



Installation voyager The Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya Japan, 2002

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **HIROSHI SUGITO** ***New Paintings***

**March 28 – May 3, 2003**

**Opening reception, Friday March 28, 6 – 8pm**

**Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6pm**

**Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery** is pleased to present a new series of paintings by Japanese artist **Hiroshi Sugito**. The exhibition will run from **March 28** through **May 3, 2003**.

Trained in the Japanese tradition of Nihonga, a formal and spatial painting style developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Sugito's paintings are marked by their precision and delicate beauty. Working with pigment and acrylic paint, Sugito addresses the age-old challenge of "rendering transparencies with an opaque medium." Filled with light and space, Sugito's canvases juxtapose the sensitivity of his line and the subtlety of color with a representational sense of apprehension.

Drawing on the fantasy's and illusions of childhood, Sugito's paintings lure the viewer into a world where size, scale and conventional perspectives are subtly overturned. In his Village Voice review (December 1998) Jerry Saltz points out how the artist's imagery functions as a constructive element of his pictorial plane. "Everything turns into something else. This trapezoid is a stage; those little smudges with white lines are tugboats pulling a house... The outbreaks and episodes of line and color become tiny, toy-like battleships, rockets and war machines." Thus, Sugito's pictorial language fluctuates between figurative representation and formal play. According to Midori Matsui, in her catalogue essay for the exhibition *Paintings at the Edge of the World*, it is these fluctuations that create the "anxious but strangely beautiful state of in-betweenness in Sugito's paintings".

Sugito's work was most recently presented at Art Basel, Miami Beach in December 2003 and was also exhibited in 2002 in a solo show at the Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art in Nagoya Japan.

For more information, please contact the gallery at:  
212-243-3335 or email: [gallery@nicoleklagsbrun.com](mailto:gallery@nicoleklagsbrun.com)