



ABSTRACT ARTIST — TOKYO

SAYA

Artist Profile

Saya

作家

Saya is a Japanese abstract artist based in Tokyo. Born in Yokohama, she studied textile design at Musashino Art University and worked as a designer in sports apparel before turning to painting. In 2021 she encountered alcohol ink, and has since worked across ink, sumi, acrylic, oil, resin and metal leaf — red, black and gold on canvas, with Wa (Japanese sensibility) and rock as her two axes.

Her work centres on 空 Kū, the inner sanctuary that appears when the mind is freed from thought and the past, and, since 2026, on the Trace of Time — ancient trees, driftwood and stone that outlast us. She has exhibited in Milan, Rome, Turin, Luxembourg, Monaco, Madrid, Dubai, Shanghai, New York, Hollywood, Seoul and Melbourne. In 2025 her work was shown at the Oscars VIP Gift Lounge in Hollywood, and she performed live painting with a sword-performance troupe at New York Fashion Week. Her paintings are often described as powerful and full of life.



Wa and Rock — Japanese sensibility, and the energy of rock.

Japan Alcohol Ink Association (diploma) · Japan Porcelain Painters Association · IAVA — Italian International Visual Artists Association

Kū · Trace of Time

空と、時の痕跡

Kū (空) is the inner sanctuary that appears when the mind is freed from thought and from the past. Since 2021, Saya has painted from that place — in alcohol ink, sumi, acrylic and gold — seeking to convey, through overwhelming strength and delicacy, true freedom and the power to live in the present.

My work originates from the philosophy of 空 Kū while exploring the traces left by time. Ancient trees, driftwood, fossils, stones, weathered metals, and aged wood embody the overwhelming presence of time. Encountering them often leads us into a state of Kū — a profound stillness beyond thought. By bringing together forms that exist across different timescales on a single canvas, I explore how time, memory, and existence intersect, leaving space for each viewer to find their own meaning.

Alcohol ink, sumi, acrylic, oil, resin and metal leaf on canvas, panel and paper. Every work is made by hand, without AI.

Exhibitions

展示歴

From Milan in 2021 to Seoul and Melbourne in 2026 — a selection of exhibitions and fairs.

2026	JAPONICA-JAPONICA “Rewrite” Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Gallery 2, Ikebukuro, Tokyo	GROUP
	Independent Tokyo 2026 Tokyo Port City Takeshiba, Tokyo	FAIR
	Permanent display EXO Auto showroom, Osaka	PERMANENT
	BANK ART FAIR 2026 Gallery Bella booth, Seoul	FAIR
	Works on view Matcha Gallery, Melbourne	PERMANENT
	Art in Interior Project in MASTERWAL GINZA Masterwal Ginza, Tokyo	GROUP
	“Sense 2026” GALLERY ANDLINKS 81, Ginza, Tokyo	GROUP
	Two-person exhibition “Meguru Monogatari” (with Kumiko Miyoshi) Naraya Café, Hakone	TWO-PERSON
2025	Sensō-ji Toshi-no-Ichi — Hagoita Art Booth (MIKAZUKI ART) Sensō-ji, Tokyo	GROUP
	Solo exhibition “Saya — From Kū, Into the Present” DEN Gallery, Higashi-Nakano, Tokyo	SOLO
	GREENROOM × RIVIERA Art Fair Riviera Zushi Marina, Kanagawa	FAIR
	New York Fashion Week 2025 — live painting with the sword-performance troupe Buryu New York	LIVE PAINTING
	Independent Tokyo 2025 Tokyo	FAIR

	OSCARS 2025 VIP Gift Lounge Hollywood	FAIR
2024	Two-person exhibition Omotesando, Tokyo	TWO-PERSON
	Exhibition Ristorante AO, Zushi Marina, Kanagawa	GROUP
	Exhibition Yokohama Minato Mirai	GROUP
	Gallery SIACCA Art Fair New York	FAIR
	“STEPPING INTO A WORLD III” Open Call — Second Prize Tenri Cultural Institute, New York	AWARD
	Group exhibition Gallery Kunitachi, Tokyo	GROUP
2023	Shanghai International Art Fair Shanghai	FAIR
	Two-person exhibition Ginza, Tokyo	TWO-PERSON
	Art & Graphic Exhibition Nihonbashi, Tokyo	GROUP
	Solo exhibition Kamakura, Kanagawa	SOLO
	JCAT Group Exhibition “Dance of Colors” JCAT Gallery, New York	GROUP
	Modern Art Exhibition Tokyo	GROUP
	World Art Dubai Dubai	FAIR
2022	“DREAMS” Van Gogh Art Gallery, Madrid	GROUP
	“CROSSING PATHS” MONAT Gallery, Madrid	GROUP

	Monaco Art Fair Monaco	FAIR
	Luxembourg Art Fair Luxembourg (MONAT Gallery)	FAIR
	Euro Art Show Accorsi Arte Gallery, Turin	GROUP
	The 72nd Modern Art Exhibition Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo	GROUP
	The Contemporary Art Exhibition "Visionaly" Biblioteca Angelica Gallery, Rome	GROUP
	Select Art '22 Chania World Crete Art, Chania, Crete	GROUP
2021	DE.MO Life Style Art Exhibition M.A.D.S. Art Gallery, Milan	GROUP

PRESS · AWARDS

Press & Awards

掲載・受賞

2026	makikomi.jp times — interview feature (Mar 2026)
2025	République des Arts (France), Jun 2025
2022	WE CONTEMPORARY 2022 (Italy), Nov 2022
2024	Second Prize, "Stepping into a World III" Open Call — Tenri Cultural Institute, New York

"She collects that glow of wonder hidden in every natural element and turns it into an ethereal and delicate chromatic dance."

— LISA GALLETTI, ART CURATOR (M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, MILAN), 2021

Commissions

ご依頼

Paintings for hotels, ryokan, restaurants and homes; folding screens and garments; live painting with musicians and performers. Each commission begins with a conversation.

Commissioned works

Original paintings made for a specific space or person: interiors, hospitality and commercial spaces, and private homes. Size, ground (canvas, panel, paper, silver leaf) and finish (resin, framing) are decided together.

Screens, garments and objects

Folding screens in collaboration with traditional makers, and painting on apparel and hagoita.

Live painting

Performances with Tsugaru-shamisen and sword-performance troupes, for openings, festivals and events.

Exhibitions and venues

Available for gallery, hotel and temple exhibitions in Japan and abroad.

Currently on view: Masterwal Ginza, Tokyo (Art in Interior Project) · Matcha Gallery, Melbourne · EXO Auto, Osaka

CONTACT

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