: Kaito Itsuki

Curator: Fiona Lu

Exhibition Dates: 4 August - 10 September 2022

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Bangkok

Opening Reception: Thursday, 4 August at 4:00 PM

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Tang Contemporary Art is proud to announce the launch of a new solo exhibition "Tools are Validated" by the young Japanese artist Kaito Itsuki at the Bangkok Space on August 4th, 2022. The exhibition presents 17 fabulous paintings by Kaito Itsuki.

When we use software, the word "validate" pops up a lot. After checking that each tool is working correctly, the application would display "Tools are validated" on the screen. In Kaito Itsuki's paintings, "Tools are validated" appears as both text and image. Human identity (personality) is used as a medium for information exchange. While utilizing various tools in validation and connection with other people, humans are being transformed into tools. Bruno Latour believes that man is not a transcendental subject, but an embodied existence. This embodiment exists through the process of "internalization" (dans le rabat) and the communication based on "plug-in". "Plug-in" is a network term. When people want to realize their subjectivity, they must download certain plug-ins to acquire a certain function. Therefore, only by "identifying with certain movable plug-ins and downloading these plug-ins can people acquire on-site and temporary functions". In paintings, tools exist to realize subjectivity. Then what "tools" do we need to survive in society? When we find a "tool", we would try to figure out whether the tool is right for us and how it can make us feel comfortable. It is also an exploration of our identities and the reasons behind our choices. Without self-analysis, people can't get what they really need. Kaito Itsuki studies how people learn about themselves, which is also a process of constantly "internalizing" the attributes of objects into themselves.

In addition, Kaito Itsuki often mentions the concept of けじめ (kejime). When all empirical facts need to be defined and systematized, the authority of knowledge-centrism (Alfred Jules Ayer) should be established. However, when the meaning of a proposition is solely responsible for its symbol, there would be much more freedom and fun. けじめ (kejime) originally means "distinction", but it is also the etyma of "けじめを取る, kejime o toru" (take responsibility). In Japan, "responsibility culture" and "shame culture" have been prevailing. Kaito Itsuki fully demonstrates the national psyche in her paintings. She takes us to indulge in this speculative visual tour and play around in this ravine between modern discipline and subject spirit. At the same time, the artist's thinking on painting and handicraft is delicate yet direct, which facilitates expensive gameplay.

In an innovative way, Kaito Itsuki's paintings guide people to learn multidisciplinary knowledge through visual perception: the new philosophy of technology, terminology, praxeology, subculture, nation and region, gender relations, etc. All these require the artist to act like a coder. Presumably, "Tools are validated" is her key, as well as her mysterious work habit or motto.

## About the Artist

Kaito Itsuki is a painter born in 1993, in Sapporo, Hokkaido, and is currently based in Tokyo and New York.

Kaito's hometown of Sapporo had few opportunities for seeing art in person so much of her aesthetic influences came from anonymous images floating around the internet, video games, or comics. Staying in Sapporo until she graduated from a local arts high school, she then studied painting at Tohoku University of arts and design. Kaito also studied cultural anthropology, comparative religion and youth cultures which provided inspiration for the themes of her art works. Afterwards, she received a MFA from Kyoto city university of arts and in 2019, moved to Tokyo and then NYC to pursue her art career.

Kaito Itsuki's art works have been shown internationally including Clear gallery Tokyo (Tokyo, Japan), Art fair Philippines (Manila, Philippine), PDX contemporary art (Portland, US), and Tang Contemporary Art(Beijing, China).

## Tang Contemporary Art

Since its founding in Bangkok in 1997, Tang Contemporary Art has opened 7 spaces in Beijing, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Seoul to promote the development of experimental art in different regions. In the past 20 years, Tang Contemporary Art has organized groundbreaking exhibitions in its gallery spaces, and also cooperated with important art institutions in China and abroad to accomplish outstanding art projects. The gallery strives to initiate dialogue between artists, curators, collectors and institutions working both locally and internationally. A roster of groundbreaking exhibitions has earned Tang Contemporary Art internationally renowned recognition, establishing its status as a pioneer of the contemporary art scene in Asia.

As one of China's most influential contemporary art platforms, Tang Contemporary Art maintains a high standard of exhibition programming. Tang Contemporary Art represents or collaborates with leading figures in international contemporary art, including Ai Weiwei, Huang Yongping, Shen Yuan, Zhu Jinshi, Chen Danqing, Liu Qinghe, Liu Xiaodong, Chen Shaoxiong, Wang Yuping, Shen Ling, Shen Liang, Wu Yi, Xia Xiaowan, He Duoling, Mao Xuhui, Wang Huangsheng, Yang Jiechang, Tan Ping, Wang Du, Yan Lei, Yue Minjun, Wang Jianwei, Yangjiang Group, Zheng Guogu, Lin Yilin, Sun Yuan&Peng Yu, Qin Ga, Wang Qingsong, Yin Zhaoyang, Feng Yan, Guo Wei, Chen Wenbo, Ling Jian, Qin Qi, Yang Yong, Peng Wei, He An, Zhao Zhao, Xu Qu, Chen Yujun, Chen Yufan, Xue Feng, Cai Lei, Li Qing, Wang Sishun, Xu Xiaoguo, Li Wei, Liu Yujia, Wu Wei, Yang Bodu, You Yong, Li Erpeng, Jade Ching-yuk Ng, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Adel Abdessemed, Niki de Saint Phalle, AES+F, Michael Zelehosk, Jonas Burgert, Christian Lemmerz, Michael Kvium, Sakarin Krue-On, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Natee Utarit, Kitti Narod, Gongkan, Entang Wiharso, Heri Dono, Nam June Paik, Park Seungmo, Jae Yong Kim, Diren Lee, Dinh Q. Lê, Rodolphe Tapaya, Jigger Cruz, Ayka Go, Raffy Napay, H.H.Lim, Etsu Egami, etc.

Location: Room 201 - 206, River City Bangkok, 23 Soi Charoenkrung 24, Talad Noi, Sampantawong, Bangkok, 10100

Hours: 11AM - 7PM, Tuesday - Sunday

Email:

bkk@tanggallery.vip

Tel: +662 000 1541

Website: [www.tangcontemporary.com](http://www.tangcontemporary.com)

Facebook: @tangcontemporaryartbangkok

Instagram: @tangcontemporaryart

LINE: @tangbkk

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TANG CONTEMPORARY ART

Room 201 - 206, River City Bangkok, 23 Soi Charoenkrung 24, Talad Noi, Sampantawong, Bangkok, 10100, Thailand  
Tel: +662 000 1541 | Email: [bkk@tanggallery.vip](mailto:bkk@tanggallery.vip) | [www.tangcontemporary.com](http://www.tangcontemporary.com)

北京市顺义区金航东路3号院3号楼 ( 国家对外文化贸易基地B5号楼 )  
Bldg. No. 3, Yard No.3, Jinhang E. Rd., Shunyi District, Beijing

当代唐人艺术中心 北京第一&第二空间

**Tang Contemporary Art Beijing 1<sup>st</sup>&2<sup>nd</sup> space**

北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路2号798艺术区D06&B01, 100015  
D06&B01, 798 Art District, No.2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang Dist, Beijing, 100015  
+86 10 59789610 | +86 10 57623060  
info@tangcontemporary.com

当代唐人艺术中心 香港空间

**Tang Contemporary Art Hong Kong**

香港中环皇后大道中80号10楼  
10th Floor, H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong  
+852 2682 8289 | info@tangcontemporary.com.hk

当代唐人艺术中心 曼谷空间

**Tang Contemporary Art Bangkok**

泰国曼谷三攀他旺区石龙君路24巷23号河城艺术中心二层201-206  
201-206, River City Bangkok, 23 Soi Charoenkrung24, Talad Noi, Sampantawong, Bangkok, Thailand, 10100  
+662 000 1541 | bkk@tanggallery.vip

当代唐人艺术中心 首尔空间

**Tang Contemporary Art Seoul**

韩国首尔市江南区狎鸥亭路75街6号B2, 06011  
B2, 6, Apgujeong-ro 75-gil, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 06011  
+82 2 3445 8889 | info@tangcontemporary.co.kr

唐人艺术基金会

**Tang Art Foundation**

香港黄竹坑道54号M Place 7楼  
7/F, M Place, 54 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong  
+852 3703 9245 | info@tangartfoundation.org

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www.tangcontemporary.com