

Shoichi Tsurukawa: Bizarre Textile Pop

Shoichi Tsurukawa, born in 1984, is a sound and healthy dyeing expert. In his pop art, bizarre figures and weird creatures are well alive. He says they are his self-portraits.

“I want to depict humans, the essence of humans without superficial layers. But I have no idea what other people are really like. I can only portray myself.”

Your brain is at a loss where to categorize Tsurukawa’s works as they are more like oil paintings of fantasies and illusions than simple dyed textile artworks. A torrent of colors pouring out of them pleasantly disturbs your mind. Tsurukawa says, “I’m drowned in colors of emotion. The colors of joy, anger, sorrow, and all that stuff take hold of me right away.”

So why doesn’t he paint oils?

“I like the technique of dyeing because I can handily and freely adjust the density of dyestuff by adding a suitable quantity of glue. That helps me greatly to have my subtle feelings shown vividly on the textile.”

Textile works cannot depend on power of brush strokes or variation of textures. Dyed textiles, unless handwoven, tend to look monotonous when it comes to their surface texture.

In order to overcome this weakness, Tsurukawa invented his own solution: sewing the outlines of pictorial bizarre figures and stuffing them with cotton from the back to make them three-dimensional. He knows how to take advantage of the strength of dyeing while supplementing the surface texture with cotton stuffing. Tsurukawa developed his skills through trial and error.

Tsurukawa held his first solo exhibition in 2007 at an avant-garde gallery in Ginza, Tokyo. Starting in 2015, Tsurukawa has held three solo exhibitions at Kinosho Kikaku, Tokyo. Kinosho Kikaku has taken Tsurukawa’s works to art fairs in Korea as well, attracting viewers’ attention in Seoul, Busan, Daegu, and Daejeon.

You will be thrilled by the pathos and irony hidden behind the torrent of vivid colors.

Statement

I am Shoichi Tsurukawa. The techniques I use in creating my works are staining and pen painting.

The works of both techniques share a miniature-esque preciseness. I did not tend to restrain myself to such particular representation, but what I try to express in one work is often too complicated.

As a result, everything is densed and clustered together in one pictorial scene. I am now focusing mainly

on the creation of the stain series. The reason I chose staining is that when I am making the color paste, the flow of my emotion during the creative process is expressed in a more realistic manner through

the changing of the thickness of the color.

I am often indulged in the colors of emotions.

I can easily indulge myself in the colors of happiness, anger and grief as my heart is always drawn by the vividness of my own emotions. What I want to portray is humans, namely the common "something" that lies underneath our appearance.

As I do not know much about other human beings, I decided to draw myself, a human named "Shoichi Tsurukawa". My works are like the crushed rubbles of my aspiration and fate from the brutal reality.

The rubbles did not go weathered, but are rather piling up along the way.

It would be my honor if you can enjoy my works.

Solo Exhibitions

2016 AYUMU (KINOSHO KIKAKU)

2016 Shoichi Tsurukawa (GALLERY WAVE in Busan Korea)

2015 SHINN (KINOSHO KIKAKU)

2015 Brick of History (Yokohama Art University Gallery)

2015 Twilight Dusk (GALLERY b.TOKYO)

2014 Sky of Mud (GALLERY b.TOKYO)

2014 Roost of color (Mink projects in Amsterdam Nederland)

2014 NO II R (Gallery Ginza Forest)

2013 HALLELUJAH (GALLERY b.TOKYO)

2013 NOIR (Gallery Ginza Forest)

2012 Room.0 (Gallery Ginza Forest Mini)

2011 Nest of Glass~HUGIN&MUNIN1STCOLLECTION~

2011 the BIRTH (Gallery Ginza Forest • Mini)

2010 A CLOSED PAIN 1999-2010 (Yamawaki Gallery)

2010 DEVIL (KEY Gallery)

2009 Sand from Mars (Gallery Ginza Forest)

2009 My Works (+Unopened) (Design Festa Gallery)

2008 Estoy fuera de dolor y dolores (Gallery Ginza Forest)

2007 Cloth Painting Exhibition(Gallery Ginza Forest)

2007 Shoichi Tsurukawa Solo Exhibition (Gallery Ginza Forest Mini)

Group Exhibitions

2015 Evolution-2015-(KINOSHO KIKAKU)

2014 INTRO 2-Collection by Fuyuhiko Yamamoto – (The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo)

2014 Hori-gotatsu- hurricane (The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo)

2014 77th Shinseisaku Awarded Artists Exhibition (Inoue Gallery Ginza)

2012 Gidora (GALLERY b.TOKYO)

2006 Siam (Shibuya Gallery LE:DECO)

2004 SECURITY LINE DO NOT CROSS (Shimokitazawa Gallery Geki)

2002 THE F1RST STEP (Shimokitazawa Gallery Geki)

Art fairs

2016 Foire de Monaco 2016, Monaco

2016 ART BUSAN 2016, South Korea

2015 SpoonArtFair-SEOUL 2015, South Korea

2015 Daejeon International Art Show, South Korea

2015 DeaguArtFair2015, South Korea

2015 KIAF2015, South Korea

2015 Art Fair Asia Fukuoka 2015, Japan

2015 Asia Hotel Art Fair Seoul, South Korea

2015 ART BUSAN 2015, South Korea

Awards and Nominations

2015 The 12th World Painting Award, Excellent Award

2015 Shinsei Painting Award, Nominated

2015 The 3rd Vanilla Gallery Award, Encouragement Award

2014 The 78th Shinseisaku Exhibition, Painting Award

2013 The 77th Shinseisaku Exhibition, New Artist Award

2012 The 22th Yuzawaya Creative Award, Gold

2011 Pocarato Vol.2

2011 The 15th Shinsei Exhibition, Nominated

2007 Tokyo Wonder Seed Zero Exhibition, Nominated

2006 Tokyo Wonder Wall 2006, Nominated

2006 The 10th AIDS CHARITY EXHIBITION 2006, Nominated

2005 Tokyo Wonder Seed Zero Exhibition, Nominated