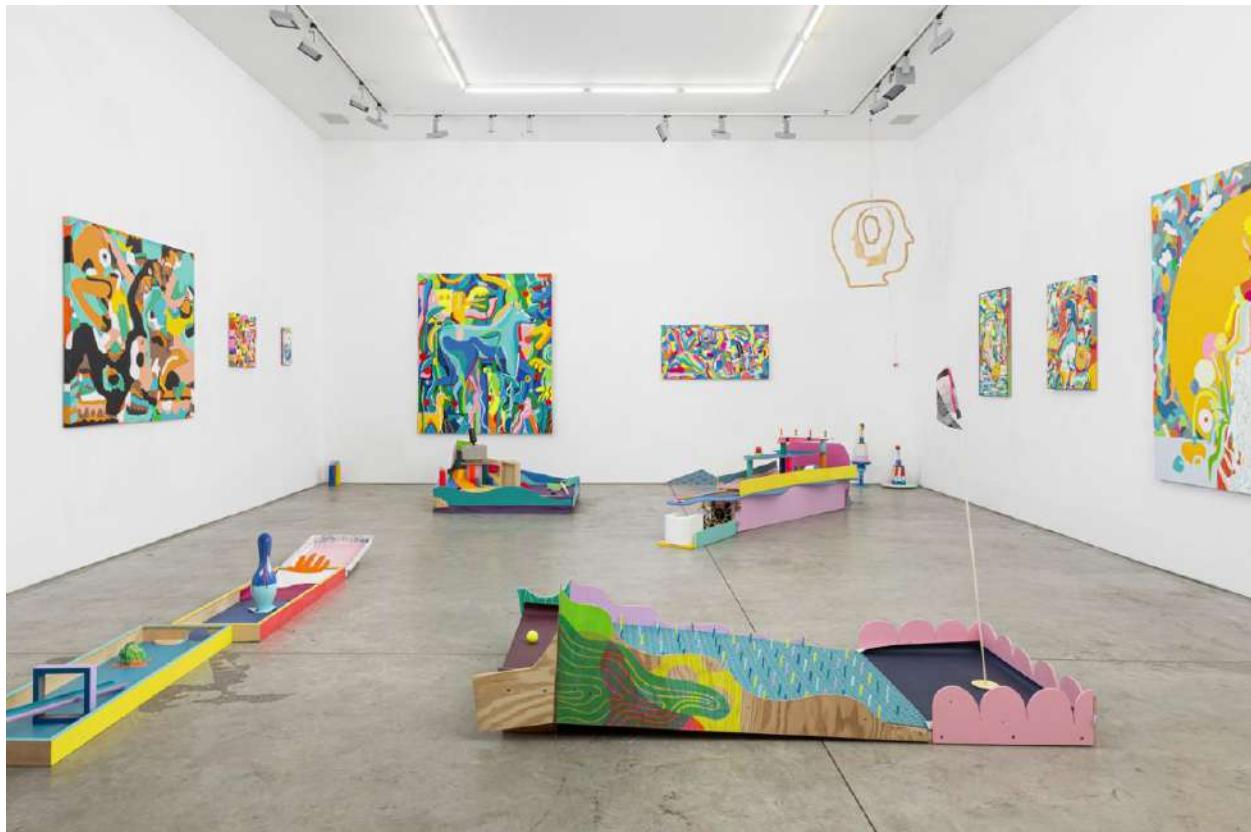


VOGUE

2020.08.24 12:55

Mike Perry's solo exhibition "Still Now Is Here: Woolgather Together"

Misako Otani



All photos by Shark Senesac Photography

It was about 10 years ago that I met Mike Perry, an artist based in Brooklyn. It was 2011 that I was able to host his solo exhibition in Japan, drawing in people, creating a sense of community, and being drawn to his powerful and happy art that connects everyone. This time, I would like to introduce Mike Perry's latest solo exhibition, Still Now Is Here: Woolgather Together. It will be held until September 20th at the Richard Taittinger Gallery in LES, New York. (A virtual tour is also available so you can view it from anywhere in the world!)

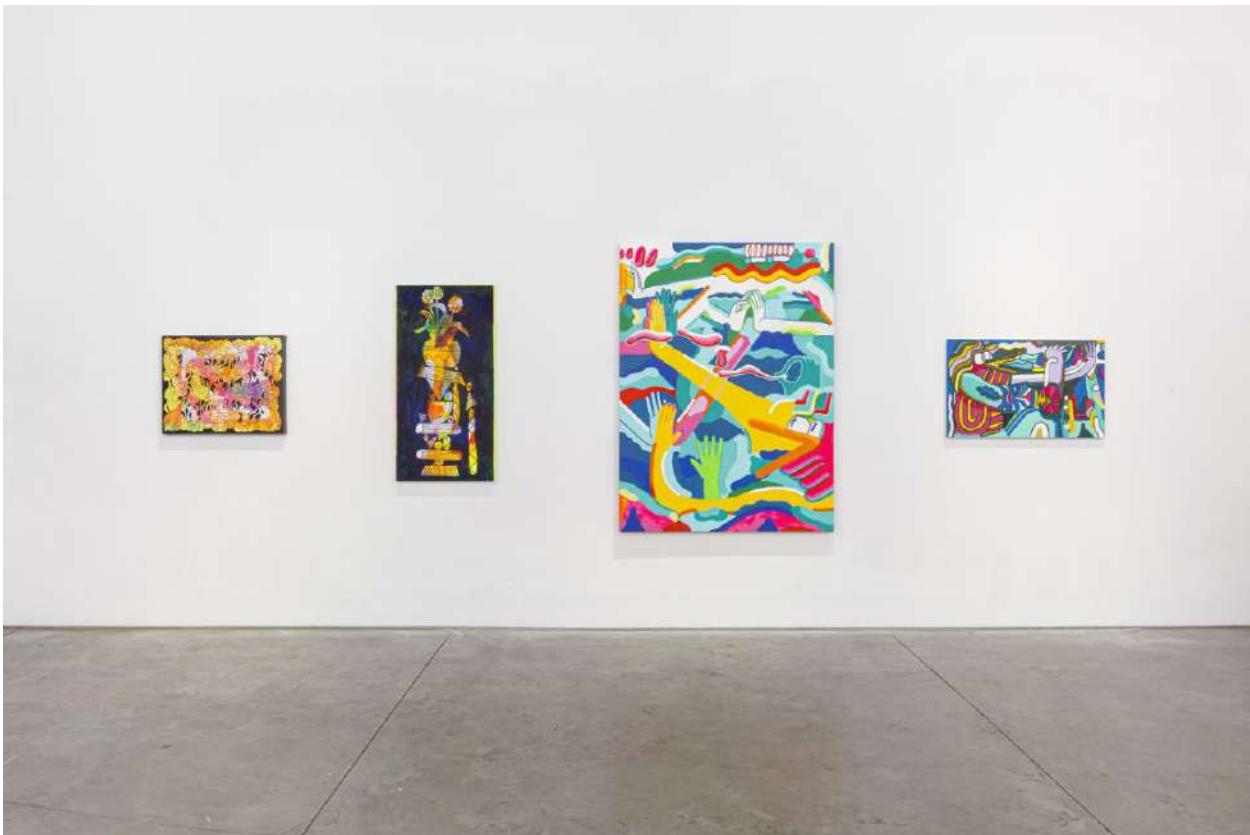
This exhibition is important for us as we are today, who tend to be conscious of “past” and “future”, to focus on “now” and “present”, learn, grow and continue to inspire each other. This is an art exhibition that makes us aware of this.



Mike's signature style, bright neon, and a palette of visible pastel colors and soft curves are fused to create a line of works that express the mic's pop sensibility and exuberant energy. Through these works, in the present world of chaos in pandemics and various negative social situations, "to live in the present" and to have an inquisitive spirit and share it with people around me It is a series that expresses Mike's thoughts.

And the highlight of this exhibit is the miniature golf course, a collaboration with Mike's longtime partner J Bell. Mini golf made from recycled materials in his studio. In this era where you need to have a positive sense of play, it is a playful and tickling molding space that you can truly enjoy.

Mike's art always has this kind of positive, playful and happy power. He says of the power of his creation, "We are making art that everyone can enjoy, and having fantasy is the only necessary method for artists."



Back in 2010, I didn't know many people yet, and suddenly said, "I want to make your solo exhibition in Japan," Mike kindly agreed. Through his art, I was able to meet so many people and learned a lot. If art has the power to connect us humans, I think Mike is a genuine artist who maximizes that power.

The title of this exhibition, *Still Now Is Here: Woolgather Together*, was the first thing that caught my eye. When we are in a hard and long dark time like the pandemic we are facing now, we don't know how it used to be or how we want to end early and have a bright future. It is easy to forget about the importance of "present" and "now", and even the existence, by thinking about the past and the future from invisible anxiety. I often end up doing that.

Mike Perry's "Still Now is Here" title reminds me of that "now" time.

It limits our lives, limits our ability to meet people, and deprives us of our love and enjoyment. Now, with patience, wearing masks, not meeting people as much as possible, just spending every day plainly, as a result of accepting it, our "now" in this pandemic is Isn't it something like "nothing?" But Mike's title was something that inspired me, encouraged me, it was simple, but nobody said it. That is right. Our "now" is still here.



If you live in New York, please come to RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY on 154 Ludlow Street with a mask on. (Business days: Tue-Sun 11 a.m. – 7 p.m) People living in places other than New York can also check out this solo exhibition. Have fun with this virtual exhibition!

Immerse yourself in Mike Perry's positive, playful exhibition, touching his art as it is, as if he had returned to his childhood and lived up to the "now" of that time. Reaffirm your imagination, inquisitiveness and curiosity!

****All photos by Shark Senesac Photography*

INFO:

Still Now is Here: Woolgather Together is on view at RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY, 154 Ludlow Street, through September 20th. Select works and merchandise are available online at www.richardtaittinger.com.

RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY
154 Ludlow St, New York, NY 10002

ABOUT THE ARTIST: Mike Perry is an Emmy winning artist and professional daydreamer. He makes paintings, animation, sculptures, books, public art installations, monographs, exhibitions, drawings, silkscreens, and more. A long time Brooklyn resident, his involvement in local arts has brought the joy of endless wonder and heartfelt experimentation to a cityscape of harsh obstacles. When Mike is not sharing his knowledge at the likes of Parsons at the New School, Adobe's 99U conference, or an 8th grade art class at the World School, he is drinking coffee under the watchful gaze of Bass the dog. Mike's work has been exhibited across the globe, with solo exhibitions in London (2008), Tokyo (2011), New York (2012), and most recently at Garis & Hahn in Los Angeles in 2017. He is also the curator of the ongoing series #GetNudeGetDrawn.



大谷美沙子 (Misako Otani)

Born in Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture. After graduating from a university in New York, he worked at an apparel company, a jewelry brand, and a miscellaneous goods showroom, and is enjoying office life in New York. Aside from that, he is a type who does business as a buyer, opens an import general store at his parents' house in Yamaguchi, studies languages in Paris, and is interested in anything. I like retro NY and enjoy hobbies of retro diner and cafes. I also love collecting vintage clothes.