

NIDI GALLERY

2-27-14 # 102

Higashi, Shibuya-ku

Tokyo 150-0011, Japan

PRESS RELEASE

POETIC PASTEL : TEA TODAY

30th August – 13th September 2019

Opening : Friday August 30th, 6 00 – 8 :00 pm.

With organic tea by SaTerra, and a musical performance by Jatinder Singh Durhailay.

“ What does a ‘safe space’ mean to you? To multidisciplinary artist Johanna Tagada, it is the embodiment of intimacy passed back and forth in meaningful conversation while sharing tea. It’s a whispered confession, or a common concern; it’s temporal and spatial; at once ephemeral and everlasting. “ Maisie Skidmore

For its second group exhibition at Nidi Gallery, Poetic Pastel draws together the practices of Cécile Daladier, Jatinder Singh Durhailay and Johanna Tagada. With the likes of an extended invitation titled *Tea Today*, the space of the gallery unfolds as an open conversation throughout mediums including drawing, ceramic, painting, sound installation and textile. *Tea Today* exists simultaneously as a testimony on what contemporary tea culture might be, and as interrogations on its ecological realities.

Curated by Arisa Shimizu and Johanna Tagada this exhibition includes a selection of pique-fleurs vases and delicate tea vessels by Cécile Daladier. It is the artist's first exhibition in Japan, and local Tokyo flowers are to find their places in the water filled receptacles, tea sets and table-gardens, where light plays are poetic invitations of contemplation. The tones, natural resources and methods, including Raku firing, employed in Cécile Daladier’s pieces, softly echo on the techniques and materials presented by Jatinder Singh Durhailay, who, with humour, in his carefully composed stone pigment Neo-Mughal miniature paintings on hand made Wasli paper, examines the waste and its management that might result of our mode of consumptions of tea in parallel to its enjoyment. The characters, amongst which cows and deer, are painted with gentle precision and, at times, a certain bitterness that relates to the state of animal welfare and exploitation. Jatinder Singh Durhailay also presents his first installation piece, existing half way between painting, drawing, sculpture and ready made. In a new body of painterly works of oil on canvas, Johanna Tagada depicts the coming-together of women to share tea, thoughts, ideas and energy. Through soft strokes and evocative colour palettes, she conjures the

essence of her closest friends and collaborators, preserving them in an instance of power and vulnerability. Here, these closely cropped painted works are accompanied by a series of corresponding three-minute audio monologues, remembered and narrated by their subjects, to intimate effect. They touch on stories of love, life, decision-making and shared stumbling-blocks. Linguistically and stylistically 'imperfect' – as, indeed, we all are – these poignant, powerful pieces pay tribute to a series of precious moments. The canvas becomes a new safe space – and here, all are welcome.

This exhibition is an extension of the on-going initiative that is Poetic Pastel and explorations of contemporary tea culture as put forth in the publication *Journal du Thé*, in collaboration with T.S. Wendelstein, 75W Studio.