

*The Swing*

OGAWA Shinji

2013

80.5×65.4cm

This work is part of Ogawa's representative Without You series, in which he removes human figures from famous paintings. The piece is based on *The Swing* by Rococo-era French painter Jean Honore Fragonard. All the original figures have disappeared: the woman boldly swinging in her elegant dress, the man positioned below gazing up at her, and the elderly man pulling the rope to make the swing move. The swinging empty swing and one of the sandals thrown into the air seem to emphasize the absence of these figures. The background is meticulously painted in the same style as the original, showcasing Ogawa's extraordinary descriptive skills.

In the Without You series, Ogawa imagines and depicts "how the original artist would have painted" the spaces where figures have been removed—areas not depicted in the original work. In this piece, where the man holding the swing's rope used to be, Ogawa has added an angel with a finger to its lips, similar to the one depicted on the left side of the painting. This work also incorporates elements from Ogawa's Perfect World series, in which he creates double images of buildings and people in photographs and paintings, revealing his playful approach to art.