

Hideo Anze Solo Exhibition “camera obscura”

- Period September 19th (Friday), 2025 - October 18th (Saturday), 2025
*Temporary Closure Notice: October 9 (Thu) - 11 (Sat)
- Hours Wednesdays through Saturdays, 13:00 - 18:00
(closed on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, and National Holidays)
- Venue KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY
4-7-6 Shirakawa, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0021 JAPAN
*car parking available in front of the gallery

▼ OPENING RECEPTION

September 19th (Friday), 2025 | 17:00-18:00



concept image for the exhibition, *camera obscura*
© Hideo Anze, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY

KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY is pleased to announce the solo exhibition “camera obscura” by Hideo Anze, opening on Friday, September 19th, 2025.

Hideo Anze is a highly regarded artist known for his conceptual works employing photography. His acclaimed series *Stripe (50Hz)*, of which five pieces are held in the collection of the British Museum (United Kingdom), stands as one of his signature bodies of work. This exhibition, his first at our gallery in three years, centres on new works from the *RGB* series, which expresses contemporary photography through his unique interpretation.

The *RGB* series draws inspiration from the fact that William Henry Fox Talbot, inventor of the calotype process, referred to his technique not as “photography” but as “photogenic drawing,” meaning “drawing with light.” These works are created by collecting images of paintings universally recognized as “masterpieces” from the internet, then

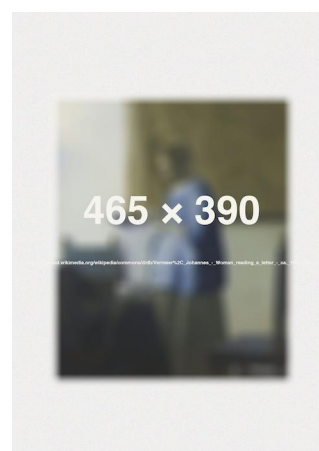
■Please contact below for any image enquiries■

rendering the images' RGB histogram—a graphical display of the brightness levels of the pixels (image data) that make up the digital image—and painting it onto a canvas of the same dimensions. This exhibition centres on new works within the series, primarily featuring motifs from 13 paintings by Johannes Vermeer.

Vermeer, a leading figure of the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century, is renowned for his ability to express the narrative quality of his subjects through delicate light and shadow within tranquil interiors. He is also known for his mastery of light and the precision and meticulousness of his perspective, and some researchers and art historians have suggested he may have used the camera obscura as a visual aid.

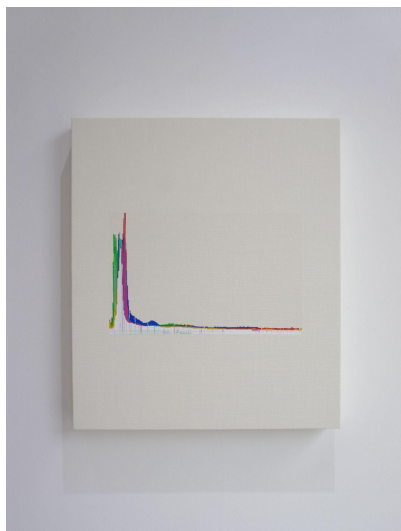
While the camera obscura is thought to have emerged as an optical device around the 15th century, the RGB color system, which developed in the mid-20th century, stands in contrast alongside advances in television and computer display technology. Vermeer's works expanded the horizons of pictorial expression using medieval optical devices, and Anze's *RGB*, which employs the contemporary RGB color system—a visual system of light—transforms digital images from reproducible entities back into unique paintings.

We cordially invite all to this exhibition that invites us to re-examine the relationship between light and vision, technology and art, and fundamentally questions the nature of photography in the contemporary era.

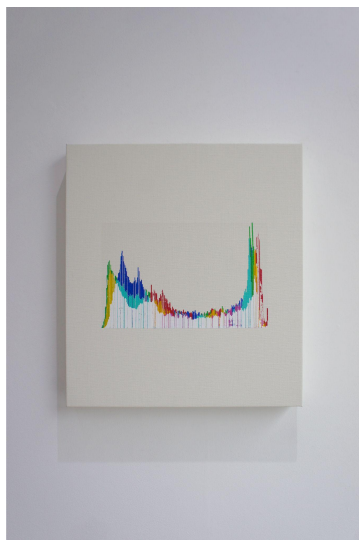


concept images for the exhibition, *camera obscura*
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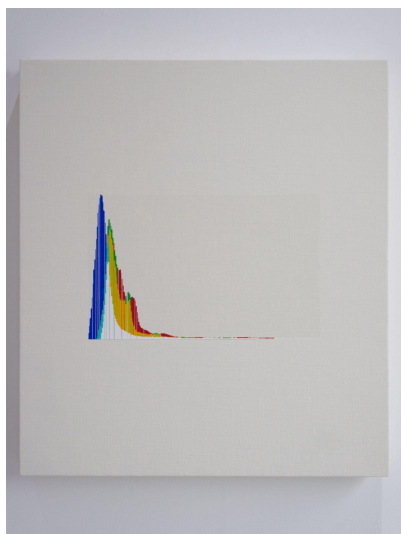
Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675) - The Girl With The Pearl Earring (1665).jpg
from the series **RGB** | 2025 | acrylic on canvas | 465 × 400 × 45 mm
© Hideo Anze, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY
[RGB-V07: 真珠の耳飾り]



Johannes Vermeer - Het melkmeisje - Google Art Project.jpg
from the series **RGB** | 2025 | acrylic on canvas | 455 × 410 × 45 mm
© Hideo Anze, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY
[RGB-V03: 牛乳を注ぐ女]



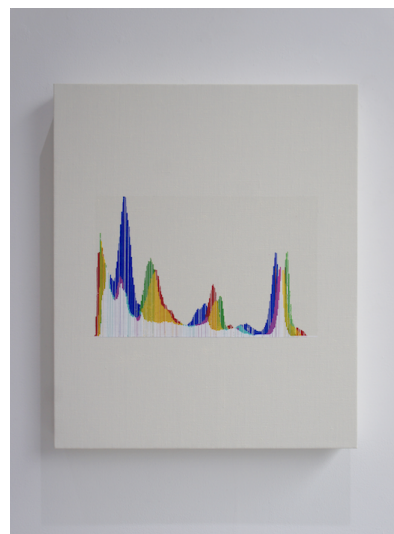
Jan Vermeer van Delft_025.jpg
from the series **RGB** | 2025 | acrylic on canvas | 543 × 440 × 45 mm
© Hideo Anze, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY
[RGB-V05: 小路]



Johannes Vermeer - The Astronomer - 1668.jpg
from the series **RGB** | 2025 | acrylic on canvas | 510 × 450 × 45 mm
© Hideo Anze, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY
[RGB-V12: 天文学者]



Johannes Vermeer - The Geographer - Google Art Project.jpg
from the series **RGB** | 2025 | acrylic on canvas | 516 × 454 × 45 mm
© Hideo Anze, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY
[RGB-V11: 地理学者]



Vermeer, Johannes - Woman reading a letter - ca. 1662-1663.jpg
from the series **RGB** | 2025 | acrylic on canvas | 465 × 390 × 45 mm
© Hideo Anze, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY
[RGB-V09: 窓辺で手紙を読む女]

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Artist Statement

Camera obscura is a device that produces projected images based on the principles of photography.

It is said that the 17th-century painter Vermeer utilized this technique in his paintings.

If Vermeer employed this technology—which could be considered the prototype of the camera—to create paintings using light projected in darkness as his guide, then I wanted to create paintings using the light from the image data of Vermeer’s paintings as my guide, employing the *RGB* method.

Hideo Anze

Artist Profile

Hideo Anze is an artist based in Yokohama and Tokyo. Renowned for conceptual works using photography and contemporary media that he continuously creates daily, his works have been acquired and exhibited in public and private institutions, including the British Museum (London), the Sanders Collection (Haarlem, Netherlands), Kana Kawanishi Gallery (Tokyo), and others.

His major solo exhibitions include “Photogenic Drawing” (2022, KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY, Tokyo), “Synchronicity” (2019, KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY, Tokyo), “Forms of Invisible Existence” (2016, KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY, Tokyo), and “RED 2014 365” (SUNDAY, Tokyo, 2016). Group exhibitions include “One Picture Manifesto” (2022, KANA KAWANISHI PHOTOGRAPHY, Tokyo), “Body Politics: What Defines the Body?” (2018, KANA KAWANISHI PHOTOGRAPHY, Tokyo), “transcripts/memories” (2015, KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY, Tokyo), and others. His concept book “Red 2014 365” was published by Trademark Publishing (Germany) in 2016. In 2025, the book was collected by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea.