

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AYA MIYATAKE Alabaster

May 26 – June 26, 2017



*Naname*, 2015, alabaster, 7 3/4 x 15 x 8 1/2 in



*Momo*, 2017, alabaster, 8 x 8 x 6 in

The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present a selection of alabaster sculpture by **AYA MIYATAKE**, on view May 26 through June 26. A separate press release is available for the concurrent exhibition, **VIJA CELMINS Selected Prints**.

Aya Miyatake grew up in Takamatsu, on the island of Shikoku, Japan. Surrounded by the unique traditional forms in Japanese culture, she pursued a degree in art at Kyoto University of Art and Design in 1998. While there she installed a photographic sculpture at the Kyoto National Museum that would become critical to her thinking. The work, which used photography printed on glass fragments, would spark her ongoing interest in degrees of transparency. Eager to learn English and study abroad, she moved to the East End of Long Island to attend Southampton College. By chance, she took a stone carving course and began to make sculpture in alabaster, marble and sandstone. Miyatake acknowledges that stone carving suits her temperament because she respects reduction as an aesthetic principle. Her East Hampton studio is located in her greenhouse, providing even daylight that illuminates the transparent stone as she chisels, files and finally polishes her balanced organic forms.

The first phase of Miyatake's sculptural process takes place in New York City stone yards where she identifies promising rough blocks of alabaster sourced from around the world. As she chisels larger chunks away to reveal the qualities within each rough block, Miyatake works with and around what the stone dictates to reveal its potential. Rotating the emerging sculpture on her tripod, she draws and carves much of the stone before she senses the form she wants to deliver whole. Irregular shapes inspire her more than symmetrical ones.

In this exhibition, Miyatake presents ten pristine alabaster sculptures carved over the last five years. Each work sits or lies on its base in a posture that is unique and animated. *Maru*, which means “round” in Japanese, is a sumptuous pillow of gleaming soft white alabaster. *Shiro Kin*, translated as “white gold,” is a quiet triangular white shape with cracks she has filled with gold. Other works have more dramatic evidence of geological movement. *Naname*, which means “oblique,” recalls the profile of a bird alighting; its gray fissures possess the soft curve of feathers. *Kujira*, “whale,” lies emergent like an ancient Egyptian vessel at an excavation site. All of her sculptures give a natural and humble shape to the translucency of the alabaster.

Miyatake is a modern sculptor in the meditative, reductive tradition of Brancusi and Noguchi. Her empathic approach to her material brings its unique qualities to life. Timeless and centering, these quiet translucent forms appear to nurture and heal as we gaze upon them, feeling their calm.

[www.drawingroom-gallery.com](http://www.drawingroom-gallery.com)

Gallery Hours: Thursday through Monday 11 - 5

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