

Kyoko Watanabe (born 1975) is a Japanese artist currently based in Göttingen, Germany. Her paintings focus on the depth of the human and non-human mind, emotion and spirit. They are often characterised by her fearless brush strokes in seek of freedom, or unique selection of colours that portray the light and darkness within herself.

In Japan, Watanabe's work has been featured four times in Ueki Paper Shop Gallery, a prominent art gallery in Shimonoseki. She also has joined in a live painting event and group exhibitions held by the young local artists in this city.

Watanabe majored in Asian Philosophy at Waseda University in Tokyo. She genuinely started devoting herself to painting after attending the Short Course Program at Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design (London) in 2012. There she received the first instruction from Ewa Gargulinska, Polish painter who is known for her Romantic Expressionist work. In August 2018 Watanabe attended one week Artist-in-Residence program in Poland and received the second instruction from Gargulinska. She also received training of pottery from Koji Wada, the late ceramic artist in Shimonoseki.

In 2014, she was awarded the Prize of the Chairman of Shimonoseki City Council, and in 2015 the Prize of the Superintendent of Shimonoseki City Board of Education, at Shimonoseki Art Festival. In 2017, she received the second prize at the 13th Shimonoseki Art Association Exhibition.

In November 2017 Watanabe moved from Shimonoseki to Göttingen after her marriage.

Her first solo exhibition in Germany was held successfully at Galerie am Thie, Bovenden, in August and September 2019. In May to July 2020, her second solo exhibition at the Bio Café Ringelnatz, Witzenhausen, was also favourably received by a wide range of viewers.

<https://kyokowatanabe.com/>