New Talent: Six Rising Painters Exploring Landscape & Abstraction

Michele Kishita
Biography

Michele Kishita is a Philadelphia-based painter whose work engages the landscape through an exploration of light, atmosphere, and spatial perception. Influenced by the graphic stylization and compositional structure of Japanese ukiyo-e prints, her paintings translate natural environments into distilled, immersive visual experiences.

Kishita's work is held in private and corporate collections including Toyota, Capital One, and Kaiser Permanente. Her paintings have been featured in Create Magazine, the Poetry Foundation blog, and on the Studio Break and Thyme in the Studio podcasts, as well as in several literary journals. She has participated in artist residencies in New Mexico, Russia, and Iceland, and has exhibited internationally, including at the Sharjah Art Museum in the United Arab Emirates and the Museum of Non-Conformist Art in St. Petersburg, Russia.

She received both her BFA and MFA in painting from the University of the Arts.

Michele Kishita
Artist Statement:

My work considers the tension between the natural and the constructed—spaces where organic rhythms meet deliberate structure. Drawing from the stylized graphics and spatial compression of Japanese ukiyo-e prints, I use hard-edge abstraction and a palette rooted in nature to distill the landscape into essential forms and tonal relationships.

Light functions as both subject and guide—filtered, diffused, and held across layered surfaces, while darker areas operate as structural elements, thresholds and interruptions of light that shape form and slow the act of looking. These environments are not fixed, but shifting and perceptual, reflecting the transient nature of experience. Through this process, I aim to create spaces that feel at once familiar and intangible, inviting a contemplative engagement that is sensory, psychological, and quietly immersive.

Michele Kishita
CV

EDUCATION:

The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
2010 M.F.A. Painting
1997 B.F.A. Fine Arts, Painting and Drawing (with honors)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2025 *Michele Kishita: Mother of Creation*, Fallser Club, Philadelphia, PA
2023 *Michele Kishita: Works on Paper*, Carrie Coleman Fine Art, Norfolk, VA
2022 *Michele Kishita: Sensu Rain*, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA
2021 *Seasonal Wandering*, Crossing Art Gallery, New York, NY
2020 *Absent Futures*, Central Tattoo Studio Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2018 *Confluence*, 2,04 gallery, Art Centre Pushkinskaya-10, St. Petersburg, Russia
Michele Kishita: Recent Works, (Curated by Susanna W. Gold, Ph.D.), NoBA Salonspace, Bala Cynwyd, PA
2017 *Transient Season*, Gallery 543, URBN Corporate, Philadelphia, PA
2016 *Ecstatic Territories*, The 3rd Place Gallery, Wilmington, DE
Chromarrythmia, Central Tattoo Studio Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2015 *Fluid Resonance*, Pennswood Art Gallery, Newtown, PA
2013 *Of Water and Wood*, The Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA

TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS:

2016 *Michele Kishita & Eliza Stamps: Graphic Tales*, The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT
2015 *Essential Impermanence: The Work of Deborah Losada and Michele Kishita*, Windsor Art Center, Windsor, CT
2013 *Making It Alumni Invitational: Michele Kishita and John Souter*, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
2011 *Making Place: Michele Kishita & H. John Thompson*, Woodland Gallery, Penn State University, Abington, PA
Making Place: Michele Kishita & H. John Thompson, President's Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA

CURATORIAL:

2020 *Magnum Opus*, Wanderlife Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2013 *All in the Family: An Exhibition of Collaborations*, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
Undercurrent: A Back Pack Gallery Exhibition, The Porch, Philadelphia, PA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2025 *UArts: No Vessel Can Hold the River*, DaVinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
2023 *Something Big Something Small*, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2022 *Benefit Auction for Project Healthy Minds*, Artsy (Curated by Susanna Gold)
New Year Group Show 2022, Cufflink Art, Fort Worth, TX
2021 *Winter Works 2021*, Cufflink Art, Fort Worth, TX
2021 *Progressions*, Cufflink Art, Fort Worth, TX
2021 *Force of Nature*, Cufflink Art, Fort Worth, TX
2020 *Ensemble: Together Again*, The Painting Center, New York, NY
2019 *Traditional Meets Contemporary*, (Curated by InLiquid) Schwarz Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Summer Rush, Hot Bed & James Oliver Galleries, Philadelphia, PA
SPAR Museum Night, 2,04 gallery, Art Centre Pushkinskaya-10, St. Petersburg, Russia
The Fire Theft, (Curated by Rick Hidalgo), Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE
Collector's Exhibition: NoBA One Year Anniversary, (Curated by Susanna W. Gold, Ph.D.), NoBA, Bala Cynwyd, PA
25th Anniversary Exhibition, The Painting Center, New York, NY
2018 *Intersection*, (Curated by Phyllis Gorsen), RH Gallery, Hockessin, DE
SPAR Museum Night, The Museum of Non-Conformist Art, St. Petersburg, Russia
The Way We See It, Edgewater Gallery, Middlebury, VT
International Variety, Hot Bed Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2017 *ArtPrize 9*, St. Matthews Venue, Grand Rapids, MI
Legions, James Oliver Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Missing Objects: A Tribute to Hassan Sharif, Flying House, Dubai, UAE
From the Pages (Curated by Ekaterina Popova), Paradigm Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2016 *Reinventing Nature* (Curated by Barbara Harberger), Stanek Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2015 *Plan A: Artists as Adjuncts in Academia*, PA Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA
2014 *FLUENT: The Language of Paint*, The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT
The Painting Center is Turning 21 Invitational, Painting Center, New York, NY
Navigation Puzzle (Curated by Bridgette Mayer), Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE
CFEVA @ Sonesta, Sonesta Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2014 *Summer Group Show*, The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT
Dialogue in Color, The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT

2013 *Paper Work*, Trenton City Museum, Trenton, NJ
The Drawing Room Summer Exhibit: Works by Represented Gallery Artists, The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT
Members Exhibition: InLiquid, PPAC, Second State, The Crane Arts Building, Philadelphia, PA
The Drawing Room Gallery at Realm, Realm, Norwalk, CT
Homeland: Contemporary Approaches to Contemplating the Landscape, The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT

2012 *Water, Water Everywhere*, Flinn Gallery, Greenwich, CT
Maps, Pagus Gallery, Norristown PA
RSVP 2012, LG Tripp Gallery, Philadelphia, PA 2011
8th Annual Juried Exhibition, Shore Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Branch, NJ

2011 *The 29th Annual Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Arts Society: Still Melting*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE

ARTIST LECTURES:

2023 Carrie Coleman Fine Art, Norfolk, VA

2021 Cufflink Gallery, Fort Worth, TX
Crossing Art Gallery, New York, NY

2018 2,04 gallery, Art Centre Pushkinskaya-10, St. Petersburg, Russia
NoBA Salonspace, Bala Cynwyd, PA

2017 Philly Stewards – ArtistSpeak, Philadelphia, PA
James Oliver Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2015 Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA (May)
Pennswood Art Gallery, Newtown, PA
Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA (October)
Windsor Art Center, Windsor, PA
The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT

2014 Philadelphia Open Studio Tours Artist Talk CFEVA@Sonesta Philadelphia, PA

2013 Philadelphia Open Studio Tours Artist Talk, Philadelphia, PA
The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT

2011 Pennsylvania State University, *Making Place Artist* Lecture, Abington, PA

ARTIST RESIDENCIES/GRANTS:

2018 SPAR Artist Residency, St. Petersburg, Russia
NES Artist Residency, Skagaströnd, Iceland

2017 OCHO Artist Residency, Questa, New Mexico

Blick Grant

PUBLICATIONS/INTERVIEWS:

2023 *Clubhouse: Forming Simpatico*, "Conversation with Michele Kishita: Art Making & Stereotypes"
Art Partnership Instagram Series, "Artist Interview: Michele Kishita" @theartpartnership

2021 *Blue Earth Review*, Featured Artist, Issue 27, cover and pages 40~48
Bold Creatives Collective, "A Conversation with Michele Kishita"
Sinovision.net "Michele Kishita's Solo Exhibition, Seasonal Wandering, Opens at Crossing Art," April 2

2020 *Thyme in The Studio*, "How to Burn a Painting and Write and Artist Statement in Iceland with Michele Kishita," Episode 54
artblog, "Dreamscapes Burning with Organic Memory, Michele Kishita's 'Absent Futures' at Central Tattoo," by Michael Lieberman, March 11

2020 *Thyme in The Studio*, "How to Burn a Painting and Write and Artist Statement in Iceland with Michele Kishita," Episode 54

2019 *The Fox School of Business Collection at 1810 Liacouras Walk*, Temple University, page 34

2018 *Howard Gittis Students Center Collection*, Temple University, pages 72 & 73
Vermont Art Guide, Issue #7 "The Way We See It"

2017 *Poetry Foundation*, "Light Is a Complex Medium" by Sueyeun Juliette Lee
Suggestions of Landscape: Michele Kishita, film by Tyler Nelson
In Quotes, Volume 4: Michele Kishita, film by Wenlu Bao
Create! Magazine (Juried Bridgette Mayer), Issue III
Up the Staircase Quarterly, Winter Issue, Cover

2016 *The Artist Catalogue*, Volume 5, Issue 3, Fall
Up the Staircase Quarterly, Autumn Issue, Feature Artist
Third Point Press, Issue #5
The Dialogist, Volume III, Issue IV, Featured Artist
Sister, by Steven Karl, Book Cover, Noemi Press

2015 *Studio Break*, Interview (Episode 132), http://studiobreak.com/michele-kishita/
Fresh Paint Magazine, Issue 4, (pages 26 & 27)
Fresh Paint Magazine Studio Visit
Studio Visit Magazine, Open Studios Press, Volume 28, (pages 101 &102)
CT Bites, Homeland Exhibition

2013 *The City Paper*, First Friday Hitlist
Fairfield County Look, Homeland Exhibition,

2011 *Studio Visit Magazine*, Open Studios Press, Volume16, (pages 104 &105)
Beautiful Land, Chana Rothman, 2011 (cover, CD, & poster)
Edge: The Magazine of the University of the Arts, Fall (page 15)
The 29th Annual Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition Catalogue, United Arab Emirates, (pages 202~205 & 218)
Emarat Al Youm, Daily Newspaper, United Arab Emirates, January 10, 2011

FILMOGRAPHY:

His History of Art, Creator & Director, Jayson Musson for the Fabric Workshop and Museum. Role: Gertrude Stein, 2022 (Still making exhibition rounds)

Judas: The Book of Job film series, "Attacked by CBD Activists…" Creator & Director Matthew Larsen (Public Cinema Club), Role: Angry Neighbor Protester, 2019

Judas: The Book of Job film series, "Anti-Pitbull Activists…" Creator & Director Matthew Larsen (Public Cinema Club), Role: Angry Neighbor Protester, 2018

Suggestions of Landscape: Michele Kishita, film by Tyler Nelson, 2017

I*n Quotes, Volume 4: A Talk with Michele Kishita*, film by Wenlu Bao, 2017

WORKSHOPS:

2022 *Personalizing Success: Navigating the Creative Landscape on Your Terms*, GROW Summit, Bold Creatives Collective

2021 *Learn to Write an Artist Statement*, Vision Driven Artists, Philadelphia, PA

Write an Artist Statement Like a Queen, The Art Queens, Philadelphia, PA

2010 *Learn to Write an Artist Statement*, Vision Driven Artists, Philadelphia, PA

2019 *Learn to Write an Artist Statement*, Vision Driven Artists, Philadelphia, PA

2018 *Learn to Write an Artist Statement*, Vision Driven Artists, Philadelphia, PA

PRIVATE/CORPORATE COLLECTIONS:

Toyota

Capital One

Kaiser Permanente

Cira Centre

Cira Centre II

Park Towne Place

Cathedral Place

White & Case

Temple University (Howard Gittis Student Center)

Temple University (Fox Business School)

Temple University, Speakman Hall, Fox School of Business

Drexel University (The Summit)

Texas Tech University

The University of the Arts

Jill Felix Colton

Bryan Hoffman

James Lonsdale

The Schlow's