

# Johanna Tagada

## Take Care - きをつけて

Nidi Gallery is proud to present French artist Johanna Tagada's first solo exhibition at the gallery. The artist continues her exploration of daily life by investigating themes of ecology, consumption, architecture, flora and human interaction. Through everyday materials such as cotton and linen, the viewer is invited to enter a new sculpture and textile installation titled *Penser, Manger, Partager* (French for: to think, to eat, to share).

*Penser, Manger, Partager* combines craft techniques and sculpture typical of the artist, evoking her 2016 piece *Le Refuge*, a textile-structure devoted to moments of simple happiness (exhibited at egg trading studio – London 2016, and Galerie Jean-Francois Kaiser - Strasbourg 2017). Tagada's pedagogy has grown to encompass wider ecological and environmental issues, as she draws attention to our diet and modes of consumption in her latest project. Since 2016, the artist urged the public to donate unwanted scraps of plant-based textiles, which she dyed for over a year using a natural process from the peelings and pits of fruits and vegetables that she and her family consumed daily. Through this gradual, arduous harvest Tagada constructed the patchworks for the tent. A delicate metaphor emerges between the technical action of assembling textiles and the action of bringing people together. Beyond the project's stark reminder of the depletion of natural resources, *Penser, Manger, Partager* is a place of hope, inviting all to interact with its poetic and intimate architecture.

Tagada's distinctive way of working extends into oil paintings, natural dyes, embroideries and collages. We immediately recognise her work through its gentle colour palette as well as by its sensation to the eye, to the touch and to the soul. A group of collage works from on-going series *Cocooning* functioning as aide memoirs and studies of colours inspired by the artist's various surroundings, as well as selected oil paintings from the series *Deep Ecology* are also presented in this exhibition. The artist's third cycle of floral paintings, *Deep Ecology* draws on Arne Næss's writings of the natural world as a harmony of homeostasis. As seen in *Rose et Jaune* (2015 – 2016) and *Anniversary* (2016 – 2017), real and imaginary flora are depicted from 35mm photographs of Tagada's travels and her own reverie. Each work holds an illuminating title, such as *14 900: The world's current collection of nuclear weapons*, creating a relevant tension between the softness of the artwork and harness of the facts. The artist's practice is known for concealing ecological messages, rendered in soft and delicate expressions.

*Take Care - きをつけて* – an open suggestion or an imperative? The artist leaves the interpretation open to us. To take care of each other, the world, your family, your community, yourself, the ocean...

On the occasion of the exhibition a publication on the subject of *Penser, Manger, Partager* is to be launched at the gallery, published by Poetic Pastel Press and edited by Eleonore Grignon.

**Johanna Tagada** (b.1990 – France)'s past solo exhibitions include *Epistolaire Imaginaire –Merci* at Galerie Jean-Francois Kaiser (2017, France). Group exhibitions include *Inaka no Hana* at Nidi Gallery (2017, Japan) and *To Hide To Show* at Mama Gallery (2015, USA). Johanna Tagada is the founder of Poetic Pastel, a positive and collaborative project focusing on art, publishing and textile, in tune with the Deep Ecology movement.