

Maiko KITAGAWA 北川麻衣子

Since ancient times, people have had a fear of darkness. To acknowledge that fear, many stories have emerged since ancient times. According to MAIKO, a young painter of 29 years, Black color in her painting is “the feeling of material in darkness”. In the corner of darkness, it carries weight which she feels the existence or indication of something unknown, thus the stories.

She enjoyed art since she was very young. Her mother bought her story books for kids and took her art shows and museums often. As her mother lived in South America, she visited the homes of local friends, and ate and played together with them.

Unique South American cultures left a strong impression on young MAIKO. The colorful, decorated festival that depicts the closeness of life and death, the faces and costumes of different cultures were all part of a childhood experience that aroused her imagination. The strong sunshine in Latin America strongly influenced her express dense images and contrasting darkness. The solid black color in her current works depicts natural fear and the implication emerging from the dark. MAIKO's dark artworks were inspired by her upbringing in Latin America at such an early age.

An American animation film director once saw her works and said: “The movement is like animation stories!” MAIKO has the creative power to continue and produce deep, wide and dark stories.



lunar eclipse
160.0×240.0cm 2014

Dermatograph



Dermatograph *

MAIKO is the only up-and-coming artist in the world who uses Dermatograph as the only medium of expression.

Dermatograph contains a lot of wax and can be used to mark the slick surface of metals, glasses, plastics, ceramics and other materials including human skin. It was originally developed for surgical operations. In artworks, it is usually used as Lithocrayon when creating lithographs.

*DERMATOGRAPH is a registered trademark of Mitsubishi Pencil Co., Ltd.



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nocturnal animal 42.0×29.8cm 2014

〈 Profile 〉

- 1983 Born in Saitama prefecture
- 2005 Tokyo University of the Arts Japan
- 2010 Tokyo University of the Arts ,the master's course Japan
- 2012 Tokyo University of the Arts ,the doctor's course Japan

〈 Solo Exhibitions 〉

- 2006 Gallery Forest (Ginza, Tokyo)
- 2007 Gallery Forest (Ginza, Tokyo)
- 2008 TAIMEI Contemporary Art Gallery (Ginza, Tokyo)
- 2009 Art Fair Tokyo 2009 (Yurakucho, Tokyo)
- 2010 TAIMEI Contemporary Art (Ginza, Tokyo)
- 2011 TAIMEI GALLERY (Ginza, Tokyo)
- 2013 TAIMEI GALLERY (Ginza, Tokyo)
- 2013 NIKEI FINE ART (Singapore)
- 2014 TAIMEI Contemporary Art Gallery (Ginza, Tokyo)

〈 Group Exhibitions 〉

- 2007 Belladonna art Festival, (Tokyo)
- 2007 Tokyo University of the Arts Festival (Tokyo)
- 2007 "The 6"AKARENGA Art space (Yokohama)
- 2007 "Via Art" Tokyo (GINZA, Tokyo)
- 2007 "The Three ID" (Saitama)
- 2008 "J-ART in Shanghai" (Refinest Gallery, Shanghai)
- 2008 MITSUKOSHI Art Fair 2011 (Nihonbashi, Tokyo)
- 2011 Young Art TAIPEI (Taipei, TAIWAN)
- 2012 ART BEIJING2012 (BEIJING,CHINA)
- 2012 Tarot Card Original Picture Exhibition 2012 (TAIMEI Gallery, Tokyo)
- 2013 International Cultural Scholarship Foundation Exhibition



〈 Other 〉

- 2009 The Front cover of book "fearful Night stories" by Misao KIRYU/SHINJINBUTSUOURAISYA
- 2010 illustrationa cut for "OKAZU no cooking" ASAHI TV



Woods with the Passage of Time 160.0×372.0cm 2013