



Contact:  
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Yasuyo Maruyama  
*Fragments of Identity*



Where: Ro2 Art Gallery  
2606 Bataan St.  
Dallas, TX 75212

When: April 12, 2025 - May 17, 2025

OPENING RECEPTION: April 12, 2025 from 6-10pm

(Dallas) Ro2 Art is proud to present *Fragments of Identity*, a solo exhibition by Yasuyo Maruyama, a Texas-based Japanese artist renowned for her ethereal portraits that blur the line between realism and stylized interpretation. Through a meticulous process of applying one hundred layers of thin oil washes, Maruyama captures not just the physical likeness of her subjects but the intangible essence of their presence. Each portrait is a reconstruction of memory, an intricate fusion of close-up features, personal interactions, and the energy of the moment, culminating in figures that exist beyond their real-life counterparts.

Drawing inspiration from anime and manga, her works oscillate between the real and the imagined. Contour lines define certain features, while delicate layers of paint create depth; intricately detailed physical attributes contrast with surreal, porcelain-like skin, resulting in figures that are both familiar and otherworldly. Through this method, Maruyama explores identity, perception, and human connection, asking viewers to consider the marks we leave on one another and the emotions that define our shared experiences.



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Maruyama's portraits transcend individual representation, offering a universal reflection on the complexity of human emotion. Engaging with Maruyama's work is like looking into a mirror of collective memory where identity is fluid, impressions linger, and the boundaries between self and others dissolve. Opening April 12, 2025, *Fragments of Identity* will be on view through May 17, at Ro2 Art Gallery, 2606 Bataan St., Dallas, TX, with an opening reception from 6 to 10 PM.

### **About The Artist**

Yasuyo Maruyama held her first solo exhibition, "Moments," in 2009 at GALLERY MoMo Roppongi in Tokyo after graduating from Tokyo Zokei University. In 2010, she participated in the "ASIA TOP GALLERY HOTEL ART FAIR" at the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, marking her first presentation at an international art fair. In 2011, she received the Judge's Award from Tamayo Iemura at the "Shell Art Prize Exhibition" and won the "ZOKEI Prize" for her graduation project at the ZOKEI Exhibition. In 2012, she was honored with an Honorable Mention by Hidetaka Hon at the "Liquitex Art Prize," and in 2013, she was selected for the "Sompo Japan Art Award."

In the summer of 2014, Maruyama was invited as a resident artist at Midwestern State University in Texas, where she held her first solo exhibition in the U.S., titled "Yasuyo Maruyama," at the university gallery. During her time in the U.S., she exhibited her work at various venues, including "KIAF/14" (Hall A&B, COEX / Seoul, South Korea), "SINGAPORE ART FAIR" (Suntec City Tower / Singapore), and the "Avenir Exhibition" (Shunpu-dō Gallery / Nihonbashi, Tokyo).

She relocated to Texas in the summer of 2016. In 2018, Maruyama was recognized at the "VAA 35th Juried Open Exhibition" in Houston and was subsequently selected for the "Fifth Annual ARTSPACE 111 Regional Juried Exhibition" in Fort Worth. She also exhibited at prominent art fairs in the U.S., including "Texas Contemporary" (George R. Brown Convention Center / Houston) and "Superfine DC!" (Union Market / Washington D.C.).

In 2020, she held a solo exhibition titled "Mind's Eye" at Ro2 Art in downtown Dallas. The following year, she was selected for "NEW AMERICAN PAINTINGS WEST #162," further expanding her presence in the U.S. art scene.

In 2023, Maruyama organized a traveling exhibition with Texas-based artists at Redbud Gallery (Houston) and the Wichita Falls Museum of Fine Arts, which had been postponed due to the pandemic. In Japan, she held a two-person exhibition at Gallery NAO (Roppongi) and at a gallery in the Hankyu Department Store in Osaka.

In 2024, she participated in a three-person exhibition at the HOKUBU Memorial Picture Museum in Sapporo, as well as group exhibitions in Tokyo (biscuit gallery / Shibuya, Artglotieux



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GALLERY OF TOKYO / Ginza), Kyoto (Kyoto TSUTAYA BOOKS), and Osaka (Hankyu Department Store Osaka Umeda Main Store).

Most recently, she exhibited in the group show "Forward Facing: A Look at Contemporary Portraiture" at the Tyler Museum of Art in Tyler, Texas.

### **Artist Statement**

This exhibition explores the silent narratives and identities behind the “face” through portraiture. Using oil painting, I aim to capture not just a physical likeness, but the emotions and psychological layers of the subject. The square format I use reflects the idea that we can only see fragments of others’ stories, and I want the viewer to sense deeper meanings through these “fragments.”

These portraits go beyond superficial identity, focusing on the unspoken narratives and emotions the subject carries. Influenced by symbolic depictions in manga and anime, I show how powerful silent expressions can be in conveying stories. Through this approach, the boundary between real individuals and fictional characters blurs, creating an expanded narrative.

“Fragments of Identity” asks how deeply we can truly understand one another by capturing just a piece of someone’s story. Each portrait offers the viewer an opportunity to reconnect with universal human narratives by drawing on their own experiences and emotions.

### **The Ro2 Art Mission**

Ro2 Art is committed to working with artists who push the boundaries of contemporary art, artists whose work has the potential to shape the future of the art world. Rooted in Dallas, we focus on elevating the exceptional talent within our region and beyond, showcasing work that is bold, thought-provoking, and deserving of serious attention from collectors and institutions alike. Since 2010, Ro2 Art has built a reputation for curating exhibitions that engage both the mind and the senses, presenting art that challenges conventional expectations. We proudly represent artists — emerging and established — who are unafraid to take risks and remain steadfast in their vision, offering work that is as enduring as it is impactful. Authenticity and artistic integrity guide everything we do, ensuring that each exhibition resonates on a deeper level. Our dedication to supporting artists in Dallas and beyond is not simply a nod to the local community; it is a recognition of the outstanding work being produced here — work that stands to be part of a global conversation. Ro2 Art is more than a gallery; it is a space where discovery happens,



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where the next great voice in contemporary art may be found, and where every exhibition offers the chance to experience something truly different.

### **About Ro2 Art**

Ro2 Art is a contemporary fine art gallery based in Dallas' vibrant Tin District, just west of Downtown. Representing a diverse roster of emerging, mid-career, and established contemporary artists, Ro2 Art presents innovative and thought-provoking exhibitions across multiple disciplines, ranging from painting and sculpture to interdisciplinary works.

Founded in 2010 by Susan Roth Romans and Jordan Roth, Ro2 Art continues to evolve, committed to pushing the boundaries of contemporary art and fostering dialogue around cultural and social themes. The gallery maintains strong ties with organizations such as The MAC and Cedars Union, and is a proud member of Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas (CADD).

Twice named Dallas Observer's "Best Art Gallery", Ro2 Art was also honored with the Obelisk Award from the North Texas Business Council for the Arts for its contributions to the cultural landscape. As the gallery evolves, it remains dedicated to engaging both local and global audiences through its dynamic programming and commitment to supporting artists who challenge the status quo. More info: [www.ro2art.com](http://www.ro2art.com)



All works will be on view from April 12, 2025 until May 17, 2025. For more information, visit [www.ro2art.com](http://www.ro2art.com), or call Jordan Roth at 214.406.8819

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