

Winter Garden

The Exploration of the Micropop Imagination in Contemporary Japanese Art

This newly created Japan Foundation touring exhibition comprises works by 14 Japanese artists, born between the late 1960s and early 1980s, whose style of work can be defined as Micropop. The artistic expressions of these artists have the distinct appearance of modesty and anonymity, using inexpensive or expendable materials, and frequently adopting apparently "easy-to-attain" methods of drawing and video as their main means of expression. Their expressions nevertheless transform apparently insignificant objects around us into refreshing and stimulating experiences, through the combination of apparently heterogeneous things, and the invention of a new use or context in which defunct things attain new lives. From paintings to simple drawings and moving images, the exhibition, categorised by three sections, ultimately attempts to present modest but flexible art forms that capture the fundamental activities of the human mind and body and liberate imagination from historically or culturally imposed limits., asserting them as responses from young Japanese artists to the discouraging conditions of their age, while conveying the hope of spiritual survival and effective reorganisation of the living environment.



Makiko Kudo, *sky-flying fish* 2006

oil on canvas., 130.5 x 162 cm

(c) Makiko Kudo Courtesy: Tomio Koyama Gallery



Ryota Yagi, *VINYL* 2006

silicone, (c) 2006 Ryota Yagi

Courtesy: Mujin-to Production, Tokyo

List of Artists:

Keisuke Yamamoto, Hiroshi Sugito, Tamu Ochiai, Ryoko Aoki, Lyota Yagi, Kohki Tanaka, Makiko Kudo, Mahomi kunikata, Aya Takano, Taro Izumi, Hiroe Saeki, Maki Handa, Masaya Chiba, Chim ↑ pom

UK Host Venue:

Aberystwyth Arts Centre – 10th March to 17th April 2010