

# ULTERIOR

## Minoru Yoshida

*Paintings from 1960s*

March 8–April 6, 2019



Minoru Yoshida, *Simple Star (c) 72*, 1964.  
Oil on canvas, 22 7/8 x 22 7/8 inches / 58 x 58 cm

In conjunction with Japan Society's *Radicalism in the Wilderness: Japanese Artists in the Global 1960s*, Ulterior Gallery is pleased to present two solo presentations of works by two artists who are leading figures in the Japanese art world of that era. The exhibition will open on March 8 and will be on view until April 6; an opening reception will be held on Saturday, March 9 from 6 to 8 pm.

Minoru Yoshida (1935–2010) emerged as a brilliant young painter in Kyoto after graduating from Kyoto City University of Fine Arts in the early 1960s. In 1964, introduced by Kazuo Shiraga, he joined the legendary post-war Japanese artists collective Gutai Art Association. A third-generation member of Gutai and the only member from Kyoto, Yoshida was instrumental in Gutai's development in the '60s. During these years, Yoshida began creating abstract paintings which contained forms resembling flowers, microorganisms, and sometimes female genitalia, mostly in a variety of flat blue tones. These abstract works featuring minimal hard-edged shapes and forms were reviewed with great acclaim in Japan.

For Minoru Yoshida's solo exhibition at Sato Gallery in Tokyo in the spring of 1965, Jiro Yoshihara, the leader of Gutai, wrote the following statement:

Minoru Yoshida's paintings are completely his paintings, and they cannot be anything else other than Minoru Yoshida, which is great, and there is nothing to be said. They are oddly strong and I oftentimes feel that I can be easily knocked over by them. However, they also make me feel that I may fall in love completely by some chance. This is the most difficult thing, but Minoru Yoshida will carry it through for sure.

During the 1960s, Yoshida's paintings evolved through several different styles. The two paintings on view at Ulterior, both from 1964, are strong examples from this period. Yoshida's paintings adopt symmetrical abstract images with uniquely built central forms in a white and blue color palette. For some paintings of this era, Yoshida inserted parts made of fiberglass reinforced plastic to create a relief-like raised surface at the

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center of the abstract canvases. These devices foreshadow the three-dimensional works that Yoshida began to make starting around 1967. A notable example of his work during this era, *Bisexual Flower* (1969), was exhibited in 2013 at *Gutai: Splendid Playground* at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Minoru Yoshida was born in 1935 in Osaka and studied painting at Kyoto City University of Fine Arts, Kyoto, Japan. His works are in the collection of Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Hyogo, Japan; Ohara Museum of Art, Okayama, Japan; Takamatsu Municipal Museum, Kagawa, Japan; Niigata Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Niigata, Japan; and National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan. His exhibition history and past awards include: *Performances in New York*, Ulterior Gallery, New York, NY (2018); *Gutai: Splendid Playground*, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (2013); *Possible Futures: Japanese Postwar Art and Technology*, Inter Communication Center, Tokyo, Japan (2005); *Fluorescent Chrysanthemum: Contemporary Japanese Art*, ICA London, UK (1968); *Gendai no Kuukan '68: Hikari to Kankyō [Contemporary Space '68: Lights and Environment]*, Kobe Sogo Department Store, Hyogo (1968); *Nihon Kokusai Bijutsu-ten [Japan International Art Exhibition]*, Ohara Museum Purchase Prize (1967), Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo and Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan ; *Mainichi Gendai Bijutsu-ten [Mainichi Contemporary Art Exhibition]*, Concour Award (1966).

## **About the Gallery:**

Ulterior Gallery is an emerging art gallery on the Lower East Side of New York City. Established by Takako Tanabe, a Japanese gallerist originally from Tokyo, Ulterior is committed to the exhibition of works by an intergenerational array of artists of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

## **Contact / Visit:**

Ulterior Gallery is located at 172 Attorney St. between Houston and Stanton on the Lower East Side. Gallery Hours are Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6 pm, and by appointments.

For further inquiries, please contact Takako Tanabe: [takako@ulteriorgallery.com](mailto:takako@ulteriorgallery.com) or 917-472-7784.