

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kaori Someya: The Light Within

September 10–October 17, 2026



Kaori Someya, *Pictures of Seasonal Changes in Dress*, 2026, Gold Leaf, Silver Leaf, Mineral Pigments, Dye, Washi Paper, and Animal Glue, H70 7/8 x W70 7/8 x D3/4 in, H180 x W180 x D2 cm

“In my work, the *urahaku* garments serve as an ‘Inner Light’—a radiance that illuminates both the interior strength of the subject and the space around her.”

NEW YORK, NY – Ippodo Gallery is pleased to present *Kaori Someya: The Light Within*, an exhibition of new works, from **September 10 to October 17, 2026**. The show opens in attendance of the artist visiting from Tokyo on Thursday, September 10 from 5–8PM.

The exhibition features more than a dozen of her latest *urahaku* Nihonga paintings, created in part during her ongoing artist’s residency in Brooklyn. The centerpiece of the Manhattan gallery exhibition is a folding screen inspired by a most celebrated masterwork of Japan’s Rimpa school, Ogata Kōrin’s *Kohaku Bai-zu* (Red and White Plum Blossoms, c. 1714–16). Someya’s contemporary portrait scenes are illuminated using a thousand-year-old technique of diffusing reflective platinum, gold, and silver leaf decoration by backing them with translucent Mino *washi* paper.

Someya’s themes of impermanence, memory, transformation, and the eternal shifting dance of light are expressed as changing seasons and unfixed shadows. Vibrantly patterned kimono tell hidden stories of the characters. Kimono patterns derived from her late mother’s handwork recur as depictions of “life backgrounds” — interior worlds made

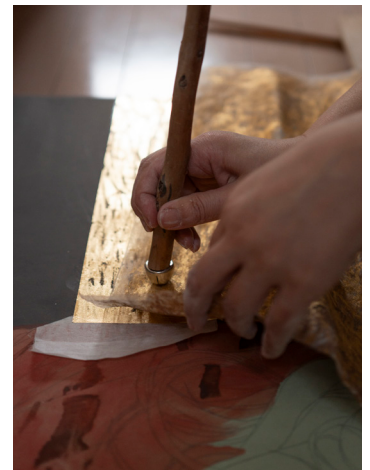


Kaori Someya, *Tagasode: Tailwind*, 2026, Mineral Pigments, Mica, Dye, Washi Paper, and Animal Glue, H28 5/8 x W35 7/8 in, H72.7 x W91 cm

visible. Employing *ijidōzuhō*, the classical Japanese technique of rendering multiple moments within a single continuous scene, she imbues intense emotion—grief and renewal—into sweeping still images.

Her materials are ancient but the concerns are urgently contemporary. Nihonga today is more expansive than ever before: new pigments have emerged, and deviating from traditional motifs need no longer exclude a work from the category altogether. Someya classically prepares the Nihonga paints from rare azurite (*gunjō*) and malachite (*rokushō*) among many others precious and rare minerals, as well as *enji* and indigo dyes, and the shells of insects and oysters combined with *Nikawa* glue to achieve brilliantly layered and vivid colors. To her, the rare element of Nihonga is *chowa no bi*, the beauty in harmonizing disparate mediums, materials, and themes.

Someya's Brooklyn residency—her second extended working stay in New York—broadens the inspiration the artist draws from the city that she describes as a new way of seeing. *Light Within* is the fullest expression of that transformation to date.



Kaori Someya (b. 1977) is a Shimane-born Japanese painter based in Tokyo. She holds an M.A. in Cultural Properties and a B.A. in Japanese Nihonga painting from Tokyo University of the Arts, where she subsequently served as Adjunct Instructor, Research Assistant, and Assistant Professor. Her work has been recognized with multiple awards from the public exhibition *INTEN* at museums across Japan. Her paintings are held in the permanent collections of the Adachi Museum of Art, Imai Art Museum, and Niimi Museum of Art, Japan.

About the Gallery

Ippodo Gallery is a cultural bridge to Japan's living master artists. Founded in Tokyo (1996-), the New York gallery (2008-) presents fine handcrafted and rare works created using traditional materials and methods. Each piece selected embodies Japanese aesthetic sensitivity that is born of a spiritual bond with nature. Ippodo's exhibition program features unique objects—fine ceramics, lacquerware, metal crafts, sculpture, paintings, and works on paper—that celebrate human invention, the natural world, and sublime beauty.

For more information and images, please contact:

Erin Tisdell

erin@ippodogallery.com

mail@ippodogallery.com

+1 (212) 967-4899

35 N Moore St, New York, NY, 10013

ippodo gallery