

MAKIKO KUDO

May 29th - June 19th

Andersen's Contemporary is proud to present a solo exhibition with new paintings by Makiko Kudo.

Makiko Kudo's works depict familiar motives in imaginary scenes. She paints houses, trees and people, but she paints them in such a way, that the immediately recognizable is merged with something mysterious, enigmatic and dreamy. This fusion of the realistic and the suggestive results in Kudo's scenes appearing as if detached from time and space – concurrently universal and intimate; and a major inspiration for Kudo is indeed her own dreams, memories and emotions.

Kudo's works may at first sight appear romantic and almost sentimental, on the edge of kitsch. However, closer inspection reveals, that Kudo always works with a dualities, exploring the relationship between dreams and facts; between metaphor and reality. Her paintings are mental landscapes and the lone figures that appear as motives in them, explore the psychological and physical space between representation and abstraction.

Kudo's paintings appear dynamic, intense and powerful. Formally, they are rooted equally in classical Japanese imagery and in modern European painting. Kudo's use of bright colors is almost expressionistic, her brushstroke ranges from the pastose and the Impressionistic to classical flat painting. However, the feeling of depth in the paintings is often not created using the laws of the central perspective. Instead Kudo merges several separate points of views on the canvas, and builds up color and shapes in a way that makes them appear almost three dimensional; seemingly reaching out beyond the flat surface. Moreover, references to anime and computer games often appear in Kudo's motifs.

Kudo works with both small and large formats. The present exhibition displays five new paintings, ranging in scale from 46 x 40 cm, to the largest one measuring nearly 3 x 4 meters.

Makiko Kudo is born in 1978 in Aomori, Japan. She graduated from Joshibi University of Art and Design with a specialization in oil painting in 2002. She lives and works in Tokyo. Kudo has had solo shows at Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2007), TOMODACHI Takahashi Collection, Tokyo, Japan (2007), Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, CA, USA (2006), Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2005), Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2003). Other major exhibitions include Time of My Life (2004) at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, MATRIX 213: Some Forgotten Place (2004) at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, and Pretty Baby (2007) at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Furthermore she has participated in the group shows: Paintings by Four Artists Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2010), Neoteny Japan, The Museum of Art Ehime, 2010, Neoteny Japan: Contemporary Artists after 1990s from Takahashi Collection Yonago City Museum of Art, 2009-2010, Neoteny Japan, Akita Museum of Modern Art 2009, Winter Garden, The Exploration of the Micropop Imagination in Contemporary Japanese Art Japanisches Kulturinstitut Cologne 2009.

For further information and press images please contact the gallery.

Andersen's Contemporary

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