

**PERROTIN**

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**Izumi KATO**

*Fräulein Magazine,*

*Capturing the Present World While Creating One's Own*

*December 2023*

# Capturing the Present World While Creating One's Own

IZUMI KATO's creatures just instantly draw you in: The unusual faces with big googly-eyes in clashing, bold colors seem like they want to tell you a secret. Perhaps, which

universe they come from with their childlike, meerkat look. The colorful canvases and sculptures are mostly composed from multiple parts that engender a melancholic and even uncanny feel. And, in fact, the paintings even talk to Izumi Kato.

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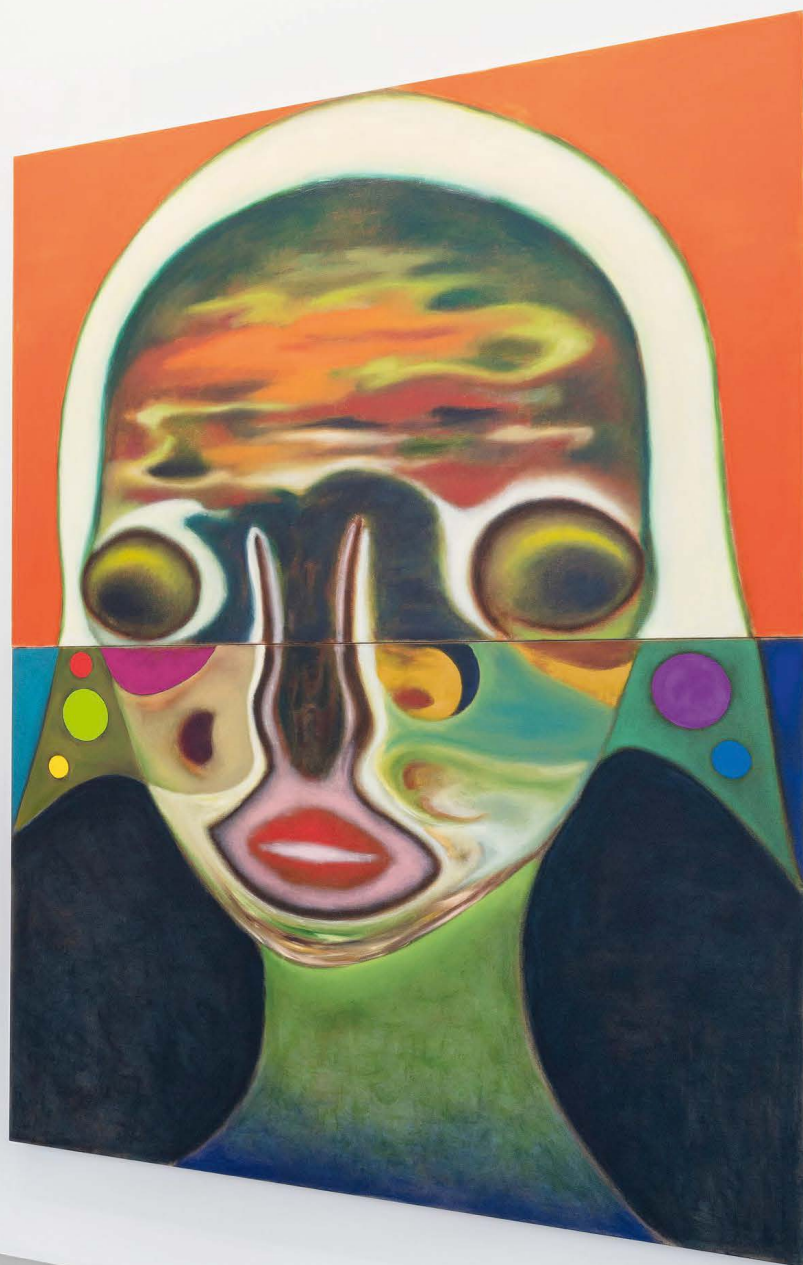
*Irony*, 2021  
All images courtesy  
of the artist and Perrotin, Paris

Interview HANNAH SULZBACH

# IZUMI KATO

What made you first create the figures in your paintings and sculptures?

When I was around 30 years old, I decided to create paintings in my own way. Just like a child draws pictures using dots and lines with symbolic interpretations without anyone teaching them. This was my starting point. I began to create works resembling human faces using dots and lines, and it evolved into its current form of my paintings and sculptures' development.



Untitled, 2023

What is your starting point when you begin with a new artwork?

Play some music and drink coffee.

When you join multiple canvases in your paintings or stones and wood pieces in the sculptures to create one figure, how do you combine them? When do you decide to put the different pieces together?

I decide intuitively. Prolonged contemplation of the work does not lead to good results in my approach.



Sometimes the colors are very different in the separate canvases, is that due to different moods, or how do you choose your color schemes?

This decision is similarly intuitive, but also determined during the interaction with the painting. To be extreme, I even have a feeling that the painting is saying: "This should be the next color, right?"

Untitled (Set of 2 works), 2023



How are colors and fantasy connected for you?

It feels like I'm discovering and using circuits in my body that exist in my daily life but aren't usually used.



exhibition view at Perrotin, Paris, 2023.  
Photo: Claire Dorn

I've read that you use your hands to paint to express your emotions better. What are the emotions you have while creating?

Since I'm very focused when working, I am probably thinking about many things, but at the same time feeling extremely calm.

In what way do Japanese art and traditional myths inspire you?

Japanese traditions and customs have naturally become a part of me due to my background, so they feel like something inherent and that originally existed. My family comes from a region known for ancient Japanese myths and stories, so I also feel a close connection to such things. It's not

so much about inspiration, but rather letting out the information that already exists inside of me.

What else stimulates your imagination?

Nature, including human-made artifacts.

In other words, the present world.



exhibition view at Perrotin, Paris, 2023.  
Photo: Claire Dorn



exhibition view at Perrotin, Paris, 2023.  
Photo: Claire Dorn

Between the different art genres you explore,  
do you have a favorite practice?  
Currently, I'm fond of painting. 157



What materials do you like to work with the most or would you like to explore more?  
**I don't have a particular favorite material; it always changes, what I want to use.**

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exhibition view at Perrotin, Paris, 2023.  
Photo: Claire Dorn



exhibition view at Perrotin, Paris, 2023.  
Photo: Claire Dorn



exhibition view at Perrotin, Paris, 2023.  
Photo: Claire Dorn



It seems like you created your own universe with your sculptures;  
what do you want to add to this world in the future?

I have a sense that I am making sculptures for the sake of painting,  
so I might stop making sculptures someday. *[laughs]*

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Untitled (Set of 2 works), 2021 - 2022



exhibition view at Perrotin,  
Paris, 2023.  
Photo: Claire Dorn

After an exhibition, like your latest at Perrotin Gallery, how do  
you move onwards with your way of working?

I'm essentially the type who creates art-  
works continuously in a straightforward manner.  
However, having exhibitions provides a sense of  
closure to the production process, so I prefer  
having exhibitions to develop my work. /