

JDJ

Minako Iwamura
Archetypes

March 31 - April 25, 2026

Opening reception: Friday, April 3, 6-8pm

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370 Broadway, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10013

JDJ is thrilled to present our debut solo exhibition with Minako Iwamura (b. 1967, Sydney, Australia).

Minako Iwamura works with a restrained vocabulary of form and color to create paintings that feel at once architectural, bodily, and atmospheric. Each composition is organized around vertically oriented, symmetrical shapes that taper, swell, and interlock, producing a sense of suspended balance. The mirrored contours lend the works a totemic presence—like archetypal figures or vessels that hold an internal logic. Smaller-scale paintings feel intimate and condensed, their forms tightly framed and rhythmically stacked, while larger works open into more expansive spatial fields.

Soft gradients shift luminously from cool blues and grays to warm oranges, pinks, and ochres, evoking light passing through layered surfaces. In some works, darker hues gather and deepen, heightening a quiet tension beneath the calm exterior. Iwamura's controlled application of oil results in a velvety matte finish, while fine white charcoal lines subtly articulate edges and intersections. Geometry functions as both structure and symbol: a reliable, universal language—echoing patterns found in nature, symmetry, and fractals—set against the instinctual, bodily act of painting. This interplay of order and intuition creates a charged duality within each composition.

Drawing loosely on archetypal forms and the idea of the collective unconscious, Iwamura conceives of these works as abstract portraits of energy or states of being. Untethered from concrete reference, they operate as reflective surfaces for the viewer—inviting slowness, contemplation, and projection. Influences ranging from the perceptual light environments of James Turrell to the spiritual abstraction of Agnes Pelton resonate in her approach, yet the paintings remain distinctly her own: quiet, luminous vessels that function both as containers and conduits—for light, for presence, and for interior reflection.