

The 2nd BUG Art award Grand Prize Winner' s Solo Exhibition

Yasutaka YANO

Fruit Basket

2025.10.29 (WED) — 11.30 (SUN)



Greeting

BUG, operated by Recruit Holdings Co., Ltd., is pleased to present Fruit Basket—a solo exhibition for Yasutaka Yano, winner of the 2nd BUG Art Award Grand Prize—which will open on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. Yano creates self-portraits and works that depict familiar motifs. He won the 2nd BUG Art Award Grand Prize with the work *See-through*, which combined paintings with a list of vocabulary he came across during the creative process. The judges praised the artist's flexibility in adjusting the exhibition format for his work in response to ideas generated on-site, and the ingenuity behind how the work was ultimately exhibited within the BUG space.

Yano has used a range of media—including acrylic paints, crayons, oil pastels, digital software—to create works treating everyday motifs that catch his attention: fruit spotted in town, underpants that have been cut open, or the sea as visible from his place of work. In recent years, he has been working on installations that combine paintings with flashcards and embracing personal themes such as his own body and masculinity.

The words on the flashcards blend examples consciously gathered from everyday life with those encountered by chance. Each has its meaning written out, as interpreted by Yano himself, which helps serve as a guide for appreciating the work.

This exhibition will take advantage of the full venue space to present new works that explore the relationship between painting and words. We cordially invite you to come see this solo exhibition, which Yano has been preparing for the past year since winning the Grand Prize.

* The BUG Art Award is an award for artists who have been active as an artist for less than 10 years. We provide feedback from the judges, hold consultation meetings about exhibitions and installation, provide other support, and we are also involved in the artists' growth during the judging process.



Profile

Yasutaka YANO

Yasutaka YANO was born in Chiba in 2000.

He majored in Painting at Tama Art University, graduating in 2023.

He treats motifs related and unrelated to himself in his paintings, and is also interested in the relationships and structures connecting these ideas to the “words” that represent them, which takes shape in the form of “flashcard” texts.

Past exhibitions include the two-person exhibition Inner Side Wind (Art Center Ongoing, 2024), the solo show GREEN SCREEN (Penguin’s House Green, 2023), the group exhibition Ongoing Fes 2023: Art Fair Ongoing (Art Center Ongoing, 2023), and the solo exhibition Luminous (Tama Art University, 2022). Awards include the 2023 Tama Art University Graduation Exhibition Excellence Award, and the 2nd BUG Art Award Grand Prize (2024).

https://www.instagram.com/yano_yasutaka/

• Talk events

Talk events with the artist and guests will be held during the exhibition period.

*Further details on event times and how to participate will be announced on our website as soon as they become available.

▶November 8 (Sat) 19:00–20:30

Guest: Mika Kobayashi (Writer, Educator)

We are pleased to welcome Mika Kobayashi, who writes and organizes lectures and workshops on photography, art, and gender. Our guest will draw on their multifaceted perspective, touching on the works featured in this exhibition as they discuss the impact that representation in advertisements and public spaces has on us.



▶November 29 (Sat) 19:00–20:30

Guest: Shoko Nishida (Program Director, Kyoto Art Center)

Artist-in-residence (AIR) programs allow artists to spend a given period of time pursuing their creative activities in a specific location. This event will cover everything from basic information to more specific case studies, including how to look for and participate in AIR programs, available varieties, and more.



About the exhibition

The significance of the exhibition title

The exhibition title, Fruit Basket, is taken from a musical chairs-like game that the artist played as a child. In this game, one person is “it,” and they call out some category of their choosing, such as, “People wearing blue socks,” upon which anyone falling in that category must stand up and move chairs. The defining feature of this game is that groups are formed on the spot based on the subjective ideas of whoever is “it.”

Yano identified the following as five elements of the game that resonate with his own creative process:

1. That it is possible to create groups through language.
2. That the way the groups form depends on the words used.
3. That the inner significance of these words is variable.
4. That we take the time to consider whether we fall into any of the created groups.
5. That we do not need to let others know what was decided in this regard.

For example, even if the person who is “it” were to say, “Your socks are blue,” some people might think of their socks as “turquoise,” and judgments about whether this counts as “blue” will vary from person to person. That is to say, even the same words are understood differently by different people, and their meaning gradually shifts into something else. Yano finds parallels between this structure and his own creative approach.

An opportunity to push further

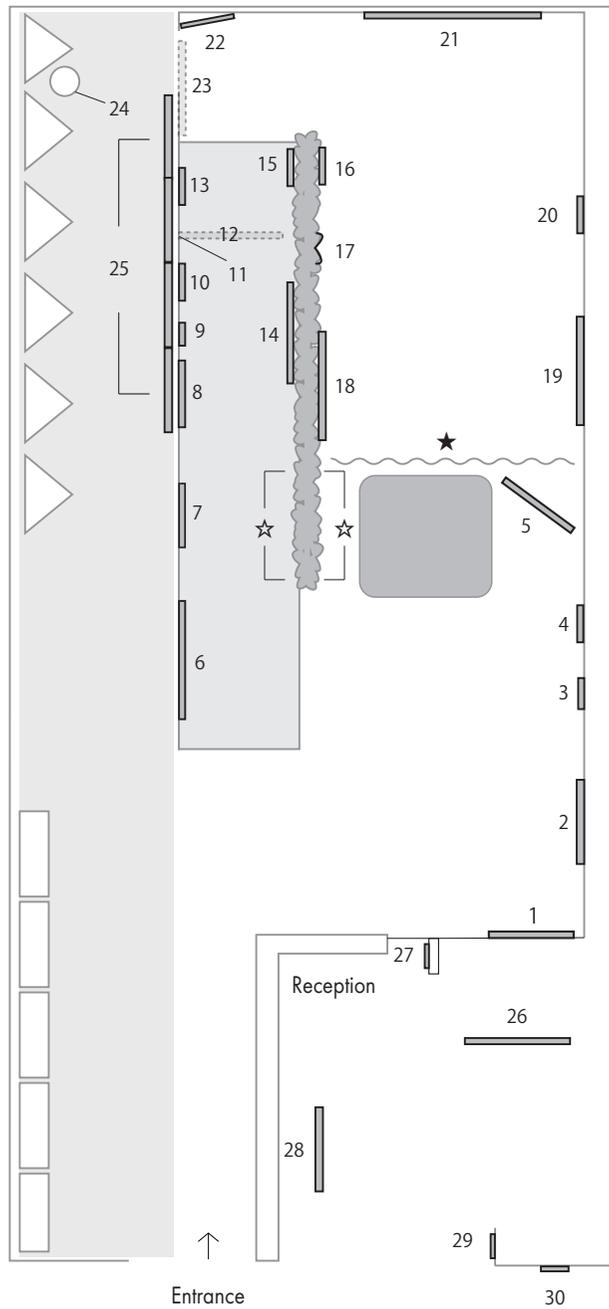
The artist’s works have hitherto come from an introspective position, dealing with themes associated with personal concerns and events close to home. However, more recently, deeper research on themes that have long interested him—his own body, for example, or masculinity—has led Yano to gradually turn his gaze outward, toward society.

Yano intends to incorporate a more social perspective into his works, while deepening his grasp of themes that interest him through preparatory meetings for the exhibition and talk events during the exhibition period itself. This effort to explore the connection between his work and society more widely is a novel endeavor for the artist.

For this exhibition, the door connecting BUG to the cafe, normally closed, will be opened to create a new flow within the space. Works will also be displayed on the walls of the cafe, outside the usual exhibition space. This awareness of “outside” and “inside” is reflected not only in the treatment of the works but also the venue layout, where semi-translucent curtains and ramps will gently divide the space. We hope that you will come and see Yano’s exhibition, and appreciate how the artist continues to grow through the entire BUG Art Award experience.

List of Works

Work List For each work, title/year/medium/size are noted. All works are in the collection of the artist.



★Do not pass through the curtain.



Flashcards

When viewing the artwork, please feel free to take a flashcards and refer to it.
After viewing, please return it to its original place.

1
Orange
2025
90×90cm
oil paint, canvas

3
mug
2025
41×32cm
oil paint, canvas

5
Drawing
2025
115×115cm
oil paint, canvas

7
Goose
2025
91×60.6cm
oil paint, canvas

9
Butt
2025
32×40.5cm
oil paint, canvas

2
Floating
2025
162×130.3cm
oil paint, canvas

4
Basket
2025
53×65.2cm
oil paint, canvas

6
Scale
2025
116.7×116.7cm
oil paint, canvas

8
Ghillie Suit
2025
190×115cm
oil paint,acryl paint,paper

10
Untitled
2025
65×53cm
oil paint, canvas

11
Drawing
2025
10×14.2cm
water based ink, paper

12
Swimming and Flying
2025
194×130.3cm
oil paint, canvas

23
Sink
2025
162×194cm
oil paint, canvas

24
Drawing
2025
10×14.2cm
water based ink, paper

13
Comedy
2025
53×65.2cm
oil paint, canvas

14
Display
2025
130.3×162cm
oil paint, canvas

25
Drawing
2025
Dimensions variable
oil paint,acryl paint,paper

26
Living room
2025
130.3×162cm
oil paint, canvas

15
Kiss
2025
65.2×65.2cm
oil paint, canvas

16
Fire
2025
60.5×50cm
oil paint, canvas

27
Red banana
2025
53×65.2cm
oil paint, canvas

28
Drawing
2025
90×90cm
oil paint, canvas

17
Homosocial
2025
130.3×162cm
oil paint, fake green

18
Bedroom
2025
130.3×162cm
oil paint, canvas

29
Fish bones
2025
45.5×38cm
oil paint, canvas

30
Untitled
2025
65×53cm
oil paint, canvas

19
Scale2
2025
162×162cm
oil paint, canvas

20
Watermelon
2025
53×65.2cm
oil paint, canvas

21
Fruit Basket!!
2025
291×181.8cm
oil paint, canvas

22
Dining table
2025
91×116.5cm
oil paint, canvas

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Organized by BUG

Curated by Yuuki KOBAYASHI (BUG)

Production : Yuka HOTTA (BUG)

PR : Akiko NOSE (BUG)

Design : Mariko OKAZAKI

Translation : Ben Cagan (Art Translators Collective)

Venue shooting,interview,venue video shooting : Masanobu NISHINO

Venue Installation : HIGURE 17-15cas