

WRIGHTWOOD
659

ISHIDA
Self-Portrait of Other

MUSEO NACIONAL
CENTRO DE ARTE
REINA SOFIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TETSUYA ISHIDA: SELF-PORTRAIT OF OTHER

First U.S. Retrospective of Contemporary Japanese Artist
Opens on October 3 at Chicago's Wrightwood 659

Media Preview: Thursday, October 3, 9:00 AM CST

WHAT	<i>Tetsuya Ishida: Self-Portrait of Other</i>
WHERE	Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614
WHEN	October 3–December 14, 2019

(CHICAGO, IL – September 19, 2019) Wrightwood 659, Chicago's newest exhibition space, presents *Tetsuya Ishida: Self-Portrait of Other*, the first U.S. retrospective of the Japanese artist Tetsuya Ishida (1973–2005). On view **October 3–December 14, 2019**, the exhibition brings together some 70 paintings and works on paper to provide a comprehensive overview of Ishida's robust body of work, which expresses the anxiety and alienation that permeated Japan's consumer society during and after the recession of the 1990s. The exhibition spans Ishida's career from 1996, the year the artist graduated from Musashino Art University, Tokyo, through 2004, shortly before his untimely death.

This presentation of *Tetsuya Ishida: Self-Portrait of Other* is organized by the Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, where it was first shown, in collaboration with Halsted A&A Foundation at Wrightwood 659. The exhibition was curated by Teresa Velázquez, Head of Exhibitions, Museo Reina Sofia.

ISHIDA

Tetsuya Ishida came of age as a painter during Japan's "lost decade"—a time of nationwide economic recession that lasted through the 1990s—capturing the feelings of hopelessness, claustrophobia, and emotional isolation that burdened him. From his early career until his death, he created vivid allegories of the challenges to daily life through images that were charged with a dark absurdity. The figures depicted in Ishida's paintings, drawings, and notebooks—with their remote stares—are hybrid, anthropomorphic beings whose fantastical, and sometimes harrowing, travails make tangible the alienation and anxiety of the decade. *Tetsuya Ishida: Self-Portrait of Other* includes such exemplary works as *Tsukawarenak*





Biru no Buchō no Isu (Derelict Building Department Head's Chair), Shachō no Kasa no Shita (Under the Company President's Umbrella), and Nenryō Hokyū no yō-na Shokuji (Refuel Meal), all of them lucid, uneasy reflections on the mechanization that was transforming production lines during the 1990s.

ABOUT WRIGHTWOOD 659

Wrightwood 659 is a private, non-collecting institution devoted to socially engaged art and architecture.

Located at 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, Wrightwood 659 opened

in late 2018 and presents three public exhibitions annually.

Wrightwood 659 was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando, who transformed a 1920s building with his signature concrete forms and poetic treatment of natural light. Future exhibitions at Wrightwood 659 include *The Allure of Matter: Material Art from China*, a major exhibition of contemporary experimental art in China, to be presented in February 2020 in partnership with the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago.

EXHIBITION TICKETING

All visits to Wrightwood 659 require a reservation. Tickets for *Tetsuya Ishida: Self-Portrait of Other* and guided tours of the exhibition are available online only, at <https://tickets.wrightwood659.org/events>. During the exhibition, free general-admission tickets will be released each Monday for the current week. Unless otherwise noted, Wrightwood 659 will be open to the public during *Tetsuya Ishida: Self-Portrait of Other* on Thursdays 12:00pm – 8:00pm, Fridays 12:00pm – 8:00pm, and Saturdays 10:00am – 7:00pm through December 14, 2019.

For additional information: <https://wrightwood659.org>

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