

Midway Contemporary Art

Reina Sugihara

unlike like

March 7 – May 2, 2026

Midway Contemporary Art is pleased to announce *unlike like*, the U.S. solo debut of Reina Sugihara opening Saturday, March 7, 2026.

unlike like

They name themselves apart.

From a distance,
the pattern repeats.

A shared stem.
A claimed bloom.

Recognition
is at a distance.

Sugihara's paintings emerge from a slow, ritualistic process of tracing, layering, and effacement often enacted over months or years. Each body of work begins with the intuitive selection of a found object or source—anatomical drawings of human bones, a model of the pancreas, the respiratory systems of birds—whose essential mystery becomes a site of sustained investigation. Through repeated gestures of accumulation and subtraction, the original image gradually disappears, leaving behind luminous deposits of gesso and oil whose organic contours suggest a reality all their own.

For this exhibition, Sugihara turns her attention outward for the first time, taking the Rose Gardens at Minneapolis' Lake Harriet as her point of departure. While the gardens mark a new kind of source for the artist—living, seasonal, rooted in a specific landscape—her approach remains characteristically immersive. The eleven paintings transform the sensory experience of the gardens through the same painstaking material process that has defined her practice, resulting in works that carry the memory of place without illustrating it.

Sugihara (b. 1988, Tokyo) received her BA from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2013 and an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, London, in 2018. She is represented by Misako & Rosen, Tokyo, and Arcadia Missa, London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Room for Spring* at Croy Nielsen, Vienna

(2025); *Respirare* at Empty Gallery, Hong Kong (2024); *Island that does not know the sea* at Arcadia Missa, London (2024); and *Frame* at Misako & Rosen, Tokyo (2022). Her work has been the subject of reviews in Artforum, Art Asia Pacific, and Flash Art, and she was named one of Art Basel's ten young painters to watch in 2025. Sugihara is also a participant in the 59th Carnegie International, opening May 2026 at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh — the longest-running recurring exhibition of international contemporary art in North America. She is a member of the artist collective im labor, through which she co-ran the exhibition space 2x2x2 together with artist Toru Otani in Tokyo.

Support for Midway's programming comes from the Boss Foundation, Harlan Boss Foundation, Ruth Foundation for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and many generous individuals. This exhibition is also made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts



**1509 NE Marshall Street
Minneapolis
Minnesota 55413**

**T 612 605 4504
E info@midwayart.org
www.midwayart.org**