

Look East!

Japanese Contemporary Art

30 NOVEMBER 2012 - 13 JANUARY 2013

Mizuma Gallery is very pleased to present Look East! Japanese Contemporary Art, its first group show of nine Japanese artists in its new Singapore space at Gillmanroarracks. This show presents a wide range of contemporary artists from the far-eastern islands of the Rising Sun, introducing the rich programme of Mizuma Gallery to the Singaporean audience. Exhibiting artists are Makoto Aida, Juri Hamada, Tomiyuki Kaneko, Tomoko Konoike, Yujiro Miyazaki, Keiichi Tanaami, Natsuko Taniguchi, Hisashi Tenmyouya and Ryuki Yamamoto.

Makoto Aida (*1965, Niigata) Though grotesque and erotic in style, Aida's work displays an incisive critical faculty when it comes to political and historical issues. While projecting modern Japanese society, he simultaneously draws heavily on traditional artworks and modes of expression. Aida's solo show *Aida Makoto: Monument for Nothing* is running at the Mori Art Museum (Tokyo) from 17 November to 31 March 2013.

Juri Hamada (*1973, Indonesia) Born in Indonesia, Hamada's work finds its origin in the distinctive red colour of the country's soil. Her attachment to the crimson land and the sheer dimension of this primordial landscape made her aware of the relative insignificance of mankind, pushing her through her work toward a broader understanding of life.

Tomiyuki Kaneko (*1978, Saitama) Highly trained in the ancestral technique of Japanese painting that make use of mineral pigments mixed with glue instead of oil or acrylic paint, Kaneko captures the magical beasts and phantoms lurking in the dark fringes between our world and the next.

Tomoko Konoike (*1960, Akita) What have a six-legged wolf, a swarm of flying daggers and a faceless snowball-like character have in common? They all inhabit Konoike's never ending mythical world. She is now putting the narrative power of her art at work to help rebuild the Tohoku region's affected hearts through the healing power of her stories.

Yujiro Miyazaki (*1977, Oita) Born in a family of bath house keepers, Miyazaki first followed the path to be a bathhouse painter, touring the country to decorate sento (Japan's traditional collective baths) with colourful images of Mount Fuji. He now pursues his career as a contemporary artist by bringing the unique technique he mastered to the canvas, creating surrealistic landscapes filled with surprising characters.

Keiichi Tanaami (*1930, Tokyo) After experiencing the Tokyo bombing when he was 9 years old, this traumatic event has become a recurring motif in Tanaami's work, taking the shape of chaotic memories where reality and the subconscious collide, an ever-flowing river of unspeakable fears and emotions. This endless catharsis takes explosive shapes and colours.

Natsuko Taniguchi (*1968, Hokkaido) Taniguchi's work is made of tangible colour. With her time-consuming, three-dimensional pointillism technique, she makes psychedelic-looking representations of the dreams and pains of the woman condition using glittering tones of yellow, pink and green.

Hisashi Tenmyouya (*1966, Saitama) In 2000, Tenmyouya defined himself as the champion of “Neo-Nihonga”, his unique style that revives traditional Japanese painting in the present, raising the flag of Butoh-Ha, or warrior style, to fight by painting against the all powerful authority of the fine art establishment. In 2010, he started advocating the new concept of “BASARA” as a pompous and extravagant Japanese aesthetic current.

Ryuki Yamamoto (*1976, Mie) If you look carefully at Yamamoto’s artworks, you will quickly realise that he always draws detailed portraits of himself. For this exhibition’s central piece *Chaos (Yamamoto version)*, the inspiration came from the Kumano Ten-Worlds Mandala, a well transmitted traditional subject in Mie, the artist’s birthplace. In this work, more than a hundred of Yamamoto’s various self-portraits cover up the entire huge canvas.

Opening Reception

30 November 2012, 7PM

Exhibition will open on Friday, 30 November 2012, 7PM.

Gallery Profile

Mizuma Gallery was first established in Tokyo by Sueo Mizuma in 1994 with the mission of promoting Asian and Japanese artists both on the local and international contemporary art scenes. Its Singapore opening will be the 3rd expansion for Mizuma Gallery with current spaces in Tokyo, Japan and Beijing, China. Mizuma Gallery is a key gallery for the development of Japanese contemporary art and has exhibited at important art fairs such as ARCO (Madrid), Armory Show (New York), Frieze (London), FIAC (Paris), Basel Miami (Miami) and Hong Kong Art Fair (Hong Kong).

About Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks (GB) is Asia’s up-and-coming destination for contemporary art. It will be distinguished as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art. Named after British general Sir Webb Gillman, GB is set amid lush greenery and was once a stronghold to the First Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. The conserved colonial barracks will house galleries and creative businesses, as well as the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore. The international galleries will feature diverse and ever-changing contemporary art exhibitions, while CCA Singapore will bolster the region’s visual arts landscape through its international artist residency, research and exhibition programmes. By fostering cultural exchange and creation, showcasing the best and most innovative art of our times, as well as generating discourse and research, CCA Singapore will establish Singapore as an important centre for contemporary art in Asia. Gillman Barracks will be officially launched on 14 September 2012, and will only open to public from 15 September 2012. The Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore will open in 2013. More information on Gillman Barracks can be found at www.gillmanbarracks.com.

Contact

For further inquiries, please contact the following :

Antoine Perrin (English, French, Japanese): antoine@mizuma.sg

Loh Xiang Yun (English, Chinese): xiangyun@mizuma.sg

Mizuma Gallery

22 Lock Road #01-34,
Gillman Barracks,
Singapore 108939, Singapore

T. +65 6570 2505

F. +65 6570 2506

www.mizuma.sg

info@mizuma.sg

Makoto Aida



ZAKU (War Picture Returns Side - B) Esquisse

2005

Acrylic and charcoal on particle board

60 × 91.7 cm

Juri Hamada



Hot Wind

2009

Foil, mineral pigments, glue, hemp paper, board

80.3 x 80.3 cm

Tomiyuki Kaneko



Red tiger

2009

Mineral pigments, Japanese ink, transparent watercolour, acrylic, pen, foil on paper
219 × 174 cm

Tomoko Konoike



Donning Animal Skins and Braided Grass

2011

Mixed media (mirror, wood, styrofoam, aluminium, etc.)

204 × 106 × 38 cm

Yujiro Miyazaki



Water Dragon

2011

Acrylic on canvas

90.9 × 223.4 cm

Keiichi Tanaami



Spiral and Cherry Blossoms

2009

Acrylic on canvas

116.7 × 80.3 cm

Natsuko Taniguchi



IKA

2012

Acrylic on gesso, cheese cloth, panel
190 × 90 cm

Hisashi Tenmyouya



The Picture of Five Rings (No-thing)

2009

Acrylic on wood

114 × 49 × 10 cm

Ryuki Yamamoto



Chaos (Yamamoto version)

2012

Acrylic on canvas

400.3 × 302.3 cm