

Aki Kondo

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

Aki Kondo's *The Homeland of Cherry Blossoms* is a mural-like painting, whose large size and stunning image powerfully conveys a vision, and energy, of the destructive force of nature swallowing up every living thing, as a necessary process of the renewal of life, repeated every spring. The picture presents the absolute power of nature, personified as a spring god who shoulders away a horse-like animal and whose gigantic hand grips large tree roots, using them as its substitute fingers to capture lambs, rabbits and birds as sacrifice. The death sloe of the earth and animals gripped in the force of total destruction is effectively expressed by the distortion of the figures and the large curve of their contours repeated all over the picture plane, as if to connect and contain everything in one continuous process; together with the stream of vibrant brushstrokes and vivid paint, in red, blue, yellow, and green, also repeated all over, to fill in the figure's waving contours, the picture's organic composition evokes the impression of the melting world caught in the process of transformation. The sight of a town and a village that loom lifelessly in the distance may suggest the separation of a civilized life from the primitive force of nature, or the quiet prayer of a human community waiting for the regenerative power of nature to reach it.

The picture demonstrates the artist's animistic vision of the world inspired by the myth or folk tale of the world's rebirth. At the same time, painted after the 2011 East Japan Great Earthquake, it communicates her hope for the recovery of the loss suffered by both the human and animal worlds alike.

Artist Biography

Aki Kondo Japan

b. 1987, Hokkaido
Lives in Tokyo

Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 "Takahashi Collection 2014 Mindfulness!" Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya
"A TABLE! - ART FEAST- " Mie Prefectural Art Museum, Mie
- 2013 "THE ECOLOGY OFAKI KONDO" JIKKA, Tokyo
- 2012 "An Earth of Eating" ShugoArts, Tokyo
- 2010 "AKI KONDO Exhibition" Enoma, Sendai

Group Exhibitions

- 2013 "Mindfulness: Takahashi Collection" (traveling) Kirishima Open-Air Museum, Kagoshima; Sapporo Art Park, Hokkaido
"Wonderful My Art" Kawaguchiko Museum of Art, Yamanashi
"VOCA" The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo
"KISS THE HEART #2" Ginza Mitsukoshi, Tokyo
- 2012 "PHANTOMS OF ASIA: Contemporary Awakens the Past" Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
- 2011-12 "4 artists show -painting-" ShugoArts, Tokyo
- 2011 "GROUP SHOW' imura art gallery, Tokyo
- 2010 "DE DE MOUSExTUAD Live Paint" Yamagata
"NIPPON ART NEXT 2010" Tokyo
"WAKATEN" AYu:M, Yamagata
"IWAKI ART triennial 2010" Fukushima
- 2008 "Artist-in-Residence Kanayama-machi" Yamagata

Awards

- 2010 NIPPON ART NEXT 2010 Grand Prix Award

2009 Tohoku University of Art & Design Graduation production exhibition Grand Prix Award