

KOTARO NUKAGA

KOTARO NUKAGA is pleased to announce its participation in West Bund Art & Design in Shanghai from November 7th through 10th 2019, featuring works by a Brooklyn-based Japanese artist Tomokazu Matsuyama.

This exhibition will present Matsuyama's latest paintings created especially for the fair. Each of the large paintings depicts mashup of diametrical opposite components such as East and West, high culture and low culture, classical and modern references and much more, represented in intricate and detailed images. Along with the paintings is a sculpture which is a combination of contemporary motif and a traditional Japanese crafting method. Surrounded by the artworks, visitors will experience Matsuyama's world of "contemporary art".

Matsuyama's work revolves around his own bicultural experience, growing up in Japan and America, by bringing together aspects of contrasting aesthetic systems. He then blurs the border by cramming overwhelming amount of references that he responds to, which relates to the present-day lifestyle of living in a society saturated with information. His artistic choice of repositioning traditional icons within a broader global context creates a distinctive style that resists cultural categorization. While his artworks themselves are impressive enough, it is not only the aesthetics of them that makes Matsuyama's painting contemporary; it is his art making process of mashup-ing/editing images and allowing it to naturally portray what is "now" is an entirely new art form. By raising questions of national and individual identity through the formal qualities and subject matters of his paintings, Matsuyama examines the "natural chaos" of our social environments and challenges the viewers to confront their own conceptions of cultural homogeneity.

KOTARO NUKAGA invites you to visit the booth N309.

■West Bund Art & Design

DATE : November 7 Thu. – 10 Oct. 2019

VENUE : West Bund Art Center, 2555 Long Teng Avenue, Xuhui District, Shanghai

URL : <http://westbundshanghai.com/>

BOOTH : N309

■Featured Key Works



Sing It Again Sweet Sunshine
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
2019
254.0 x 194.3 cm



New Life Bonus Track
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
2019
254.0 x 170.2 cm



The Peak Shine Dawn
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
2019
231.4 x 152.4 cm



Mild Rivers My Generations
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
2019
152.4 cm diameter



■About the Artist

Tomokazu Matsuyama

Born in Gifu, Japan, 1976

Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York

MFA in Communications Design, Pratt Institute, New York, USA, 2002-2004

Bachelor of Economics, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, 1996-2000

Tomokazu Matsuyama was born in Japan and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He received his MFA in Communications Design from the Pratt Institute, New York. Matsuyama's important exhibitions include the Japan Society, New York; the Harvard University, Massachusetts, the Katzen Arts Center at American University Museum, Washington D.C., and Museum of Contemporary Art Museum, Sydney, Australia, among other galleries and institutions. In August 2014 he was awarded the Harbour City Gallery Public Art Commission in Hong Kong.

■Recent & Upcoming Projects

Bowery Mural, New York (2019)

On September 24, with the help of 10 assistants, Matsuyama spent 14 days turning this massive 120 square-meter space into a work of art. Bowery Wall is located on the corner of Bowery and Houston Street in New York City. In 1982, Keith Haring, a young emerging street artist in his 20s, was the first man to paint on the wall. In 2008, Tony Goldman from Goldman Properties, together with gallerist/curator Jeffery Deitch, began the Bowery Mural project that we know today — they would select a street artist from around the world to work on a mural, periodically renewing the wall by inviting the next artist. Ever since 2009, over thirty distinguished artists such as Barry McGee (United States), Kenny Scharf (United States), JR (France), and Banksy (England) to name a few, have participated in this long tradition, starting from Brazilian twin artists OSGEMEOS all the way until Matsuyama today. The place is now known as an art spot and also has become an epicenter of street art and culture.



Bowery Mural, 2019 ©Matsuyama Studio

Shinjuku Station Public Art, Tokyo (2020)

In front of Shinjuku Station, there will be an eight-meter-tall sculpture built by Matsuyama. Consisting of 316 pieces of stainless steel, an abstract figure in the center of the vibrant colorful installation will merge with floral patterns on the ground. The initiating idea for the sculpture was to identify characteristics associated with Shinjuku and then blend it with the opposite concept, which in this case, 'nature'. Infusing the concept of traditional Japanese aesthetics, the four seasons, in an artificially-created public art will allow the public to participate in the constant change and evolution the city undergoes over time. This project will create a landmark of the world's busiest train station and will serve as a welcome mat for those coming to Tokyo in the Olympics year.

■About KOTARO NUKAGA

Established in the fall of 2018, KOTARO NUKAGA endeavors to introduce Japanese and international contemporary artists to new audiences. In doing so, KOTARO NUKAGA exhibits works by artists who not only historically contextualize their work, but also pose questions about contemporary society. In their unique ways, these artists therefore challenge the viewer in various ways to see the world around them in a different light. Situated in TERRADA Art Complex in Tennoz, an area of Tokyo that has fast become a central location for contemporary art, KOTARO NUKAGA is NUKAGA GALLERY's fourth location. Learn more at <https://www.kotaronukaga.com/en/>

■Press Contact Details

TERRADA Art Complex 3F, 1-33-10 Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 140-0002, Japan

EMAIL : info@kotaronukaga.com URL : www.kotaronukaga.com TEL : +81(0)3 6433 1247 FAX : +81(0)3 6433 1257

Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/kotaro_nukaga/

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/kotaronukaga.tennoz/>