

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RYO KATO | NEUER GLAUBE | 24 April – 30 May 2026 | Galerie Sara Lily Perez, Berlin**

**BERLIN** - In Ryo Kato's paintings, roses bloom through wreckage, light cuts across broken forms, and bodies seem to emerge only to dissolve again. His images do not offer stability. They hold together tenderness and violence, devotion and collapse, urgency and renewal. With *Neuer Glaube*, Galerie Sara Lily Perez presents a solo exhibition of new works by the Berlin-based Japanese painter, on view from 24 April through 30 May 2026.

Kato's paintings are built out of collision. Animal forms, bodily fragments, geometric intrusions, smoke, flowers, and radiant shafts of color are forced into unstable relations. Nothing in these works remains purely symbolic or purely descriptive. A rose is never only a rose; light is never simply transcendence; ruin is never just backdrop. Each element is pulled into a volatile pictorial field in which beauty appears under pressure, and meaning remains open, provisional, and intensely alive.

The exhibition's title, *Neuer Glaube* "New Faith" points to a form of belief that has survived fracture. Kato's work does not imagine faith as refuge from the world, but as something tested within it: amid ecological destruction, political exhaustion, spiritual disorientation, and the increasing sense that inherited structures no longer hold. His paintings ask whether conviction, tenderness, or even hope can still appear after collapse, and what form they might take if they do.

This tension is inseparable from Kato's painterly language. Working in oil and acrylic, and at times incorporating collage elements into the surface, he creates compositions that feel at once instinctive and exacting. Saturated reds, electric blues, acidic greens, and passages of violet do not function as ornament, but as structural forces. Color in Kato's work carries pressure. It binds and ruptures, seduces and alarms, pushes forms forward and lets them disappear. The result is a body of work that feels less composed than wrestled into being.

Kato has often described environmental destruction as one of the central urgencies behind his practice, and this remains palpable here. Yet *Neuer Glaube* is not reducible to ecological painting. These works move beyond statement into a more complex register, where environmental anxiety, spiritual hunger, and contemporary instability converge. They are not illustrations of crisis, but attempts to paint through it.

Born in 1978 in Niimi, Okayama, Ryo Kato has lived and worked in Berlin since 1998. He studied at the Berlin University of the Arts under Wolfgang Petrick and later Daniel Richter, completing his studies in 2006. Across the past two decades, he has developed a distinct visual language shaped by the tension between figuration and abstraction, and by a sustained engagement with the relationship between humanity and nature. He has received the I-Shi Prize and later Darmstädter Sezession recognition, and his work is held in museum collections in Japan and Germany.

An opening reception will take place on **24 April 2026** at Galerie Sara Lily Perez.

## About the Artist

Ryo Kato is a Japanese painter born in 1978 in Niimi, Okayama Prefecture, and based in Berlin since 1998. After early studies in drawing and painting in Japan and a brief stay in Paris, he studied at the Berlin University of the Arts under Wolfgang Petrick before becoming a master student of Daniel Richter. His work merges figurative and abstract elements in layered compositions that address environmental destruction, societal change, and the unstable relationship between humanity and nature. Kato has described painting as his primary means of expression, while collage and attached elements enter the work spontaneously during the process.

## About Galerie Sara Lily Perez

Galerie Sara Lily Perez is a contemporary art gallery in Berlin committed to presenting artists whose practices engage the present with formal rigor and cultural urgency. Located at BIKINI BERLIN, the gallery works with emerging and established international artists across painting, sculpture, photography, and new media.

**Exhibition:** *Neuer Glaube*

**Artist:** Ryo Kato

**Dates:** 24 April – 30 May 2026

**Opening Reception:** 23 April 2026

**Venue:** Galerie Sara Lily Perez

**Address:** Budapester Str. 48, 10787 Berlin, Germany