

*Leiko Ikemura: Poetics of Form*

This exhibition presents a selection of paintings and sculptures by Japanese-born artist Leiko Ikemura, with a special focus on work that addresses aspects of the natural world such as the female figure, the landscape, and the animal creatures that inhabit it. Ikemura's works describe conditions of loneliness, longing, and existential searching, and are informed by the artist's personal experiences and relationships. Additional influences include historically significant moments that have impacted her life, such as the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan.

Born in Tsu, Japan, Ikemura left her native land at age twenty-one to escape "the strictness of Japanese tradition." Beginning in the late 1970s, she pursued language studies in Spain, and attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Seville. She moved to Switzerland in the 1980s, living in Lucerne and Zürich, where she exhibited her work in group exhibitions. Ikemura's first major solo exhibition was held in Bonn in 1983, launching her career in Germany. She eventually moved to Germany permanently, settling in Cologne in 1984. By 1992, she was offered a teaching post at the Berlin University of Fine Arts, where she taught painting from 1992 to 2015.

Her work is documented in numerous catalogues and books, and is included in internationally prominent public collections, such as the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre George Pompidou, Paris, France; the Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland; the Kunstmuseum Linz, Lentos, Museum of Modern Art Linz, Austria; the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan; and the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Osaka, Japan. While Ikemura's work has been shown in numerous exhibitions throughout Europe and Asia, this is her first solo exhibition in the United States.