Shiseido Gallery has been engaging in a range of activities for almost a century, based on the notion of discovering and creating new aesthetics. Shiseido art egg is an open call program designed to give promising new artists access to the Gallery. This year’s shiseido art egg, the fourteenth, will feature solo exhibitions by three artists, selected from among 215 applications nationwide.

This year’s second art egg artist, Akiko Hashimoto, transforms the gallery into a tranquil, lyrical space inviting viewers to some place other than where they are at present. Hashimoto’s finely wrought monochrome pencil drawings featuring roads, birds flying, landscapes and such hint at a journey from “here” to “a space somewhere over there.” The curtain installed in the windowless gallery moreover, may serve as a boundary for moving back and forth between “here” and “over there.”

The generous space and white walls of the gallery feature in the composition of the work as its blank spaces, with the light and shadow cast by the lighting resonating with the walls to endow the whole of the space with an elegant monotone aura.

Experience for yourself this latest venture by an artist who “wants to create landscapes in which present time and distant subtly overlap” based on her contemplation of the role of painting, and the act of looking at pictures.

Akiko Hashimoto

1988: Born in Tokyo

2015: Completed Japanese Painting Course, Graduate School of Art and Design (Master’s Degree Program), Musashino Art University

Currently lives in Tokyo

Main activities

2018: Solo exhibition “Yesterday’s story” at Cité internationale des arts (Paris)

2018: Solo exhibition “It’s soon” at Little Barrel (Tokyo)

I create landscapes to see afar whilst still being here. When the picture is on a wall, here and a distant place unreachable from here subtly touch each other. This suddenly catches the eye, and whenever it does, causes the viewer to move back and forth between the two. As we gaze far into the distance, this is also when we note what is at our own feet and our presence in here.

Akiko Hashimoto

English translation Cooperation (Statement part): Saki Tomita

Drawings

1～6 pencil, arches paper

7, 9 pencil, tracing paper

8～11 pencil, arches paper