

YUICHI HIGASHIONNA: *let's get dizzy*

118 E. 64th Street, New York

February 28 – April 18, 2015 | Opening reception: Saturday, February 28, 6 – 8pm

Marianne Boesky Gallery is pleased to present *let's get dizzy*, an exhibition of new work by Tokyo-based artist Yuichi Higashionna. This is Higashionna's second solo show at the gallery, and will be comprised of fluorescent light sculptures, paintings, and installations. The exhibition is on view from February 28 – April 18, 2015, at 118 E. 64th Street, New York.

Higashionna finds influence for his art in the interior design of post-modern Japan. At times girlish, uncanny, and tacky, his work explores a particular aesthetic known as "fanshii" which became popular in Japan in the 1970's during a time of prosperity and deep admiration for Western culture. Much of Higashionna's work to date has satirized fanshii and the tenuous line between luxury and taste. With this new exhibition, Higashionna starts from a position of doubt in fanshii, questioning through materials and an immersive environment whether the nature of our surroundings is actually a form of suppression.

A wall installation of striped black tape provides entry into the exhibition, a vibrating motif referencing Op art that repeats itself on the second floor of the townhouse gallery. Through the stripes, Higashionna divides interior from exterior space, and suggests objects that do the same such as fences, gates, and window lattices. The artist frequently renders familiar items like these into surprising new forms, as shown in his playful assemblage of hand and table mirrors on the second floor, or in his installation wrapped with wood-patterned wallpaper on the third floor. However familiar Higashionna's tools may be, his application of them distorts visual perception. Regarding his own process, Higashionna writes, "my attempt is to catch a glimpse of freedom and to spin the daydream of that, fluctuating the system."

In 2001, Higashionna began a series of "Light Works" in which he transformed simple, circular, fluorescent bulbs into monstrous and beautiful constructions representative of European living-room chandeliers. Here, the artist puts forth several more of these arresting light works — some hanging from the ceiling with exposed electrical wires and others freestanding. Between these lights, an array of spray-painted and patterned canvases, and an oversized spinning piece of candy crafted out of mirror film, an aggregate effect of *let's get dizzy* emerges. Higashionna calls for an altered state of mind, and then an awakening, amidst the paradox of utilitarian simplicity and trance-infused opulence.

Yuichi Higashionna (b. 1951, Tokyo, Japan) has held solo exhibitions at galleries internationally including Yumiko Chiba Associates Viewing Room, Shinjuku (2012); Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong (2010); Venice Projects, Venice (2010); and Galerie Jean-Luc & Takako Richard, Paris (2008). He has also participated in several noteworthy group shows such as *Junkies' Promises: Curated by Ivan Navarro* at Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York (2013); *Glasstress*, a collateral event of the 54th Venice Biennale (2011); and *The New Décor* at Hayward Gallery, London (2010).

For further information about Yuichi Higashionna's work, please contact Adrian Turner at adrian@marianneboeskygallery.com or 212.680.9889. For press inquiries, please contact Elisa Smilovitz at elisa@mcclellandco.com or 551.486.3273.