

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 Gillman Barracks. 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.

01 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 *Hell (Yamamoto version) No.2*, 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.

02 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.

03 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 *senjo* (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.

04 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.

05 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.

06 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.

07 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 to work to help rebuild the Tohoku region's affected hearts through the healing power of her stories.

08 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.

09 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.

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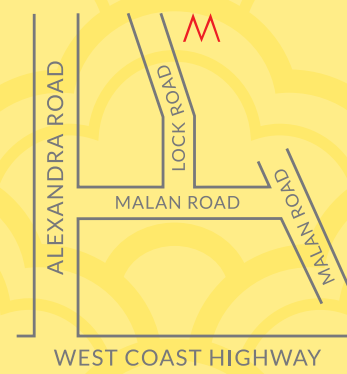
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GILLMAN BARRACKS

MIZUMA GALLERY

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01 RYUKI YAMAMOTO *Hell (Yamamoto's version) No.2*, 2011, Acrylic on canvas, 400.3 x 302.3 cm



02 MAKOTO AIDA
ZAKU (War Picture Returns Side - B) Esquisse
 2005
 Acrylic and charcoal on particle board
 60 × 91.7 cm



04 JURI HAMADA
Hot Wind
 2009
 Foil, mineral pigments, glue, hemp paper, board
 80.3 × 80.3 cm



05 KEIICHI TANAAMI
Spiral and Cherry Blossoms
 2009
 Acrylic on canvas
 116.7 × 80.3 cm



07 TOMOKO KONOIKE
Donning Animal Skins and Braided Grass
 2011
 Mixed media (mirror, wood, styrofoam, aluminium, etc.)
 204 × 106 × 38 cm



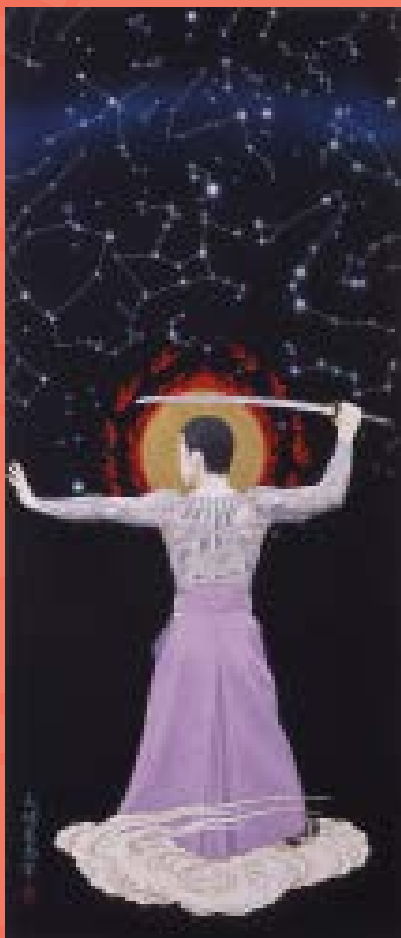
03 YUJIRO MIYAZAKI
Water Dragon
 2011
 Acrylic on canvas
 90.9 × 223.4 cm



06 TOMIYUKI KANEKO
Red Tiger
 2009
 Mineral pigments, Japanese ink, transparent watercolour, acrylic, pen, foil on paper
 219 × 174 cm



08 NATSUKO TANIGUCHI
IKA
 2012
 Acrylic on gesso, cheese cloth, panel
 190 × 90 cm



09 HISASHI TENMYOUYA
The Picture of Five Rings (No-thing)
 2009
 Acrylic on wood
 114 × 49 × 10 cm