



## Associate Artist - Kiri Horikiri-White 堀切希凜

Through her artistic practice, Kiri Horikiri-White 堀切希凜 delves into the nuanced realms of identity, memory, heritage, and the perpetual journey to find a true sense of belonging. As a woman of dual nationality, her practice unfolds through narratives depicting the experience of being half Japanese and half English, having grown up in England and often travelling to Japan during childhood to visit family and friends. Her work serves as a visual exploration of the intersections between her two worlds, drawing inspiration from traditional Japanese Ukiyo-E 浮世絵 printmaking and the rich patterns of period British textiles and tapestries.

The motifs, patterns, and colour palette in her pieces reflect the fusion of her heritage – juxtaposing the muted greens and earthy tones of British influence with the prismatic crimsons and motifs inspired by Japanese aesthetics. Her gaze at Japanese culture is filtered through a Western lens, while she approaches British culture from the perspective of an outsider. The emotional complexity of existing in an imagined space between these two worlds, where she feels she doesn't truly belong to either, is a central theme in her practice.

Kiri's artistic objective is to bridge these disparate worlds in a way that resonates personally. She achieves this by appropriating traditional Japanese and British iconography, intertwining them with memories and objects collected from her dual-cultural upbringing. Layers are fundamental within her work, mirroring the mismatch of cultures, emotions, and memories that have shaped her life in England and Japan.

Utilising a diverse range of media – including copperplate etching, aquatint, relief print, painting, drawing, and embroidery – she both reveals and conceals her feelings of displacement and belonging, through depicting cultural objects that represent memories from her British and Japanese family with sentimentality and a subtle sense of humour.

One notable project, Ki(nai)mono 着(ない)物, emphasises the theme of adornment. It manifests not only in the intricate patterns adorning the garment through layers of painting, printing, etching, and embroidery but also in the act of adorning the body when the kimono is worn. This concept of adornment holds particular significance for Kiri, as it aligns with her aspirations of becoming a tattoo artist. In this future endeavour, she seeks to adorn the body directly through drawing on the skin, perpetuating the theme of personal and cultural embellishment.

Kiri's artistic journey is an ongoing exploration of self-discovery, cultural entanglements, and the intricate beauty found in the layers that define our identities.

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