




nanda\hobbs

YOSHIO
HONJO

 GORAKU NO JIKAN

13 - 29 APR 2023




Goraku no jikan

(Time to free the human mind from work and engage in pleasure and entertainment)

In the series of paintings, *Goraku no jikan*, Japanese artist Yoshio Honjo explores a day in the lives of geisha in the contemporary world, as they free themselves from work with frivolous activities. Although geisha are known for their occupations as entertainers within the pleasure quarters of the Edo period, Yoshio explores the highly decorated geisha as women who have their own lives, tastes and hobbies away from the ochaya (teahouses). In the paintings, the women are seen utilising contemporary everyday objects or clutching luxury bags, suggesting independence and self-reliance. Here the geisha are attending festivals, eating pizza, drinking wine, taking photos and generally undertaking pleasurable activities of their own agency.

Yoshio has intricately painted the kimono of the geisha with eto, Chinese zodiac animals. Each geisha is adorned with patterns that include one of the twelve zodiac animals including the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and boar. The zodiacs symbolise individual attributes and emphasize a sense of uniqueness between each representation of the geisha, reclaiming them as individual women. The remaining three geisha wear coats from seasonal collections by the likes of Australian fashion designer Akira Isogawa, Chanel and Prada. They appear to march stealthily through the snow and emit resilience and power, as independent women of Japan.

Carine Thévenau
March, 2023





PRADA 2013

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
66.5 x 48cm paper size





AKIRA ISOGAWA 2017

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
67 x 48.5cm paper size





CHANEL 2015

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
66 x 49cm paper size





RYOKŌ-BIYORI (ROOSTER)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
48 x 33cm paper size



RYOKÔ-BIYORI (RABBIT)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
49 x 33.5cm paper size



RYOKŌ-BIYORI (SHEEP)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
49 x 33.5cm paper size



RYOKŌ-BIYORI (DRAGON)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
49 x 33cm paper size



KŌYŌ-BIYORI (HORSE)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
48 x 33cm paper size



KÖYÔ-BIYORI (TIGER)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
43 x 33.5cm paper size



HANAMI-BIYORI (BOAR)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
48 x 33cm paper size



HANAMI-BIYORI (MOUSE)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
48 x 33cm paper size



SYOKUJI-BIYORI (OX)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
49 x 33cm paper size



SYOKUJI-BIYORI (MONKEY)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
49 x 33cm paper size



SYOKUJI-BIYORI (DOG)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
48.5 x 33cm paper size



SYOKUJI-BIYORI (SNAKE)

2023
Handmade Kozo paper, Sumi ink, Suihi-enogu (water dried pigment)
49 x 33.5cm paper size

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YOSHIO HONJO

VIEW CV

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GORAKU NO JIKAN

13 – 29 APRIL, 2023

N\H Project Space

Opening Drinks

Thursday 13 April, 6 – 8pm

Nanda\Hobbs acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional owners of the land upon which our gallery stands, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

12-14 Meagher Street
Chippendale \ Sydney

#nandahobbs
nandahobbs.com
info@nandahobbs.com

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