

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' View points



Lyons Wier Gallery presents KAORUKO's Animism in New York

Lyons Wier Gallery will present "Animism" by former teen pop star and present-day painter Kaoruko.

"Animism" explores the complex cultural and ideological divide between traditional and contemporary ideals that are inherently placed upon Japanese women by using carefully crafted narratives to navigate and call attention to the cultural contemporary standards. By drawing upon her first-hand experience with pop culture now seen through a mature gaze, Kaoruko sets her sights upon the cultural expectation of the "feminine" in a society that is deeply steeped in history and one that is forging new frontiers.

Interspersed throughout her highly detailed compositions are subtle nods to "Animism," the ancient belief that a cute Koma dog and a carp swimming upstream

are subtly found within Kaoruko's colorful and meticulous illustrations. Kaoruko's painting process pays homage to both traditional and contemporary Japanese artistic methodologies by using water-based paint (acrylic), gold leaf, sumi-e (traditional calligraphy techniques), ukiyo-e (traditional Japanese woodblock prints) and silkscreened kimono patterns on canvas.

By juxtaposing all these similar yet separate elements, Kaoruko weaves together narratives of the young and old, the burgeoning and bygone to deliver poignant paintings that straddle cultural, sexual and geographic beliefs and stereotypes of feminine identity at a crucial time that is rewriting the narrative on what it is to be female both here and abroad.

Kaoruko has exhibited throughout Japan at institutions such as Laforet Museum (Tokyo), Parko Museum (Tokyo), Takashimaya Gallery (Osaka), Tenpozan Museum of Modern Art (Osaka), Loft Gallery (Kumamoto), the Kyoto International Art Festival (Kyoto), and has shown at the Chelsea Art Museum (New York), Jim Kempner Fine Art (New York), Waterfall Gallery (New York), Mike Weiss Gallery (New York), White Box (New York), Ethan Cohen Fine Arts Gallery (New York) and Mana Contemporary (Jersey City, NJ). Kaoruko lives and works in New York.

For further information, contact: Lyons Wier Gallery 542 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011 Tel: +1 212 242 6220 Email: gallery@lyonswiergallery.com www.lyonswiergallery.com #lyonswiergallery @lyonswiergallery

objects, places and creatures all possess a distinct spiritual essence. Potentially, animism perceives all things--animate and inanimate--as animated and alive. Traditional Japanese motifs such as

Tel: +1 212 242 6220 / gallery@lyonswiergallery.com / www.LyonsWierGallery.com

LYONS WIER GALLERY 542 West 24th Street New York, NY 10011

KAORUKO "Animism"

February 27 - March 21, 2020

Opening Reception Thursday, February 27 (6-8pm)

Lyons Wier Gallery 542 West 24th St. New York, NY 10011

Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm

(Courtesy of the press material/ LYONS WIER GALLERY)



TAKAOKI TAJIMA Solo Exhibition at The Nippon Gallery

The sculptor Takaoki Tajima's first overseas exhibition, "Takaoki Tajima Solo Exhibition-Flowers and Arashi Mo Sculptures" was held at the Nippon Gallery until the 5th.

Tajima is a fifth-generation sculptor born of a Buddhist master, and a popular sculptor whose two-headed humorous and cute wood carving work became a hot topic in Japan.

At the opening reception held on January 23, about an hour's lecture was given to about 70 participants who gathered in the Sakura Room on the second floor of the Nippon Club.

In the lecture, he explained his personal story about Tajima's family, how to paint the completed sculptures 15 to 20 times, and how to make black onyx with stone and glass coating. At the end of the lecture, "I want to keep making something what I consent."

"I've come this far if I was swept away like Forest Gump. I want to make high quality products in the future." He said.

A wood carving workshop to produce Chikuwa will be held on the 25th. At the exhibition, they exhibited 50 humorous works and received, such as "A mouse that splits a bun into two" "Pigs that tried to give pearls to pigs and not tangerine."

(Article & photo: Yukiko Takada/ Translated by Masaya Watanabe)



Yukie Natori's Nail Art shines at New York Fashion Week

Nail artists who came to the United States from Japan played an active role behind the scenes during the annual New York Fashion Week, which began on February 4.

Yukie Natori, who runs two nail schools in Tokyo and runs a salon in New York, brought together 10 Japanese nail artists and show their skills and beauty.

This work is a runway show by designer Tia Adeola. = Photo right = The role of nail art is "Give your fingertips an expression. And there are differences in hand movements and gestures with nail art painted with nails painted in color and design according to clothes" Ms. Natori said.

This time, they created 400 nails for 30

models for three months.

One of the team members, Yukari Kaneko, said "I heard the inspiration of the costume from the designer and designed it with that image."

The artificial nail material is roughly classified into "acryl" and "gel", but Natori uses gel made from a gel-like material whose main component is urethane acrylic resin.

Models who finished hair, makeup and nails in the waiting room, wear the costume in the next waiting room, and went on to the runways awaiting journalists and industry stakeholders.

(Article and Photo by Weinstein Kinue Imai/Translated by Masaya Watanabe)



THE JAPAN VOICE is the English Edition of SHUKAN NY SEIKATSU
NEW YORK SEIKATSU PRESS, INC., 71 W 47 St, Suite 307 New York, NY 10036 USA

Editor in Chief: Ryoichi Miura, Associate Editor: Tiff Ferentini

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through upcurls of morning mist
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- O. Mabson Southard

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