

Ehrlich Steinberg
5540 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90038
+1 (213) 584-1709
Wednesday - Saturday 12-6pm

Emi Mizukami
Biography

Emi Mizukami (b. 1992, Tokyo, JP)
Lives and works in Tokyo, JP

Emi Mizukami is an artist living in Tokyo, Japan working predominantly in painting. At once allegorical and abstruse, Mizukami's work develops a dense visual and material language, engaging with ancient and contemporary modes of representation. Various symbols, motifs and references emerge repeatedly across Mizukami's practice. These include ancient mythological images such as snakes, swords and angels, disembodied and enlarged hands and feet, and contemporary and pop culture references.

Building up the painting's surface through numerous layers of imagery and sand paste-thickened paint, recurring depictions become simultaneously concretized and obscured as they emerge or submerge. Although earlier images now lie hidden underneath the surface, Mizukami does not distinguish any hierarchy between these visible and invisible layers. Instead, the hidden and exposed - described by the artist as the "disappearing" and "remaining" images - are seen as mutually developing the painting's pictorial, temporal and structural plane. These sealed, under-layers resurface on the backs of the paintings as loosely drawn and painted fragments from the artist's memory. In this way, the work's representational structure and allegorical timeline is further complicated as supposed origin images and initial sketches are reconstituted as final marks and remembered traces.

Mizukami received her BFA in Oil Painting from Tama Art University, Tokyo in 2017. Previous solo exhibitions include *Million Bubbles* at Ehrlich Steinberg, Los Angeles, CA (2024); *Pale Phantom* at King's Leap, NY (2024); *And so it goes* at Larder, Los Angeles, CA (2023), *So it goes* at 4649, Tokyo, JP (2022); *Catharsis Bed* at CADAN YURAKUCHO, Tokyo, JP (2022) and *Dear sentiment* at TOKAS Hongo, Tokyo, JP (2021).



Emi Mizukami
Untitled, 2023
Acrylic paint, charcoal pencil, sand paste, desert sand, linen on panel
9.5 x 6.75 in. (24.5 x 17.5 cm)