

Limited Edition Release

## Japanese Art and Whisky Make a Dream Team



Artist Hiroshi Senju painting in his studio.



The limited-edition bottle of Hibiki bears Senju's waterfall paintings on the label and presentation box.

Artist Hiroshi Senju had been exploring the concept of *hibiki*, which means harmony in Japanese, long before the House of Suntory noticed. *Physical/Metaphysical*, the Japanese painter's solo show on exhibit at New York's Sundaram Tagore gallery through November 15, is a prime example. His canvases depict what appear to be abstracted waterfalls, featuring white pigments that cascade down the surface of the muted jewel-toned paintings before dissolving into a feathery spray. Waterfalls, says the artist, encapsulate the intangible. "Water, gravity, and temperature are all captured," Senju notes. "Sometimes we, as humans, flow and make big splashes. Sometimes we need to let ourselves go and follow gravity. Other times we need to push back."

At the back of the gallery, a select few paintings glow under black light; for this grouping, Senju has experimented with fluorescent pigments, which render his waterfalls in a bioluminescent glow. The artist explains that his inspiration for these was the neon signs outside Japanese bars advertising brands like Suntory. In a full circle moment, the liquor company has tapped him to design a limited-edition presentation box for two of their most coveted aged blends of Hibiki whisky (aged 21 and 30 years). Each bottle comes in a box encased in a box printed with one of Senju's waterfall paintings. Safe to say Senju's art and aged whisky make a harmonious pair. —*Maya Ibbitson*