



Over the Influence presents

**Hiroya Kurata**

**Rudy**



**Exhibition dates: 21 August to 2 October 2021**

**Hiroya Kurata**, *Rudy*, 2021, oil on canvas, 132.1 x 152.4 cm, 52 x 60 in, Courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence. Photo credit the artist.

Over the Influence is pleased to present *Rudy*, a solo exhibition with Brooklyn-based artist Hiroya Kurata. The exhibition is on view from 21 August to 2 October 2021 in Hong Kong.

This new series of paintings act as a visual diary for Kurata, who depicts these snapshot moments spent with his family and kids in the city during the pandemic year. Referencing photos and memories, this body of work harnesses an almost contemporary nostalgia that is depicted with these very personal subjects.

The distorted perspectives, cartoony characters, and whimsical moments that Kurata renders in a loose and light gestural manner create immediately accessible scenes in their timeless qualities, while also anchored in the present with tokens of NYC life — Greenwood cemetery, Prospect Park, and airplanes constantly billowing overhead.

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Set against the turbulent backdrop of the covid-19 pandemic, BlackLivesMatter, AAPI Hate, Qanon, and the chaotic political environment, Kurata turns his practice inward to. Each composition captures the movements of coming or going, the safety and comfort of a bedtime story, feelings of play, and memories of distant relatives and friends.

The exhibition title, *Rudy*, references the song "A Message to you Rudy" by the ska band The Specials. The Rudy of the song is not a person, but refers to the slang term "rude boy" (rude boy—rudie—rudy) that originated in Jamaica to define a sub-culture. The lively walking bass line, off beat drum and horn rhythm is punctuated with a melodic message:

A Message To You Rudy  
Stop your messing around  
Better think of your future

The works in *Rudy*, like the song, are symbols of hope and maintain strength through the nuances of life. If they weren't put on canvas, they would change in an instant.

### **Artist Bio**

Hiroya Kurata was born in Japan in 1980. He received his BFA from Parsons School of Design and currently living in New York City. His paintings combine representations of found imagery with those of personal remembrances, creating scenes that feel at once familiar and strangely disconcerting. Referencing the visual language of manga and landscape paintings, Kurata explores the conception and emotion of nostalgia.

### **Location**

1/F, 159 Hollywood Road  
Central Hong Kong

### **Press Contact**

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