



[Image: "Tambour Ancien" (2021) Oil tempera on linen 251 x 178.5 cm Photo: Hugard & Vanoverschelde]

Christian Hidaka + Takeshi Murata "Visitors"

Ginza Maison Hermès

"Visitors" is a two-person exhibition by Christian Hidaka (b. 1977, Noda, Chiba, Japan; lives and works in London, England) and Takeshi Murata (b. 1974, Chicago, USA; lives and works in Los Angeles). This exhibition brings to light two narratives of fictional structures seen in contemporary art through the worlds of these two artists who continue to create works that question the space between reality and fiction.

As their names suggest, both Hidaka and Murata are of Japanese descent, but both were raised in English-speaking cultures and thus have a certain distance from Japanese culture and language. Who are the "visitors" of the title? Is it those who visit the exhibition? Is it the artists who come to Japan? Or does it refer to someone depicted in the work?

Hidaka's painting practice continues to be characterized by references to the theater and its architecture, as well as to the history of Western painting. He is particularly interested in the thought and art of the Renaissance and has a great interest in the scientific aspects of perspective and geometric spatial description, as well as their relation to ancient ideas such as paganism and witchcraft. In recent years, Hidaka has developed parallels between painting and theater, depicting a strange universe in which various elements from the ancient and modern worlds coexist in a trompe l'oeil nested structure. In this exhibition, he proposes a mysterious stroll full of hybrid charm, in which Picasso's Arlequin, Fra Angelico's details, Scarpa's frames, and Kirby's diagrams are repeated within a symmetrical structure.

Takeshi Murata, on the other hand, has been pursuing his unique form of realism in video and three-dimensional works, primarily using digital media. For Murata, reality is fluid, resembling the "dissolve" of CGI techniques such as decomposition, dissolution, annihilation, and overlap. In response to his interest in the meta-world brought about by the latest technologies such as Web 3.0 and NFT, Murata created a video work of a dog named "Larry" playing basketball for this exhibition. Larry, rendered with a liquid simulator, looks like a sculpture, but it is also a self-portrait of Murata that exists only in the meta-world.