

The Allure of Contemporary Japanese Prints

Opening Lecture

Tuesday, July 21st @ 6:30 pm

With guest speakers

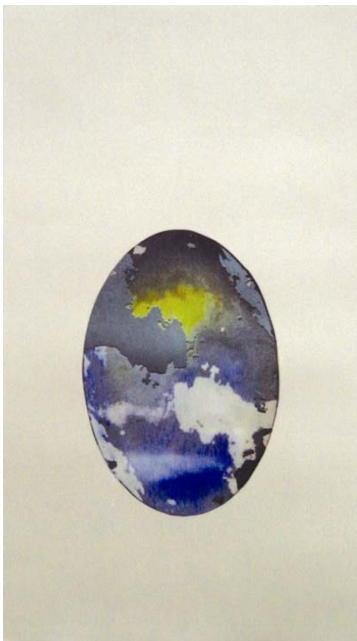
Tomomi Ono and Yumeka Fujita

Featuring eleven prints by the internationally acclaimed “Master of Mezzotint” Yozo Hamaguchi (1909-2000), this special exhibit celebrates the centennial anniversary of his birth. Work by internationally recognized artists Gen Yamanaka, Yumeka Fujita, and Tomomi Ono will also be on display.

With over thirty prints by four different artists, this exhibit highlights the profound diversity and broad appeal of contemporary Japanese prints.

Utilizing various methods, each artist explores the unlimited possibility of expression in printmaking. Shattering the preconceptions of a technique originally intended for mass production, their work reveals the unique qualities of printmaking as well as the sensibilities and richness of Japanese culture.

21 Cherries by Yozo Hamaguchi



First developed in 17th century Europe, mezzotint is a copperplate engraving technique that allows for subtle nuances in tonal gradation between black and white. With his development of the color mezzotint, Yozo Hamaguchi struck a perfect balance between the Zen-like simplicity of his subject matter and the painstaking complexity of his technique. His work, which captures the astonishing beauty of ordinary objects in the empty silence of moonlit space, is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum and the Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris.

Internationally recognized as one of Japan's leading contemporary printmakers, Gen Yamanaka's most recent woodcut monotypes will be on display, along with the work of two Japanese printmakers currently active in the US. A master lithographer, Tomomi Ono's interest lies in capturing the fleeting essence of life through everyday objects. Tokyo-based Yumeka Fujita uses silkscreen techniques on Japanese paper, creating unique monotypes by adding drawings and collages to each print. Ignoring standard printing processes, her work challenges the assumed reproductibility of prints.

Kara by Yumeka Fujita

The opening lecture is free and open to the public. Reservations are required. Send your name, affiliation, and the number in your party to jiccrsvpsummer09@embjapan.org or call (202) 238-6949.

Gallery open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan
Lafayette Centre III (Mall Level) 1155 21st NW, Washington, D.C. 20036
Metro: Dupont Circle, Farragut North (Red) / Farragut West (Orange, Blue)
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