

Seiko Tachibana at Ruth Bachofner Gallery

Northern California-based Japanese artist, Seiko Tachibana's modest acrylic and ink-on-paper panels in the show entitled *Link* continue to highlight the mainstay theme of a connected universe. Other semi-abstract works, including *Connection*, suggest the Milky Way or Blossom and through them the relationship between the earth and the cosmos.

All her works in this show—multiple small panels, diptychs and triptychs—were made in 2016. They are in subdued elemental tones such as pale blue, grey, and umber, emphasizing nature's palette.

In the horizontal *Link Scene - 1* (2016), Tachibana uses stained marbling backdrops to suggest topography and clouds or a curved aquatic horizon. On the other hand, the clouds of *Connection - Blossom J-1* (2016) speak to the immensity of the sky.

Tachibana's semi-abstract works are serene

visions of landscapes in which humanity and nature are brought together. As a print-maker, Tachibana's geometric and botanical images of molecular chains, stars, and foliage with delicate lines and forms are more painterly than print. Between her precise line and fluid organic images, Tachibana uses bleeds, blotting, and fine draftsmanship. Her meticulously drawn patterned panels suggest the 'big-bang' beginning of our world. Her more meditative compositions are the stable aftermath of creation.

Tachibana's sensitivity to Eastern philosophy and her preferred medium of paper find common cause in the works of the Korean artist Kim Minjung. But overall, Tachibana's contemplative images and exacting methodology suggest a more conventional Asian aesthetic and spirituality. Rhythm against spontaneity, presence versus insignificance, minutiae and vastness all contribute to her *yin/yang* symmetry.

Steven Pettifor



Seiko Tachibana, *Connection - Blossom J-1*, 2016, acrylic and ink on paper on panel, 18 x 54 inches.