

**Yayoi Asoma**

Curated by Stephen Westfall

**October 16 – November 29, 2008**

*(Opening reception Thursday, October 16, 6:00 – 8:00pm)*

“This is the house she grew up in, through and around which she wanders, or floats as if in a dream. The paintings draw the viewer’s full body into her dream, close to the literal scale of both the interior and exterior of a house viewed at the site and the concrete scale of the artist’s body making a painting across such an area.”

—Stephen Westfall

2 Pondfield (View from Brietches), 2007  
Acrylic on canvas  
96” x 144”  
Photo by John Abraham



The monumental paintings of New York-based artist, Yayoi Asoma, examine and resolve our memories associated with home. “Home is an experience as much as a specific place” Asoma says, drawing upon her personal memories of the places in which she has lived for her subject matter. Growing up, the artist spent her school years in the American suburbs and summers in Japan, consistently shifting between continents, cultures and homes. Perhaps it is this annual relocation that has made places of refuge so significant to Asoma. In her work, all the spaces are completely void of life, but there are hints of habitation throughout — open windows,

sunken seat cushions and potted plants — placing the focus on the structure itself and the relics of everyday living that are so much a part of them.

Much like the artist David Hockney, Asoma begins each piece by taking photographs of her subjects from numerous vantage points and then piecing them together, akin to what one would do when remembering something, forming an assemblage of the space. It is then taken a step further — translating the objective photographic documentation of the structures into emotive portrayals of three-dimensional space — through the use of painterly, lush brushstrokes, sharp perspectives and cool colors. The effect is that the objects depicted seem numinous, elevated from their past status to that of a greater significance, but just out of the viewer’s reach. They become more personal, despite their rather common and familiar origins. The sheer size of the works — many of them over eight feet wide — envelop the viewer within the canvas, making one feel as if they can almost walk right in. Yet, the disjointed perspectives and fragmented imagery serve as a reminder to the viewer that it is just out of reach. This unattainable, unreachable sensibility underlines the essence of memories — they are just that — impossible to replicate and never truly the same as that past reality which the memory attempts to define.

On view at CUE Art Foundation, Asoma’s first solo exhibition in New York, will be 4-5 examples of her most recent work, including domestic scenes from both the United States and Japan. The viewer is invited to take in these scenes of personal recollection, providing a platform for salvaging one’s own memories of home.



Detail #3 for 2 Pondfield (Interior), 2007  
Acrylic on canvas  
48” x 216”  
Photo by John Abraham

**(More, over)**

For additional information, please contact Ryan White, Programs Assistant, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email [ryan.white@cueartfoundation.org](mailto:ryan.white@cueartfoundation.org)

## ARTIST'S BIO:

Yayoi Asoma is an artist and educator living and working in Brooklyn, NY. She received her BFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI and her MFA in Visual Arts from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Recent solo and group exhibitions of her work include *The Grass is Greener on the Other Side...So What?*, Leo Fortuna Gallery, Hudson, NY; *Artist As Teacher*, The Studio, Armonk, NY; *Passages*, OSLO, Brooklyn, NY; *Drawings*, Agora Gallery, Knoxville, TN; *Summer Exhibition*, Peck Gallery, Providence, RI and her work has been reviewed in the *New York Times*. Asoma is an adjunct professor at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY and teaches at public schools in New York City through Studio in a School. The exhibition at CUE Art Foundation marks Asoma's first solo show in New York.

## About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers and a rotating group of advisors and curators from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

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