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Contact Erin Cluley Gallery
press@erincluley.com

Hidenori Ishii: *Gamma Garden* Opens at Erin Cluley Gallery with a Reception November 18th

[Dallas, Texas – September 28th, 2023] ERIN CLULEY GALLERY is pleased to announce *Gamma Garden* – an exhibition of new work by New York-based artist Hidenori Ishii. The exhibition will be on view November 18th through December 23rd, 2023, at the gallery’s main location, 150 Manufacturing Street, Suite 210. **An opening reception will be held Saturday, November 18th from 4 – 7 PM.** The gallery is open weekly Wednesday through Saturday, 12 – 5 PM and by appointment.

In his newest body of work, Japanese-born, New York-based artist Hidenori Ishii, expands his critical take on art-historical painting folding themes of nature and technology onto each other. Pulling from a wide breadth of historical styles and techniques, Ishii makes use of motifs from Dutch Still Lifes to Pop Art. His tightly layered compositions hold otherwise abstract patterns and shapes together; historical reference and technical prowess come together under Ishii’s technicolor future vision.

Through a meticulous use of historical and contemporary techniques, Hidenori Ishii’s paintings visually recreate and allude to underlying concepts in his work. The artist’s *MIRROR* series (“Я” taken from the Russian alphabet meaning “I” or “me”) features circular paintings in the style of pop artist, Roy Lichtenstein’s famous *Mirrors* series from the 1970s: bold, naturalistic colors, and a heightened sense of depth (created using Ishii’s mixing of screen-printing and painterly techniques) updates Lichtenstein’s original *Trompe-l’œil*. Ishii’s update prompts viewers to reconsider the implications of reflections and illusion in our increasing online culture.

At the center of *Gamma Garden* is a four-panel polyptych, *On the Fence - Still Life Γ(gamma)*, spanning the length of the gallery. Here, Ishii builds up layers of acrylic and resin over motifs of florals and industrial materials; he implicitly references the slow violence of ecological disasters and urban expansion, specifically the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear meltdown which has made headlines in 2023 for the Japanese government’s handling of radioactively contaminated wastewater. Formally, *On the Fence - Still Life Γ(gamma)*, harkens to Claude Monet’s *Water Lilies* series and its panoramic presentation at the Musée de l’Orangerie in 1927.

In *Gamma Garden*, Hidenori Ishii applies his well-developed knowledge of canonical styles, techniques, and materials into an immersive reckoning with the effect of industry on nature and our society’s *digital turn*. Historically, “gamma gardens” were a part of mid-

century efforts to apply nuclear technologies, specifically *Gamma* radiation, to agricultural production: these gardens are especially resonant alongside Ishii's eclectic referencing of history and technology and their ethical paradoxes. The overall effect of Ishii's work is that of a biotechnological dystopia coming into being in front of the viewer, all with a nod to the past.

Gamma Garden will be Hidenori Ishii's fourth solo exhibition with Erin Cluley Gallery.

Ishii's first solo exhibition with the gallery was in 2015.

About the Artist

Hidenori Ishii (b. 1978) was born in Yonezawa, Japan. He lives and works in Long Island City, New York. He received a BFA in Fine Art from George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia and an MFA in Fine Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland. Ishii's work traverses painting, screen-printing, and installation

Hidenori Ishii's work investigates the tenuous relationship between civilization and nature as well as their points of connection. The artist reveals a tenuous axis on which the two worlds serendipitously coexist, merging past and future onto a single plane. His earlier project, *IcePlants*, was a direct response to the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant meltdown and considered how beauty might persist as landscape turns mutant. The possibilities presented in Ishii's work suggest how we might connect political ecology and social consciousness to face our current ecological crisis.

Ishii has mounted solo exhibitions at Townsend, Water Mill, NY; Erin Cluley Gallery, Dallas, TX; and, C. Grimaldis Gallery, Baltimore, MD. Ishii has been included in numerous group exhibitions, domestically and internationally, including at venues such as Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU, Wichita Falls, TX; LES Printshop, New York, NY; Park Place Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; ABC No Rio in Exile; Brooklyn, NY; Erin Cluley Gallery, Dallas, TX; C. Grimaldis Gallery, Baltimore, MD; Ankara Art in Embassies, Ankara, Turkey; and, Contemporary Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD.

Among his awards and distinctions, Ishii is a 2022 recipient of a New Work Grant by the Queens Council on the Arts; previously he was a Keyholder Resident at the Lower East Side Print Shop in New York City, and a recipient of the Henry Walters Travel Fellowship to Iceland.

About Erin Cluley Gallery

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

In April 2021, Cluley opened Cluley Projects – a satellite location in West Dallas acting as an incubator space focusing on regional artists and providing a platform for discovery and mentorship.