

KONISHI Mana 'nowhere in particular'

October 27 - December 1, 2007

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ARATANIURANO

From October 27th to December 1st, ARATANIURANO is pleased to present *Nowhere in Particular*, an exhibition of recent paintings by Mana Konishi.

Mana Konishi received the VOCA Award for her participation in the 2006 VOCA (Vision of Contemporary Art) exhibition, which featured curator selections by emerging artists who work in two-dimensional formats. One of Konishi's entries, a large-scale painting of a dense forest into which two small figures are wandering or being drawn, left a particularly deep impression on viewers.

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Before beginning work on canvas, Konishi photographs places that appear to be located somewhere out of this world. To set a counterpoint within these often wild and desolate landscapes, she places incidentally 'posed' figures — for someone usually happens to be there while she is snapping photos. This contrast places Konishi's work outside the vantage of bold, heroic landscape painting; the strength and presence of her settings belong instead to the less assured, less physical, less objective corners of the psyche. This is why one might say the scenes, with their hazy, somewhat remote, partly staged look, linger between reality and dream. In the process of composing paintings from photographs the actual places fall away and are transformed, becoming 'nowhere in particular'.

Tracing her work's current phase back to its sources, Konishi explained that, a few years ago, a vacation photograph of a lake taken by a friend caught her attention because it matched the very image of a lake that she unconsciously held. She then decided to photograph landscapes as a means of testing her mental pictures against those taken directly from reality. Moving ahead in this endeavor, Konishi began 'to throw ordinary elements into not-so-everyday scenery': hence the figures and the work's resulting ambiguity, or 'otherworldly' quality.



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In tandem with Mana Konishi's 'Nowhere in Particular' at ARATANIURANO, an exhibition of her work from the same series will be held at the Dai-ichi Seimei South gallery (11/2-11/30) in Hibiya. Both shows will feature work of a larger scope and scale than Konishi has previously exhibited. The Dai-ichi Seimei South gallery is located in Yurakucho on the Yurakucho Line, two stops from ARATANIURANO gallery.