

Atsushi Suwa

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

The Abandoned People is inspired by my father's memorandum of his experience at a refugee reception center in Manchuria. I read about cruel episodes which my father had never mentioned to anyone in his life. I had drawn The Abandoned People in 2012 after my journey to Manchuria. I followed his memories written in the memorandum, and the events recorded include his family's life as colonists in Northeast China, his experience after the defeat of the Japan in World War II, being forced to stay in a refugee reception center, and the death of his mother and younger brother before his repatriation.

As an artist, I draw in a realistic and direct manner, and excessive amounts of time is spent on collecting materials for my work. I also use documentary-related technical skills. At first, my intention was to draw a large portrait of a mother and her child living in the street during the war, an ironic image that would offer a sharp contrast to the typical portraits of autocrats. However, this simple and preliminary concept evolved during my journey. I tried to capture a realistic yet vague image of my grandmother, who was abandoned by her own country and erased from people's memories. I considered this my grandmother's second death and thus I wanted to experience for myself the impossible task of portraying someone who has been absent for the last 67 years in an alternative realistic painting.

Artist Biography

Atsushi Suwa
Japan

Education

- 1992 MFA from Musashino Art University
- 1994 Awarded two-year residency in Spain through the Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists provided by the Agency for Cultural Affairs

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 "Follow the Phase of the Moon" (Gallery Naruyama, Tokyo Japan)
- 2011 "To Live or to Die, We Share the Same Fate" (Gallery Naruyama, Tokyo Japan)
"Can't see anything anyway" (Suwa City Museum of Art, Nagano Japan)
- 2008 "Realist with compound eyes" (The Sato Museum of Art, Tokyo Japan)
- 2007 "Reunion~ Butoh dancer Kazuo Ohno" (Gallery Milieu, Tokyo Japan)
"SLEEPERS 3.0" (Tokyo Art Club, Japan)
- 2000 "Kazuo Ohno and Yoshito Ohno" (Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi, Tokyo Japan)
- 1994 "L'ESPOIR" (Ginza Surugadai Gallery, Tokyo Japan)

Selected Group Exhibitions / Prize

- 2013 "Imago Mundi" (Venice Italy) also participated for artists selection
- 2012 "Masculinity" (Gallery NaruyaJ.na Tokyo Japan)
"The nude- From Takeji Fujishima to Atsushi Suwa" (KasaJ.na Nichido Museum of Art, Ibaraki Japan)
"With Pencil" (Gallery Naruyama Tokyo Japan)
ART HK 12 (Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center)
"KOW AKU KOH-JYUTSU 3" (Spiral Hall, Tokyo Japan)
"KARUIZA WA NO KAZE" Japanese modern art from 1959-now (Karuizawa New Art Museum, Nagano Japan)
The Play of The Plan'12-'13 (Takasaki City Museum)
- 2011 ART HK 11 (Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre)
"TEDARE KOH-JYUTSU 2" (Spiral Hall, Tokyo Japan)

- 2010 ART HK 10 (Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre)
"KOH-JYUTSU" (Spiral Hall, Tokyo Japan)

- 2009 ART@AGNES (The Agnes Hotel and Apartments, Tokyo Japan)
Musashino Art University 80th Anniversary Exhibition "The Power of
Paintings The Magic of Paintings" (Musashino Art University, Tokyo Japan)

- 2008 Art Fair Tokyo 2008 (Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo Japan)
Art Taipei 2008 (TWTC Exhibition Hall, Taipei Taiwan)

- 2007 "Journey - Encounters and Dialogues with Foreign Cultures
"The 40th Anniversary of the Japanese Government Overseas Study
Program for Artists provided by the Agency for Cultural Affairs (THE NATIONAL ART
CENTER, Tokyo Japan)
"Born in Hokkaido: Fruit of the Ea1th, Man and Art" (Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art,
Japan)
TCAF 2007 (Tokyo Art Club, Tokyo Japan)

- 2005 Art Fair Tokyo (Tokyo International Forum, Saihodo Gallery)

- 2003 "Christmas in Peace" (THE SATO MUSEUM OF ART, Tokyo, Japan)

- 2003 "The Excellence Prize in the 22th Outstanding Rising Artists Exhibition (Sompo Japan
Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan)

- 2002 "Mountain-The Beauty of Eastern Japan" The JR East Japan (Tokyo Station Gallery)
"REALISM NOW" (Nara Prefectural Museum of Art, Japan)

- 2001 "Ryoyo-no-me" The Exhibition of Modern Paintings
(Mitsukoshi, Tokyo Japan)

- 1998 Japanese Modern Artist Exhibition (Shanghai Art Museum China)

- 1995 The First Prize in the 5th International Painting Competition (The Barcelo' Foundation,
Mallorca Spain)

Other milestones (TV Program/Book)

- 2013 Interviewed Antonio Lopez Garcia, a central figure in the Spanish Realism movement
for Japanese Art Magazine GEIJYUTSU SHINCHO

- 2011 Featured on NHK-TV's art program "Nichiyou Bijyutsukan (Sunday Art Museum)
Published 2nd monograph "ATSUSHI SUWA PAINTINGS Can't see anything anyway"
(pub. Kyuryudou) ISBN978-4-7630-1130-5 C0071
Acted as a model whose picture is featured on a magazine cover (Weekly AERA)
Featured on NHK-TV's culture program "El Mundo"

- 2008 Produced first edition work in collaboration with KYOTO BENRIDO
Produced illustrations to accompany Yoshikichi Furui's essay series" RAKUTEN NO HIBI "published in The Mainichi Shinbun (through 2010)
- 2005 Published 1st monograph "ATSUSHI SUWA PAINTINGS 1995-2005"
(pub. Kyuryudou) ISBN 4-7630-0518-9 C0071
- 2001 Featured on NHK-TV's art program "Doyou-bi no asa (NHK) Painter- Atsushi Suwa"

Public Collection

The Barcelo' Foundation (Mallorca Spain)
East Japan Railway Company (Tokyo Station Gallery I Japan)
Kasama Nichido Museum of Art (Ibaraki Japan)
The Sato Museum of Art (Tokyo Japan)
Hoki Collection (Chiba Japan)
Yokohama Museum of Art (Kanagawa Japan)
Suwa City Museum of Art (Nagano Japan)
Benetton collection (Venice Italy)
Etc.