

## *Seeing without a Seer*

**Fergus McCaffrey Tokyo**

July 4 – September 16, 2023



Cy Twombly, *Untitled*, 1963

Fergus McCaffrey Tokyo is delighted to announce the opening of *Seeing without a Seer*, a drawing exhibition by eight artists.

For generations artists have sought out alternate means to ‘deskill’ and strip-away their preconceived patterns of activity and engrained instinct in order to cut through precedent and pursue open and fresh vistas into their work. The eminent Japanese philosopher Kitaro Nishida (1870 – 1945) devoted his career to exploring and expanding upon the Christian-infused Western metaphysical tradition by adopting a Buddhist perspective on explorations of consciousness. Nishida often spoke about the phenomenon of *Seeing without a Seer* to touch upon the ‘pure experience’ of nothingness, when rational thought and self-consciousness have been negated so that the creators’ authority submits to a new openness.

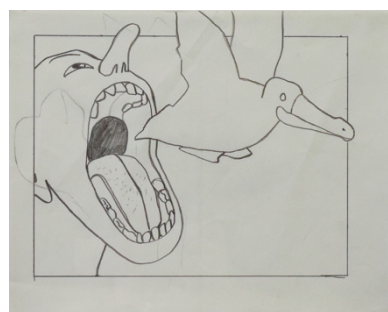
Drawing is often considered to be the most direct and unmediated expression of an artist’s hand and mind, and successive generations of Eastern and Western artists have adopted different mental strategies and physical practices to access unfamiliar creative territory. From Twombly’s left-handed drawings to Nakanishi’s two-meter-long drawing stick; *Seeing without a Seer* reflects upon three generations of artists stripping away at familiarity in the pursuit something new.

Artists included in the exhibition:

Joe Bradley; Cecily Brown; Sam Francis; Marcia Hafif; Natsuyuki Nakanishi; Brice Marden; Cy Twombly; and Jiro Yoshihara

### **About Fergus McCaffrey**

Founded in 2006, Fergus McCaffrey is internationally recognized for its groundbreaking role in promoting the work of postwar Japanese artists such as Sadamasa Motonaga, Natsuyuki Nakanishi, Kazuo Shiraga, and Jiro Takamatsu. The gallery also exhibits the work of emerging and seminal Western artists such as Marcia Hafif, Birgit Jürgenssen, Richard Nonas, Sigmar Polke, and Carol Rama. In keeping with its commitment to Japanese art and culture, Fergus McCaffrey opened its Tokyo gallery in March 2018.



Joe Bradley, *Untitled*, 2023

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