

Hiroko Ichihara Solo Exhibition “Happiness, Right There”

Dates : 12 February (Thu) – 1 March (Sun), 2026

Venue : SAI



www.saiart.jp

SAI presents a solo exhibition 'Happiness, Right There' by contemporary artist Hiroko Ichihara, from 12 February to 1 March 2026. Ichihara is known for her practice of using language as a medium, playfully drawing out the emotions and humour embedded in everyday life.

Ichihara has been presenting works that focus on the “word” itself by taking everyday words out of their context and exhibiting them as “images” in space. What appears in her works are not poetic or abstract words, but short Japanese phrases rooted in everyday sensations. When these phrases line the walls, the scene takes on a lightness evoking a social media timeline spilling into physical space.

The concise phrases, carefully balanced typography and spatial placement, and the uniform texture of silkscreen printing, with its sense of printing and reproduction, naturally imbue the visual language of advertising. Words that contain the ambiguity, atmosphere, and indirectness characteristic of the Japanese language are reduced to easily digestible forms and flow through the SAI space like social media posts.

The flood of words that appear and disappear in myriad forms, drifting contemporary emotions at the mercy of overflowing information.

Repeating the lightness of text and tone, and allowing words detached from context to rise as a form of visual pleasure, this style resonates with the methods of Lawrence Weiner, a leading figure in conceptual art who has long treated language as a primary medium.

At the same time, Ichihara’s distinctive sensibility transforms the signs and symbols circulating in everyday life directly into artworks, expanding her practice onto a broader cultural landscape. Filled with Ichihara’s works, the SAI space evokes the sensation of scrolling through X, recalling the urban scenery of Shibuya saturated with advertisements and information. In an era when anyone can send out words to the public, language has shifted from something meant to communicate to something to be consumed. Still, emotion infused in words still plays with us, projecting the inner landscape in the dry urban space.

This exhibition presents approximately 30 works selected from Ichihara's ongoing series of silkscreened canvases, produced continuously since the 1990s, along with the installation of her well-known Love Fortune (Koi-mikuji). We invite you to SAI to experience an encounter with the sensation of saving your favourites as they flow through your feed in a space where words are arranged like a painting and drift by.



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Profile



Hiroko Ichihara

Born in Kyoto in 1963. Completed the Visual Design programme at Kyoto College of Art (now Kyoto University of the Arts) in 1985.

Since 1988, she has produced works using words and text as central motifs. While exhibiting her work at Yokohama Triennale 2001, the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Art Tower Mito, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, she has also presented numerous outdoor projects, including text installations on department-store construction hoardings and lettering at a skating rink in Yokohama.

Her practice extends to distinctive interventions and performances, such as installing Love Fortune (Koi-mikuji) at Nunose Shrine in Osaka, and distributing 2,000 paper shopping bags printed with the phrase "I'm going to shoplift" at a shopping centre in the UK. Her activities are marked by a singular and unconventional approach.

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The exhibition information

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“Happiness, Right There”**

DATE : 12 February (Thu) – 1 March (Sun), 2026

PLACE : SAI

ADRESS : RAYARD MIYASHITA PARK SOUTH 3F, 6-20-10
Jingumae, Shibuya, Tokyo, 150-0001

TIME : 11:00 - 20:00 everyday

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