

Online Exhibition 除災招福 Jo Sai Sho Fuku (Ward off Calamities, Invite Good Luck)  
Gods and Yokai in Time of Pandemic



**SOLD OUT**

artist : Akie  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : approx.1.57 x 2.13 x 0.59 inches (4 x 5.4 x 1.5 cm)  
materials : Acrylic gouache on found natural stone  
price : 50,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : It does not stand by itself in this posture.  
The rear side is not painted but hand signed by artist.

From the Artist :

“Trusting my intuition that there must be a stone with the Amabie spirit inside, I visited the riverbank and yes, there it was. This piece is the result of my private dialogue with the stone. Art, I believe, is essential to our heart & mind; here’s my hope that my art brings smiles to your face. Please stay healthy.”

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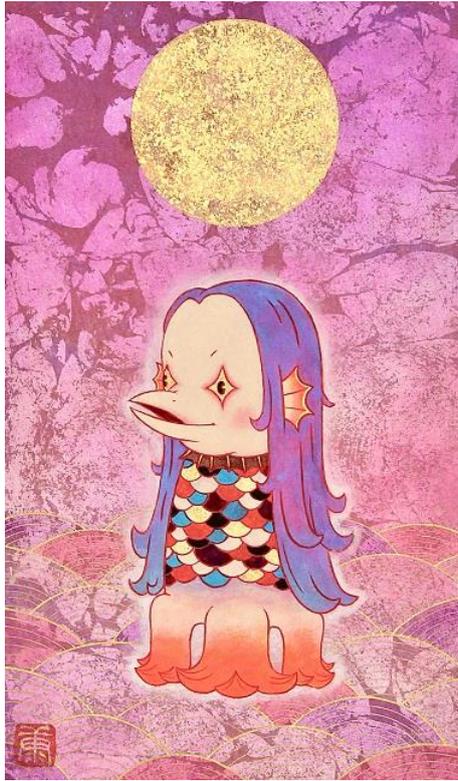
**SOLD OUT**

artist : Asako Tabata  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.7 x 8.7 inches (h27.3 x w22 cm)  
materials : Oil on canvas  
price : 44,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

"A picture of Amabie was believed to protect people from pandemic. It would even be more blissful if it appears with a bowl of remedy. Still, a painting is nothing more than a painting. I don't believe "a picture of Amabie" has any magical power. Still, I believe the origin of painting derives from a desperate hope or belief in God. Please stay safe."

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artist : Koki Tsujimoto  
title : Kiccho Amabie - Momonami, (On Pink Wave)  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.7 x 6.3 x 0.7 inches (h27.3 x w16 x d1.8 cm)  
materials : Mineral pigment, suihi/mud paint, gold leaf, silver leaf on Japanese paper  
mounted on wood panel  
price : 132,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

"Amabie is a yokai believed to be able to prophesize pandemic and its painted image would save people from the disease. Old documents on Amabie don't tell much about how it looked or what color it was. As good luck charms have long been an important theme in my painting, I created a loveable Amabie.

At this time of uncertainty, I feel powerless as an artist. During the lockdown, all I can do is keep painting. I hope my painting gives you peace of mind. I hope no more people die from COVID-19, and this disaster ends soon.

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**SOLD OUT**

artist : Emi Katsuta  
title : Amabie Mommon  
year : 2020  
image size : 8.3 x 5.5 x 4.3 inches (21 x 14 x 11 cm)  
materials : Resin and cloth  
price : 44,000 JPY incl. consumption tax

From the Artist :

"While I am hoping my sculpture wards off the current pandemic and I pray for the calamity to end, I also would like to simply cheer myself up by creating this colorful figure full of energy. I hope it cheers you up too. It gave me peace of mind. It is good for your body and soul to see art and be moved by art in difficult times, although it could be considered non-essential. I tend to believe it is more essential now than at any other time. I hope more people, especially the leaders of my country, acknowledge that."

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**SOLD OUT**

artist : machumaYu  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 10 x 4.9 inches (25.5 x 12.5 cm)  
materials : Acrylic on Japanese paper  
price : 41,800 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed (Frame size: h36.5×w27.7 cm)

From the Artist :

"As Amabie got attention for being a merman who can ward off evil, I believe its image will have a positive effect on those who see it. In this time of uncertainty, I hope art will give people peace of mind, emotional support, and energy to carry into the future. I continue painting with sincerity, with my soul, just like I always have been. Please stay safe and healthy."

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artist : Ruiji Aiba  
title : Bobblehead Hakutaku  
year : 2020  
image size : 2.4 x 2.8 x 4.7 inches (6 x 7 x 12cm)  
materials : Ceramic  
price : 38,500 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Box is sold separately

From the Artist :

I have made many sculptures of Hakutaku (Bai Ze). This sacred beast from China was a popular icon in 18th and 19th century Japan where it was believed to save people from disease. I never thought it would ever come to be useful in our times. I created it in a bobblehead version. It resembles traditional locally made toys in Japan, upon which people make their wishes.

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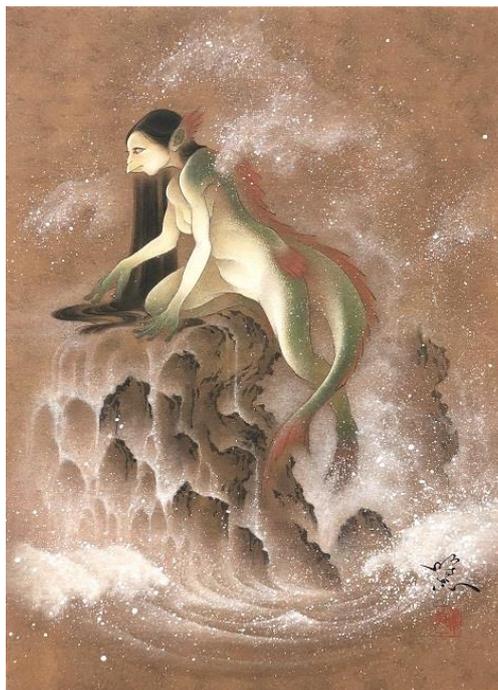


artist : Ami Yamashiro  
title : The Angel Who Heals  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.7 x 9.5 inches (27.3 x 24.2 cm)  
materials : Oil on canvas  
price : 88,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

This is Saint Raphael the Archangel, who is often referred to as “the doctor in heaven.” He is in charge of healing the living on earth, as well as healing Mother Earth itself. I present him in an surgical gown. I hope this pandemic is over soon, and my painting brings peace of mind to medical workers who are fighting on frontline and to those who are staying home to save lives of others.

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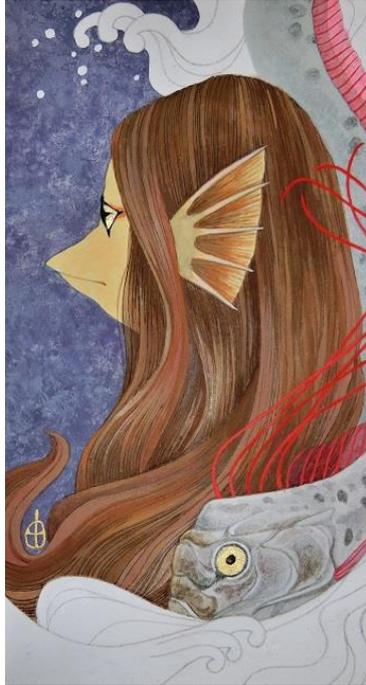
artist : Yoji Kumagai  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 13.1 x 9.5 x 0.7 inches (33.3 x 24.2 x 1.8 cm)  
materials : Mineral pigment, suihi/mud paint on Japanese paper (Kumohadamashi paper) mounted on wood panel  
price : 165,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

"Creating a painting is much like delivering a new life into this world, bringing forth an idea that has never been imagined before. As the story goes, Amabie told people to draw it. I believe one of the ways it guided us to be aware and ready for the unprecedented was to have us recreate its supernatural figure. COVID-19 is still largely a mystery to us, but it exists with us now as a new reality. When we learn how to face it properly and to coexist with it, as we have done with influenza, we will overcome the situation.

Those who enjoy and appreciate any form of Art understand the power of rendering the unseen, as artists themselves do. I hope the art will support you to be strong and carry on until we overcome this situation."

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artist : Yuko Murakoshi  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 8.86 x 4.7 x 0.2 inches (22.5 x 12 x 0.5 cm)  
materials : Mineral pigment, gold leaf on Japanese paper, mounted on wood panel  
price : 90,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

In recent years, we have found many old documents on Amabie, a yokai who appears from the sea and predicts good harvest and pandemics. Amabie's appearance was documented all across Japan, while most supernatural prophets were only local. People were desperate and needed Amabie to guard against a bad crop or pandemic which could destroy an entire village. Things haven't changed much since, even in current times where we have artificial intelligence and all. We are yet again attacked by a mysterious virus. My Amabie is inspired by Yaobikuni, a nun from Japanese folklore who ate the flesh of a mermaid and lived for eight hundred years. My Amabie is accompanied by Ryugunotsukai (Oarfish), also known as "the Messenger from the Sea Dragon's palace." It is unknown how this calamity will change the world and the way we live. All I can do is to keep my spirits high and continue painting.

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artist : Yuko Murakoshi  
title : Strange Animal – An Encounter  
year : 2020  
image size : 8.86 x 4.7 x 0.2 inches (22.5 x 12 x 0.5 cm)  
materials : Mineral pigment, gold leaf, gold paint on Japanese paper mounted on wood panel  
price : 90,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

This is a recreation of a painting of a mysterious animal from the Edo Period, titled A Painting of Strange Animal. It is not known if the original painting was created by a person who actually saw the animal. Still, it was accompanied by texts detailing its size, fur, facial expression, etc. It says the animal was about 30 centimeters in size, heavier than it appears, which gives credibility of its existence. I would gasp in terror if I encountered this animal in the twilight, when night is about to fall. At the time this animal was documented, people were living surrounded by nature and the night was pitch dark. It may not be so strange to meet mysterious animals in such world. We no longer have such dark night, with every corner lit in the middle of the night. Instead, each of us may have dark, enigmatic areas of uncertainty within ourselves. That's what was in my thoughts when I was painting this piece. the world and the way we live. All I can do is to keep my spirits high and continue painting.

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**SOLD OUT**

artist : Akifumi Okumura  
title : Codex of Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 8.9 x 6.2 inches (22.7 x 15.8 cm)  
materials : Oil on canvas  
price : 110,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

Amabie was said to ward off pandemics and bring a good harvest. I felt I must recreate its image to show to people. I've never seen it with my eyes so I tried to make it true to its tradition. For the ambiguous parts, I went back to cultural DNA and RNA inherited from ancient times. I am confident my Amabie is very close to the original.

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**SOLD OUT**

- artist : Eri Iwasaki  
title : Amabie-chan Contains COVID-19  
year : 2020  
image size : 4.4 x 2.4 x 0.2 inches (11.2 x 6.2 x 0.6 cm)  
materials : Mineral pigment, gofun, gold leaf, gold paint, oxidized silver leaf on cedar wood panel  
price : 66,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

Of the many supernatural entities who contain pandemics, I chose Amabie because it has become such an icon in the current battle against COVID-19. I live in Kyoto, a city of festivals and rituals held year-round to ensure spiritual protection, healthy, peaceful everyday lives and contain pandemics. I believe that we place our wishes and feelings of hope and fear of the unknown in Art. Creative expression offers solace to both artist and viewer and encourages them to carry on.

My Amabie looks rather venomous. She is neither cute or comforting. The original amabie was said to be shining so I used gold leaf and gold mud paint. I used cinnabar for red, a paint used in kofun, ancient burial mounds. Red protects one from evil. Here Amabie is stepping on COVID-19.

I hope we all stay strong at this time when the world is upside down and changing rapidly. I send my wishes for everybody to be safe and healthy with this painting.

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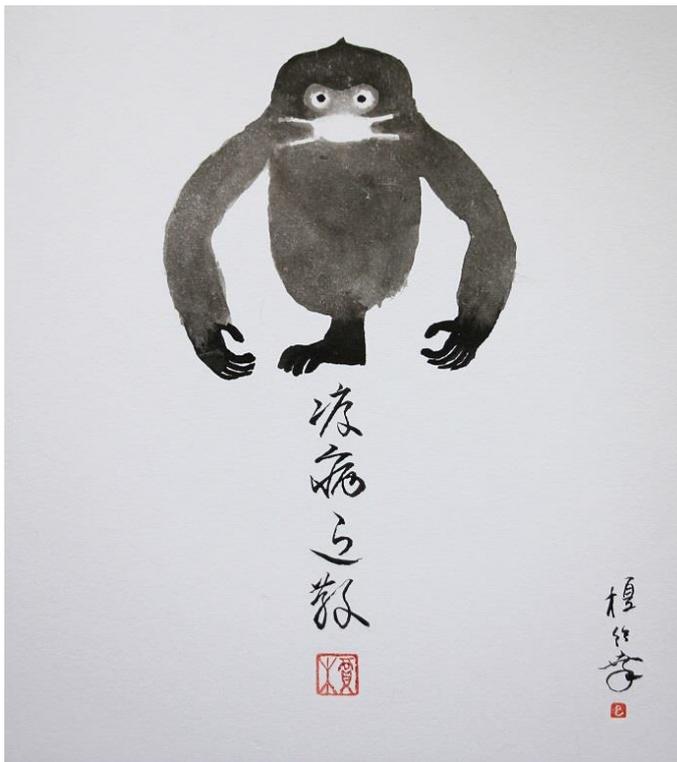


- artist : Enoki Toshiyuki  
title : Ward off Pandemic, Amulet of Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.9 x 9.5 inches (27.2 x 24.2cm)  
materials : Ink on Japanese paper board  
price : 66,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

Amabie resembles a mermaid. My Amabie reminds me of a ranchu goldfish I used to have. I made it into an amulet with my prayer. Please wear a mask as my Amabie does. Wash your hands first, then pray to Amabie.

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artist : Enoki Toshiyuki  
title : Ward off Pandemic, Amulet of Amabiko  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.9 x 9.5 inches (27.2 x 24.2cm)  
materials : Ink on Japanese paper board  
price : 66,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

Amabiko resembles a monkey. It reminds me of Sarutahiko (Prince Of The Monkey Fields), a terrestrial god who was the first to welcome other gods descending to the earth. I made it into an amulet with my prayer. Please wear a mask as my Amabiko does. Wash your hands first, then pray to Amabiko.

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**SOLD OUT**

artist : Yuki Yatsu  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.7 x 7.5 x 0.8 inches (27.3 x 19 x 2 cm)  
materials : Ink, gold leaf, gold mud paint, gofun, natural mineral pigment, dye, suihi  
paint on Japanese paper, mounted on wood panel  
price : 81,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

I paint Amabie as an auspicious beast. While considered to be both a yokai and prophet, Amabie can be an auspicious sign. The painting depicts when it appears in the night shining from a dark ocean.

I work with traditional painting materials such as washi paper, and pigments made of natural minerals including ultramarine and copper rust. They are all hand crafted by artisans. I appreciated culture and craftsmanship succeeded over years while I was painting this piece. We should protect the essentials, and also cherish the art and culture passed onto us.

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- artist : Yuki Yatsu  
title : About Praying  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.7 x 6.3 x 0.8 inches (27.3 x 16 x 2 cm)  
materials : Ink, gold leaf, gold mud paint, gofun, natural mineral pigment, dye, suihi  
paint on Japanese paper, mounted on wood panel  
price : 81,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

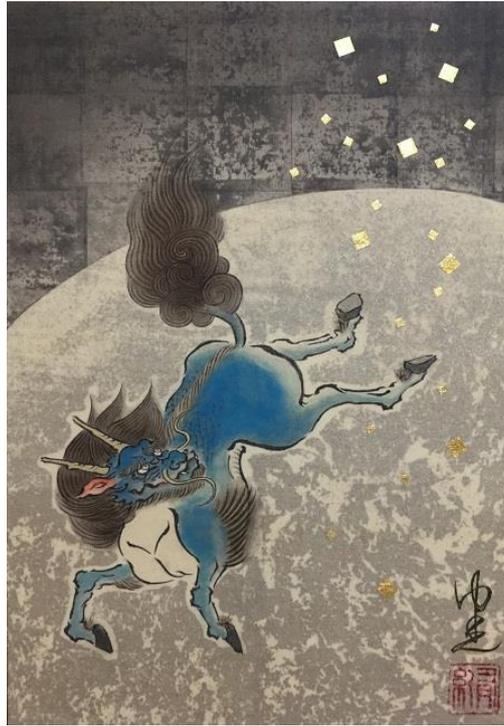
From the Artist :

Now all human beings in the world are praying together. While we face unprecedented difficulties, we are stronger together when we pray together. I believe we will have a peaceful world after we overcome the current situation. Such were my thoughts while I painted a lotus flower that appears from mud and blooms beautifully.

As an artist facing the fear of COVID-19, I intuitively understood the inevitability of art that emerges from praying and the importance of its development over centuries.

In this difficult time, you may find yourself becoming more sympathetic and sensitive to things you didn't understand in the past. In the midst of bearing the current situation, I hope to appreciate day-to-day life.

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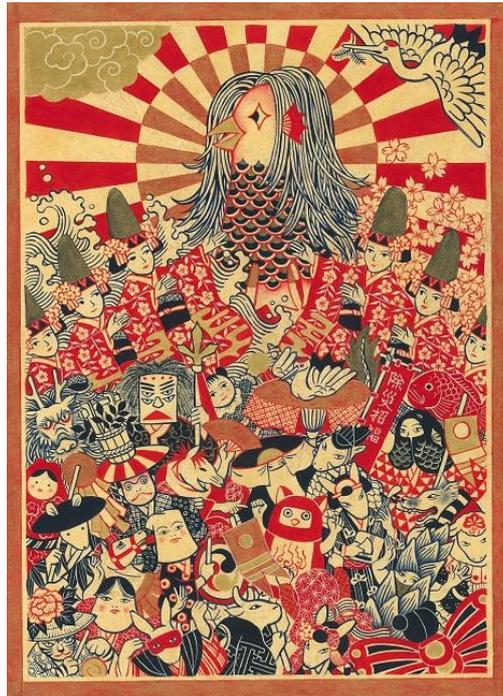
artist : Yuki Yatsu  
title : A Break in Clouds  
year : 2020  
image size : 10.7 x 7.5 x 0.8 inches (27.3 x 19 x 2 cm)  
materials : Ink, gold leaf, gold mud paint, gofun, natural mineral pigment, dye, suihi  
paint on silk, mounted on wood panel  
price : 81,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

In China, the color of celadon porcelain is also used to describe the color of “a break in clouds after rain.” This expression moved me to create an image of overcoming difficulties and carrying on into a bright future. The painting is made by overlapping that image and Kirin, an auspicious animal which brings good news. Kirins are known not to kill. Their horns and hooves are in shapes that don’t hurt other creatures.

I hope the situation gets better and everyone will have peace of mind soon.

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artist : Ayako Nakamura  
title : Amabie Desended  
year : 2020  
image size : 13.1 x 9.5 inches (33.3 x 24.2cm)  
materials : Acrylic on Japanese paper  
price : 94,200 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

Japan's oldest chronicles, Kojiki and Nihonshoki, include stories of Sukunabikonokami, a god who emerged from the ocean bearing medicines to help humans build the country. Amabie is a similar God. In one of the chronicles the Gods and Goddesses throw a party outside of Ama-no-Iwato cave, to lure Amaterasu (Goddess of the sun) outside and bring light back to the land.

Since ancient times people have danced and played for peace. We cannot gather together now so I am throwing a party in my painting inspired by these mythologies. I hope peace and normality return to our lives soon.

I always pray for peace and happiness when I paint. At this difficult time, I am chewing over the saying "every night comes to an end."

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artist : Hiroshi Kanzaki  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 5.5 x 3.3 x 3.7 inches (14 x 8.5 x 9.4cm)  
materials : Camphor, paint, metal leaf  
price : 110,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Box is sold separately

From the Artist :

I made my Amabie mysterious and eerily like a yokai. Stay safe.

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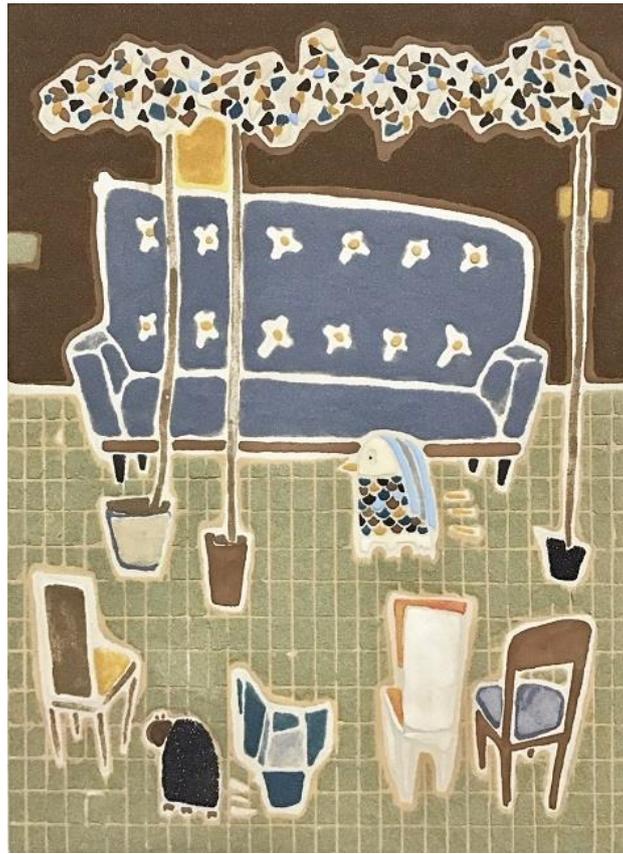


artist : Haruki Yamaba  
title : Glowing Amabie and Spirits  
year : 2020  
image size : 16.4 x 21.2 inches (41.6 x 53.8 cm)  
materials : Japanese ink, ink, mineral pigments, suihi pigments, suihi paint, gofun,  
sunago pigments on paper  
price : 69,300 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

The original Amabie sketch looked adorable to me. It is one of Yaorozu no kami (eight-million gods), so I paint it as a goddess or spirit. I depicted the world full of light. Amabie and spirits are collecting light. I believe everyone is doing the best that they can do now. One of the things I can do is paint. I hope this painting gives you peace of mind.

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artist : Kei Sugiyama  
title : Amabie & Amabiko In a Room  
year : 2020  
image size : 13.1 x 9.5 x 0.75 inches (33.3×24.2×1.9 cm)  
materials : Natural pigment, color pencil, black tea on paper  
price : 88,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

I learned about Amabiko, when I was researching Amabie. Amabiko predicts a good harvest and pandemic as Amabie does. Painting its image will help people withstand disasters. We are all stuck in our own rooms. I imagined Amabie and Amabiko would visit us and deliver news of the end of this pandemic.

I hope we all go back to normality soon. I continue to paint everyday, hoping my works encourage people.

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artist : Kenki Tsujimoto  
title : Spring Goddess  
year : 2020  
image size : 13.1 x 9.5 x 0.75 inches (33.3×24.2×1.9 cm)  
materials : Acrylic, gold leaf on wood panel  
price : 105,600 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

After the cold winter which brought the COVID-19 pandemic, here comes the spring goddess with swallow-shaped earrings bringing us news that spring has come. Her eyes are beaming light into the calm spring. I continue painting, hoping that the pandemic ends and a hopeful spring arrives to every corner of the world.

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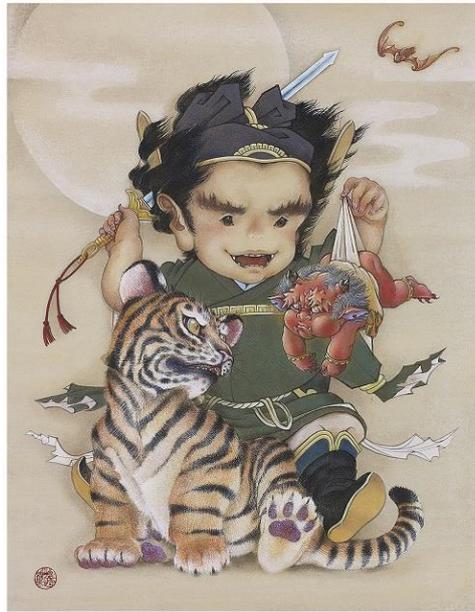
**SOLD OUT**

artist : Ryu Kitazawa  
title : Painting of Sunlight  
year : 2020  
image size : 13.1 x 7.5 x 0.8 inches (33.3 x 19 x 2 cm)  
materials : Gold mud paint, silver mud paint, gold leaf, mineral pigment, ink on Japanese paper mounted on wood panel  
price : 160,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

In the midst of dire calamity, I am hoping my painting gives people peace of mind. Amabie is a yokai to protect people from pandemic. I gave it my own artistic twist. While the world never stops being bitter and tough, it is possible for us to find small happiness and peace near us. It could be a good opportunity now to consider what's most important to us. I hope my painting will help you find a silver lining.

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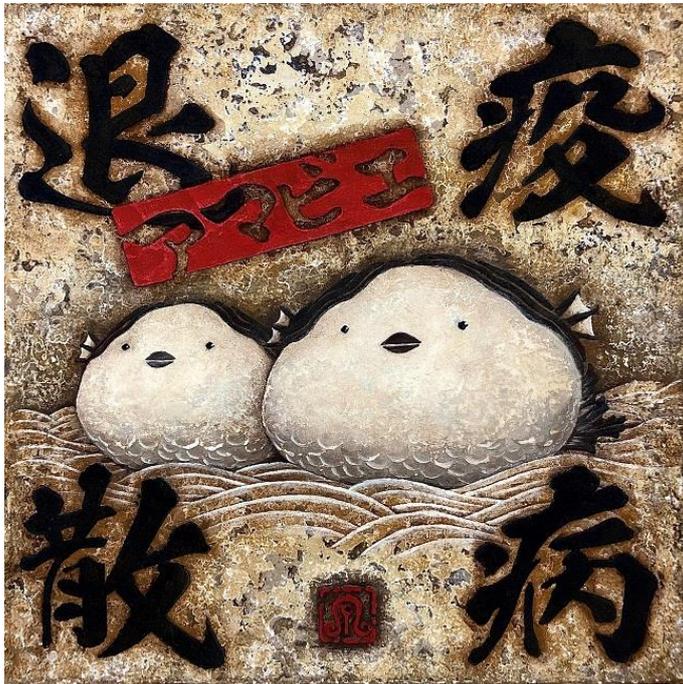
**SOLD OUT**

artist : Ken Shiozaki  
title : Zhong Kui Catching Evils year : 2020  
image size : 16.1 x 12.5 x 0.8 inches (41 x 31.8 x 2 cm)  
materials : Pigments, metal mud paint, gold mud paint on Japanese paper mounted on wood  
price : 388,800 JPY incl. consumption tax note : Framed

From the Artist :

Only science and medicine can battle against an invisible virus. Still, at this uncertain time of the COVID-19 pandemic I am more certain than ever that faith and art, hope, beauty, and happiness are all essential to a healthy heart and mind. While Amabie has its moment on media and social networks, I choose Zhong Kui as subject. Zhong Kui is a ghost appeared on a tale from Tang Dynasty (618-907) in China. He is known for its brave image catching evil ghosts with a sword in his right hand. Copies of this image, believed to ward off evil and present diseases, have been popular in Japan since the ninth century. I painted a young, innocent Zhong Kui catching a goblin. It's up to Zhong Kui now what to do with the goblin. As a virus has no mind to have intentions, it may be unfair to think of it as evil. In this complicated world, our goal should not simply oust the virus but also question how each of us should face such calamities and how we behave when society is shaken at its core. Humanity has a long history of battling against pandemics. We will win this battle at some point. I hope the victory arrives soon and wish safety for all of us.

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artist : Haruomi Izumi  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 8.9 x 8.9 x 1.2 inches (22.7 x 22.7 x 3 cm)  
materials : Natural mineral pigment on linen  
price : 220,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed

From the Artist :

“The original sketch of Amabie is very unique. I tried to keep its original character while making it adorable and softly comforting. It is also an amulet to ward off the pandemic. I hope this Amabie keeps you safe.”

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**SOLD OUT**

artist : Shunsuke Ochi  
title : Amabie For Ornamental Purpose  
year : 2020  
image size : 16.53 x 11.7 inches (42 x 29.7cm)  
materials : Giclee print, edition of 5.  
price : 32,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

“In this picture *Amabie* is packaged and distributed. “Leave it in sea water at regular temperature for fifteen minutes, it will start swimming. Get one for your home to ward off evil and bring good luck.”

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**SOLD OUT**

- artist : machumaYu  
title : Amabiko  
year : 2020  
image size : 5.6 x 3.9 x 0.4 inches (14.4 x 9.8 x 1 cm)  
materials : Acrylic on canvas  
price : 44,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Framed (Frame size: 8.6 x 6.6 x 1.6 inches (21.8 x 16.7 x 4 cm))

From the Artist :

"This is Amabiko, another yokai like Amabie. It appears out of the sea, predicts good harvest and pandemic. My Amabiko appeared on a beach on a starry night with the Crescent Moon. A farming tool is in the upper right corner. As it predicts a good harvest, I put my prayer in this piece in the hope that our everyday life will be peaceful. I am sending this artwork from Kyushu, the area where most stories of Amabiko are found."

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Gods and Yokai in Time of Pandemic



**SOLD OUT**

artist : Taro Tasaki  
title : Amabie the Goddess! 2020  
year : 2020  
image size : 5.5 x 4.9 x 13 inches (14 x 12.5 x 13 cm)  
materials : Ceramic  
price : 38,500 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Box is sold separately

From the Artist :

"To me this *yokai*, *Amabie*, appeared out of nowhere during this pandemic. I learned it has existed in folklore for hundreds of years. I was impressed anew by the depth and uniqueness of Japanese culture. I believe there are many more amazing unknowns to discover in this country. This piece was made for a hashtag, #AmabieChallenge (#アマビエチャレンジ) on Twitter. I began by recreating the original *Amabie* figure and then modified it into my own version. I enjoy seeing how other artists create their versions and I believe this movement will be part of history. "

Online Exhibition 除災招福 Jo Sai Sho Fuku (Ward off Calamities, Invite Good Luck)  
Gods and Yokai in Time of Pandemic



**SOLD OUT**

artist	: Yukiko Hata	title	: Amabie in Okama
year	: 2020	image size	: 10.7 x 8.7 inches (27.3 x 22 cm)
materials	: Oil on canvas		
price	: 55,000 JPY incl. consumption tax	note	: Unframed

From the Artist :

“I believe Amabie is a beautiful goddess. She showed her eccentric appearance to save people and gave them a means to overcome their difficulties. She was a savior.

I moved from Miyagi Prefecture to Yamagata Prefecture last month. Okama is famous for a crater lake and is located right at the border of the two prefectures. Amabie was last seen in the mid-nineteenth century and disappeared. I wondered where she has been for 174 years. This painting is my wish to see her again at this difficult time.

When I experienced the great earthquake in 2011, I despaired that there was nothing art could do in the midst of tragic reality. Still, facing COVID-10 now, we are bringing back Amabie and can share in the story of how our ancestors overcame calamities. I am impressed by this movement. As a painter, I hope my works give people peace of mind. I will keep doing my part as a citizen. In normal circumstances I hope my works are viewed live and in person. Now I find it is possible only by the viewer’s goodwill and effort to come see the paintings. I hope this difficult time will end and I will see you all soon.”

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artist : Shinya Tamai  
title : Amabie  
year : 2020  
image size : 8.9 x 6.2 x 0.7 inches (22.7 x 15.8 x 1.8 cm)  
materials : Ink, mineral pigment, dye on Japanese paper  
price : 137,500 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

“Amabie appears in old folklore as a yokai that can predict pandemics. It was also believed that people will be saved from calamities by looking upon it's recreated image. I hope we all can go back to living normal, peaceful lives soon.”

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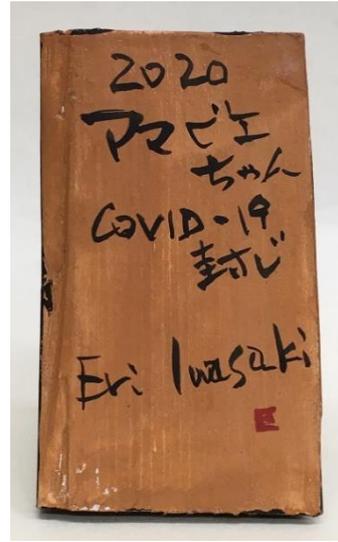


- artist : Sadanori Fukui  
title : Living with Coro  
year : 2020  
image size : 7.2 x 5.3 x 0.9 inches (18.4 x 13.4 x 2.2 cm)  
materials : Hand-made stone pigment, hand-made shell pigment on walnut wood.  
price : 56,700 JPY incl. consumption tax  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

"Amabie offers us peace of mind and strength to overcome the pandemic. I thanked our ancestors for giving us Amabie as I ground the materials to make my pigments and as I painted this piece. I titled it Living with Coro instead of Corona. In Japan, words are believed to possess spirit and miraculous power. I wanted to avoid spelling out the full name of the virus. My modification made it sound like an adorable nickname instead."

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artist : Eri Iwasaki  
title : Amabie-chan Contains COVID-19  
year : 2020  
image size : 3.9 x 2.2 x 0.4 inches (h9.8 x w5.7 x d0.9 cm)  
materials : Mineral pigment, gofun, gold leaf, gold paint, oxidized silver leaf on cedar wood panel  
price : 66,000 JPY incl. consumption tax  
\* This is the special price offered by artist for this exhibition.  
note : Unframed

From the Artist :

Of the many supernatural entities who contain pandemics, I chose Amabie because it has become such an icon in the current battle against COVID-19. I live in Kyoto, a city of festivals and rituals held year-round to ensure spiritual protection, healthy, peaceful everyday lives and contain pandemics. I believe that we place our wishes and feelings of hope and fear of the unknown in Art. Creative expression offers solace to both artist and viewer and encourages them to carry on.

My Amabie looks rather venomous. She is neither cute or comforting. The original amabie was said to be shining so I used gold leaf and gold mud paint. I used cinnabar for red, a paint used in kofun, ancient burial mounds. Red protects one from evil. Here Amabie is stepping on COVID-19.

I hope we all stay strong at this time when the world is upside down and changing rapidly. I send my wishes for everybody to be safe and healthy with this painting.