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WINTER GARDEN
The Exploration of Micropop Imagination in Contemporary Japanese Art

PENANG – The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur in cooperation with Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah is proud to present Winter Garden: The Exploration of Micropop Imagination in Contemporary Japanese Art from 17 April to 16 May, 2015.

Curated by art critic Midori Matsui, the traveling exhibition focuses on reality as a product of “micropop imagination”. The term is used to explain deviant approaches to life that were adopted by 14 young Japanese artists to escape the risk of disappearing in a network of institutional codes and information.

The 35 drawings and installations on display represent each artist’s unique worldview through a combination of knowledge gained from individual experiences and imbuing them with new functions and meanings. These reinterpretations of common objects, outmoded fashions and anonymous places will involve spectators in new games and situations that encourage mutual communication and spontaneous actions.

The group show will offer local art aficionados the chance to view the works of leading Japanese contemporary artists for the first time in Malaysia.

Chim↑Pom is a six-member collective known for provocative projects that straddle a fine line between social satire, obnoxious pranks and biting humour. Earlier this year, they were crowned the overall winner at the Prudential Eye Awards for Contemporary Asian Art, walking away

Figure 1: might fly at night by Makiko Kudo (2007). Oil on canvas. 117.0x117.0cm. © Makiko Kudo. Courtesy of Tomio Koyama Gallery.

Event details
Date: 17 April – 16 May, 2015
Venue: Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Penang.
Visiting time: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday – Saturday
Admission:
RM4 | Adult
RM2 | Children (5-12 years)
Free | Staff, USM Students, Retirees, Senior Citizens and OKU
with the rights to exhibit at the prestigious Saatchi Gallery in London.

Another Japanese artist making his debut here is Koki Tanaka, who gained worldwide recognition through installations where he implements everyday items and materials found on site. His oeuvre largely incorporates both actors and audiences, which has drawn much critical praise for suggesting an inventive approach towards community-making. Now based in Los Angeles, he has represented Japan at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013 and was recently honoured as “Artist of the Year” by Deutsche Bank.

Lyota Yagi is a name that would ring a bell around these parts. In 2013, he was involved in “Media/Art Kitchen – Reality Distortion Field”, a collaborative exhibition that toured Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Manila and Bangkok. A lecturer in Spatial Design at Kyoto University of Art and Design, he commands a wide repertoire of expression techniques, covering found object, video, sound, installation and interactive art.

Other participating artists of the exposition include Ryoko Aoki, Masaya Chiba, Masanori Handa, Taro Izumi, Makiko Kudo, Mahomi Kunikata, Tam Ochiai, Hiroe Saeki, Hiroshi Sugito, Aya Takano and Keisuke Yamamoto.

The group show attempts to explore the efforts of contemporary artists to make the most of the poverty and boredom inflicted by the present age to reorganise various aspects of their daily activities and reinvent effective “ways of operating”.

Winter Garden – already held internationally in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia Pacific – will move to the University of Malaya Art Gallery in Kuala Lumpur this June.

For more information, visit http://www.jfkl.org.my or contact the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur at 03 2284 6228.

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About The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

The Japan Foundation is a non-profit organisation established in 1972 with the purpose of promoting mutual cultural exchange between Japan and other countries. The Kuala Lumpur office was established in October 1989.

The primary objective of JFKL is to develop mutual understanding between people through culture and language within the region. The office also facilitates and supports the exchange of personnel and experts who work in the fields of Arts, Culture, Humanities and Social Sciences.