



KUNSTRAUM RICHARD SORGE

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Everything to More – Hiroki Otsuka (NY) Drawings and Murals

Berlin art space "Kunstraum Richard Sorge" presents a large exhibition of Brooklyn-based Japanese artist Hiroki Otsuka's delicate drawings and murals, titled "Everything to More".

Hiroki, a well-known Manga artist for more than 13 years, currently cooperates on acclaimed choreographer Jeremy Wade's Manga-inspired international theater production "there is no end to more," which will be presented at the NY Japan Society this fall. On November 28th, a day after the premiere performances of the piece in Berlin, Hiroki's exhibition will be unveiled at Kunstraum Richard Sorge.

After spending a few years in Tokyo, Otsuka, like many other Japanese artists, went abroad, living in San Francisco, and currently in New York, where he has worked for the Takashi Murakami studio and exhibited with such artists as Yoko Ono and Yasunao Tone. He has recently executed large-scale murals for the Japan Society (NY) and exhibited at the MOCA Museum in LA. Otsuka's work can currently be viewed at the Pittsburgh University Art Gallery.



In his drawings and paintings, Otsuka makes an elegant transition from Manga to erotic fine art, applying intriguing gender twists to his uninhibited explorations of sexuality. His works "delve into our own experiences of the carnal; whether straight, gay, trans-gendered or otherwise, these works speak to the diversity of sexuality," Warhol Museum curator and expert for Japanese modern art Eric C. Shiner has written. Not only the Manga, but also the Ukyo-e tradition (which had its own erotic/educational sub-genres directed to all sexes) are referred to in Otsuka's work, as is a Warhol-like seriality and the Manga-related Japanese Cosplay phenomenon that originally stems from sexual role playing, but has gained crossover appeal and also includes people presenting themselves as comic/fantasy figures at clubs or conventions.

The way the works in "Everything to More" are placed on the wall mimics the irregular layout of Mangas. While viewing, the spectator is making the familiar head movements of the comic reader. Spontaneous narratives arise from the playful arrangement of the individual pieces. Also a toilet seat refers to the low status of Manga artworks as toilet literature. The exhibition's murals will be on view in a group show at the Warhol Museum next year.

Located in a romantically crumbling Street-art-covered historic Berlin brewery, the bountiful "Kunstraum Richard Sorge" art space reaches a young, and international audience, but adventurous discerning art lovers as well.

"Everything to More" - drawings & murals by Hiroki Otsuka
Exhibition venue: Kunstraum Richard Sorge, Landsberger Allee 54, 10249 Berlin-Friedrichshain
Exhibition duration: Nov. 28 - Dec. 22 2009. We. - Sun., 1 - 7 pm. Free entry.

Gallery website: <http://www.kunstraumrichardsorge.org>
Artist website: <http://www.hirokiotsuka.com>
Facebook event page: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=178346846531>

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