

## **Wish You Were Here: *Chiami Sekine***

### **When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?**

Some of the people I know recommended San Francisco when I was looking for an MFA program in the US. It was a coincidence or some kind of fortune. San Francisco is always my special place because the art scene is active, the weather is nice, and I met a lot of talented friends.

### **What prompted you to leave?**

I had shown my artwork at the Studio Gallery and worked as an illustrator. I decided to move to New York since the Studio was closed temporarily at that time and my illustration jobs had also reached a certain point. I thought it was a good time to challenge myself to something new.

### **Where did you end up?**

I moved to New York and then went back to Japan, and again to New York. I think I am still in the middle of journey.

### **Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?**

Yes. My themes and way of painting change depending on the place, however, all of the basics started in the Bay Area. My colors are more muted than before. The light and shadow in the Bay Area are special. It is really strong and hard to see sensitive colors. Instead, bold colors shine dramatically.

### **What are you up to now?**

I did two solo shows in Tokyo last two years. The next group show is in April 2020 at the Flew Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.