



KUNSTRAUM RICHARD SORGE

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Hiroki Otsuka (USA)



Artist Statement

I'm interested in what images could convey that words could not. I've been creating drawing, painting, silkscreen and even *Manga* (Comics) whose underlying theme is entertaining people and conveying something of the essence of living freely, easily and vividly through my works.

I use personal experiences, or experiences and stories passed on from my friends to inspire my work. Whenever I hear these, I let my imagination run wild. I remix these into stories and create my own original story in my mind. Through drawing *Manga*, which is more like storytelling of my world of imagination to readers, I'd like open up doors for them to share my imaginative world and also stimulate the experiences that I had. It's also extremely important that through my artwork I encourage audiences to 'be free' and encourage them to be an individual, to be who they want to be, to "live courageously and free".



I grew up reading *Manga* like all youngsters in Japan, although I was obsessed with reading them and submerging myself in the realm of imagination. Ever since then, I have devoted a great deal of time studying how to draw *Manga* from reading how-to books and numerous Japanese comics. I finally made myself to be a *Manga-ka* (cartoonist) by debuting as an *Ero-Manga-ka* (pornographic comic artist).

I always draw the pictures on a sketchbook just using a black pen, which is a basic *Manga* technique. As simple as this sounds, I believe that so much information can be conveyed with just one line. The spontaneity of lines is my identity. It shows how I have been inspired and mirrors my state of mind and energy flow. It's all about me. Lines are the most significant aspect of my works, even more important than what I draw. The slightest change in lines can create a totally different meaning when you examine them closely.

Currently, I am attempting to draw more freely than I ever have, experimenting with new styles and using different equipment such as using computers, playing multicolor and graphic patterns or drawing on canvas with a pencil. In addition, I'm trying to create art works without sticking to former way of drawing rules, manuals or styles I learnt through *Manga*.

I get the most pleasure and feel most alive when I am drawing. It makes my pulse race and gives me such inspiration that I will always continue to explore my imaginative world and put them into works.

Hiroki Otsuka: From Manga to Ero-Pop

Japanese artist Hiroki Otsuka is undergoing an exciting shift in his career, and looking at his recent output, he is doing so with great ease and acumen. A comic book illustrator for the past thirteen years with a strong penchant for the erotic storylines of pornographic manga aimed at straight Japanese men, Otsuka has shifted gears and is now producing deeply disturbing paintings based on the unstable nature of sexuality in contemporary Japan.

In these mostly monochrome works, Otsuka renders sexually charged teenage girls in a variety of helpless poses, hermaphroditic baby doll monsters and nymphs, strong squared-off katakana characters painted directly onto the gallery wall blasting forth onomatopoeiac sex sounds, and a litany of anxious men in various

stages of sexual release. The works are made with the traditional Japanese sumi ink used in calligraphy, and their jet black figures stand out against white ground as if to say, "Look at me. Know me. Help me. Now turn away." It is indeed with a certain amount of embarrassment and discomfort that these works delve into our own experiences of the carnal; whether straight, gay, trans-gendered or otherwise, these works speak to the diversity of sexuality just as much as they portray unspeakable acts or hidden fantasies.

Otsuka honed his crafts over a decade of drafting and inking comic book cells for a variety of publications he authored under the pen name Pirontan, and began illustrating for a number of major Japanese publications in 2004, including the gay-themed magazine Badi and the straight-leaning manga series Erotics, Rabumani and Hi-5. While working on these projects, he began to think about the possibility of shifting his focus from the graphic to the fine arts, and with the same set of hentai (pervert) tendencies with which he creates his comics, he set about a series of paintings that seemingly exposes the dark corners of human sexuality.

Written by Eric C. Shiner, Milton Fine Curator of Art at the Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh

Education

1994 Tokyo Designer Gakuin, Aichi, Japan Certificate of Graphic Design, Layout design, drawing, and painting.
1992 Nagahama High School of Business, Shiga, Japan Concentration in Textile business studies Professional Experience

Bio

2007 REAL fashion magazine, column writer
2006 REAL fashion magazine, column writer
2005 AB/OVO catalog, contributing artist
2004-05 Writer / Illustrator (comic pages), Hi-5 Magazine, Badi Magazine, Rabumani Magazine, Erotics Magazine, Yarouze!! Magazine, Tokyo pop, written by Morisane Sunny Shiroyama and Naomi Banno.
2003-04 Studio Technician (Internship), KaiKai Kiki / Takashi Murakami Art Studio, Brooklyn, NY
1994-2005 Hiroki Otsuka Productions, Tokyo, Japan

Illustrator of ten original comics

2009 S-magazine, illustrations
2006 "Boys of Summer Vol. 1" Chuck Austen / Hiroki Otsuka -Published by Tokyo Pop, USA
2005 "The Girls Diary" Adult-themed comic published by Heiwa shyppan. 9,000 copies.
2004 "Last Pirontan" Adult-themed comic published by Heiwa shyppan. 15,000 copies.
2002 "Hoshu Jugyo" A Supplementary Lesson published by T.I.Net Inc. 20,000 copies.
2002 "Shucho Boy Igari-kun" A Hustler Igari-kun adult-themed comic published by Wani-Magazine Inc. 10,000 copies.
2001 "Pirontan 21" Adult-themed comic published by Wani-Magazine Inc. 13,000 copies.
2000 "Nampa de Go!" Let's pick boys up! Comic targeted towards teen-age girls published by Takarajima Inc. 15,000 copies.
2000 "I Love Shock!" Comic targeted towards teen-age girls published by Takarajima Inc. 15,000 copies.

Selected Museum Exhibitions

2007 "Making a Home" Japan society, Manhattan, NY
2007 "Nothing Moments" Moca museum, LA

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2008 "My childhood story", Excy Laser Tokyo, New York, NY
2005 JAPORN "Celebrating Japanese pornographic comics", STUDIO CONNECT, Brooklyn, NY
2005 "HIROKI OTSUKA", Stay Gold Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

Selected Group Exhibitions

2009 "Making faces : Depiction of women in Japan from Edo to Today" Pittsburgh University Art Gallery, curated by Eric Shiner, Milton Fine Curator of Art at the Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh.

2007 Featured by MEM gallery at Asian Contemporary Art Fair, New York

2007 "YADOYA" yadoya gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2006 "The Outsider" Stay gold gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2006 "Fruitcake & Casserole" Stay gold gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2006 "Pleasure Little Treasure" Stay gold gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2006 Featured by Fredericks Freiser Gallery at Volta art fair in Basel, Switzerland

2006 Featured by Fredericks Freiser Gallery at the Armory Show, New York

2006 MOLESKINE group show, Keibunsha, Kyoto

2006 "AB OVO" Arena 1, Santa Monica

2005 "Keep a breast" Macbeth event, Stay Gold Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2005 MOLESKINE group show, Kinokuniya, Roppongi, Tokyo

2005 "8" Stay gold gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2005 "Viva! Stay gold" Stay gold gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2005 AB/OVO, Yerba Buena Arts Center, San Francisco, CA 2004 Parakeet

Salon #2, Parakeet Project Space, Brooklyn, NY

Exhibit.001, OLS&CO Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Online

<http://www.hirokiotsuka.com>