

VACANCY

In Hatsune Suzuki's (b. 1995, Kanagawa, Japan) presentation, *Gliding Through the Waters of Breeze*, the artist continues her dedication to harmoniously blend craftsmanship with nature. Her delicately crafted works composed of humble, organic, and handmade materials, evoke a dreamy, psychically charged atmosphere, in which the emotional bond between human and nature becomes once again physical.

Guided by her quiet yet assured sensibility, Suzuki's works move freely within and across the conventions of painting, adopting or discarding techniques as she progresses. For Suzuki, nature serves as an essential reference point for self-confirmation. Similarly, she approaches painting without a fixed image in mind, relying on improvisation and the interplay of her marks. Whether drawing with a soldering iron on handmade paper or scratching into wet cement using the sgraffito technique, her marks directly and permanently transform the surfaces of her works. Each mark serves as a reference for the next, gradually building and confirming each other's existence through their relationships.

Through her rigorous research into materiality, and by connecting her background in both easel and mural painting, Suzuki continually contemplates and strives to get closer to nature, hoping one day to be one with it. As seen in her murals, the figures seem to merge with the ethereal natural landscape, looming large and creating a subtle harmony between people and their environment. The process of burning, kneading, and layering becomes a ritualistic way of creation in her hands, symbolizing the endless cycle of life in nature as well as her attempt to connect with nature. However, this connection is not easily achieved; nature, as she has experienced, can be unyielding and brutal. Thus, for Suzuki, the labor-intensive, repetitive process is essential in her pursuit of self-denial, self-salvation, and self-invention in relation to nature. As both an observer and participant in the wheel of life, Suzuki's multi-layered creations invite viewers to contemplate the subtle balance between human existence and the vast natural world.