

## Lines

Description

Artists 4970 Datum-anfang 1644710400 Datum-ende 1650672000

We are pleased to announce a debut solo exhibition with drawings and sculptural works by Rikako Kawauchi, born in 1990 in Tokyo, and cordially invite you to the opening on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 12 PM - 8PM. This is the artistâ first solo show outside of Japan.

Rikako Kawauchiā work has extreme, often disturbing intensity and immediacy, almost as if you could feel her pulse rate in the line of her pencil. Drawing, as Kawauchi writes of her own work method, is like the sound box of her own body, which processes the reactions to other bodies and their physicality. The perception of physicality is, in fact, the focal point of the artistâ work, expressed primarily in regards to culinary fare, to food, the ingestion and processing of foodstuffs, and also to sexual interaction, including that of a violent nature, fuelled by obsessive fantasy.

It is all about a state of existence that is indistinguishable from being totally exposed.

In the watercolors, especially, it is apparent that the works have little to do with seismographic illustrations of introspection. Rather, the artist is much more interested in the act of intense concentration at hand, as she allows the full physicality of the subject or object of her focus to take shape on the blank sheet of paper before her. Kawauchi thus uses an almost intuitive stroke as a line, which, when multiplied, can form a clear outline. The steady stroke can be as devoid of modulation as a piece of bent wire or, when rendered with various degrees of hand pressure, can appear to be almost three-dimensionally vivid. In earlier drawings these two modalities stand in contrast to teach other; in the latest works both of them contrast with the watercolor sections, which thus take on a stupendously realistic aspect: like still raw or reopened wounds they demand, almost particularly, that attention be paid.

Van der Grinten Galerie â⊈ Gertrudenstr. 29 â⊈ 50667 Köln

In this exhibition, conceived by the artist as a single holistic installation, we are showing 50 watercolor-drawings created between 2018 and 2020, including two large works in a floor-to-ceiling format, as well as 4 sculptural pieces from 2021. In their materiality and distressing vulnerability these sculptural works might invite a spontaneous comparison with the anatomical sculptures of Belgian artist Berlinde de Bruyckere. But these consist âthanlyâth of the line which, in its pulsating vivacity, suggests something flowing though a vein, and