

Mieko Hara

Selected Exhibitions & Projects

2011 RECLAMATION: Studio Quercus, Oakland, CA

2010 CD cover art for Sentinel
East Bay Open Studios. Uptown Gallery , Oakland, CA
Box Art. Pro Arts Gallery, Oakland, CA
Visual Aid. SOMArts Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Green:Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA

2009 Red:Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley,CA
On the Cutting Edge: West Coast Artists Using Collage and Assemblage. Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay, OR
Visual Aid. SOMArts Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Box Art. Pro Arts Gallery, Oakland, CA
Seed Corn Gallery, Berkeley, CA
East Bay Open Studios. Uptown Gallery, Oakland, CA

2008 Annual Exhibition. Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA
East Bay Open Studios. Uptown Gallery, Oakland, CA
Adaptation. Silkarts Gallery, Walnut Creek , CA
Valley Art Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA

2007 Annual Exhibition. Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA
East Bay Open Studios. Uptown Gallery, Oakland, CA

2006 Viral. LoBot Gallery, Oakland, CA
Publications

2009 Studio Visit Magazine Volume 5. Juror Michael Klein, former curator of the Microsoft Art Collection and former Director of the International Sculpture Center

Biography

Born in Oita, Japan, Mieko Hara lived in Tokyo from 1987 to 1996, and freelanced as an illustrator for publishers such as Kodansha, Shueisha, Shogakukan, Sony Music Magazines, Player, Rockin On, Latina and Sony Music and Toshiba EMI recording companies.

She has provided art illustration, comics and short stories used in the promotion of prominent Japanese bands such as Unicorn, Checkers, Yoshiyuki Ohsawa, Senri Oe and Hoppy Kamiyama. Her artwork is in the collection of the Brazilian singer Milton Nascimento. Most recently she has created CD cover art for the U.S. based group Sentinel.

Hara left Japan in 1996 and briefly lived in Sydney, Australia and Oahu, Hawaii before settling in Manhattan where she continued her art studies at The Art Students League from 1998-2001. After travelling throughout Europe and South East Asia she moved to California in 2003 and studied at the California College of Art. She currently lives on the Mexican border in southeastern Arizona. In addition to painting full time, she is converting an old church into studio space and living quarters.

Artist Statement

I approach painting without any preconceived notion or image, but with an improviser's mind, setting the visual elements into play until a kind of balance or resolution is achieved. Admittedly, this point of resolution is subjective, though I myself impose neither subjective nor narrative frames on the image in favor of chance incidents of process which function first as my guides and then as my intention. My painterly style is gestural and I like to think of the brushwork as possessing a kind of movement akin to photography or film. In recent work I have employed collage techniques that emphasize depth of field and the relationship between microscopic and macroscopic forms.

--Mieko Hara