

Press Release

As if to Breathe, Ayako Someya Solo Exhibition

February 25 (sat) – April 1 (sat), 2023 Tokyo Gallery + BTAP | Tokyo 7F, 8-10-5, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061 TEL: 03-3571-1808 / FAX: 03-3571-7689

Tokyo Gallery + BTAP is pleased to present *As if to Breathe*, a solo exhibition by Ayako Someya.

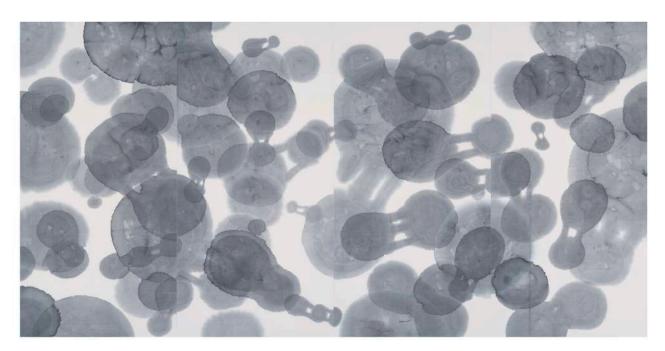
Born in Tokyo in 1981, Ayako Someya obtained a degree in English Language and Literature from Seitoku University before embarking on the study of classical calligraphy in 2007. After participating in *Zero Art*, a 2014 group exhibition at hpgrp GALLERY New York featuring works by Japanese artists, Ayako Someya was involved in producing a catalogue raisonné on Yūichi Inoue, an experience that both taught her to view calligraphy as art and marked the beginning of her creative career. Ayako Someya's artworks were exhibited in Art Shodo Tokyo 2018, an exhibition held in Mitaka (Tokyo) by creator and contemporary artist Hisashi Yamamoto, as well as the Tokyo Gallery+BTAP exhibition *Calligraphy as Art*, which also featured works by Yūichi Sakamaki and Tomoko Kitada. *As if to Breathe* is Ayako Someya's first solo exhibition to take place at Tokyo Gallery.

Ayako Someya uses element symbols devoid of locality to achieve a painting-like style. Having "air" as their theme, the works in *As if to Breath* focus on the elements that make up the atmosphere near the earth's surface. The combination of white space and seeping ink blots will make the viewer aware of a sensation similar to breathing. The works carry a message from the artist that modern day society should be more relaxed.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the exhibition.

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Air, 2023, ink on paper, 180×360 cm