

Biography

Misaki Kawai was born in Osaka, Japan in 1978. She is a Japanese contemporary artist who after studying at Kyoto University of the Arts in her native Japan, moved to New York in 2000, where she developed her take on *heta-uma*, an illustrative style rooted in manga that roughly translates from Japanese to mean “bad but good”, looking poorly drawn, but with an aesthetically conscious quality, opposed to the polished look of mainstream manga.

She currently lives between Osaka and New York and her work has been shown extensively around the globe, but particularly in the United States.

Kawai creates installations out of papier-maché, wood, fabric, and other low-tech, "crafty" materials like felt, stickers, and yarn. Kawai's artist book, *Blueberry Express*, was published by Nieves Press in 2009.

Biografia

Misaki Kawai è nata a Osaka, Giappone nel 1978. È una artista d'arte contemporanea che dopo aver studiato alla Università delle arti di Kyoto nel suo Giappone natale, si è trasferita a New York nel 2000, dove ha iniziato a sperimentare col *heta-uma*, una tecnica illustrativa nata nell'ambiente del manga e può essere tradotta dal giapponese come “brutto ma bello”, il contrasto estetico è voluto, ribelle e provocatorio. Il tratto del disegno rimane infantile, volutamente sgraziato ed essenzialmente ironico.

Attualmente abita tra Osaka e New York e i suoi lavori sono stati esposti in tutto il mondo ma in particolare negli Stati Uniti.

Nelle sue installazioni, Kawai utilizza materiali come il paper-maché, il legno, tessuti, e altri materiali semplici come il feltro, gli adesivi e il filato. Nel 2009 il suo libro, *Blueberry Express*, è stato pubblicato da Nieves Press.

Select Solo Exhibitions

2021

Moko Moko Doki Doki, The Hole, New York, NY

2020

Moja Moja Life: Misaki Kawai for Kids NGV Triennial 2020, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

2019

Off The Wall, Hudson Yards, New York, NY

Paper Party, Tokyo Art Book Fair GINZA Edition, Ginza Sony Park, Tokyo, Japan

Cygnus Loop, Gallery Baton, Seoul, South Korea

Downtown Painting, Peter Freeman, Inc., New York, NY

2018

Pine cones times, The Hole, New York, NY

2017

Romantic Melody, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2016

Cave Life, The Hole, New York, NY

2013

[Hair Show, The Hole, New York, NY](#)

2012

Mt. Pom Pom, Children's Museum of the Arts, New York, NY

2011

Big Bubble, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden

Wet Shiny Surprise, Galleri Loyal, Malmö, Sweden

Nice Bang, Furnetto, Lucerne, Switzerland

Pencil Exercise, Take Ninagawa, Tokyo, Japan

2010

Project N 43, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2009

Homeland 2020, Take Ninagawa, Tokyo, Japan

Kung Fu Forest, LaMontagne Gallery, Boston, MA

2008

Outdoor Club, Paul Bright, Toronto, Canada

Fancy Pants, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

Kimagure Float, Take Ninagawa, Tokyo, Japan

2007

Fuzzy Love, Galleri Loyal, Stockholm, Sweden

Momentum 7, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA (curated by Emily Moore Brouillet)

Big Break, Perugi Artecontemporanea, Padova, Italy

Tiger Punch, Clementine Gallery, New York, NY

2005

Mars Investigation Laboratory, Kantor / Feuer Window, New York, NY

2004

Kuru Kuru Jet, Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Community Park, Kenny Schachter Contemporary, New York, NY

2003

Sun Park, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX

Octopus Pier, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, NY

Misaki Kawai, Kenny Schachter Contemporary, New York, NY

2002

Air Show, Kenny Schachter ConTEMPorary, New York, NY

Garbage Room, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA

Select Group Exhibitions

2021

Can't Wait to Meet You, Primary, Miami, FL

Lampadephoria, VI Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2018

MINE II, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

VOLTA 14 , V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2017

SerpantiForm, Tokyo City View, Tokyo, Japan (curated by BVLGARI)

MINE, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

SerpantiForm, ArtScience Museum, Singapore (curated by BVLGARI)

Horses, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

Melted City 4, ISB Gallery, Providence, RI (curated by Louie Cordero and Jordan Isip)

Melted City 3, Blanc Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines (curated by Louie Cordero and Jordan Isip)

2016

Greek Gotham, Dio Horia, Mykonos, Greece (curated by Maria Brito)

Keep It Together, Flower Pepper Gallery, Pasadena, CA (curated by Mark Todd)

Character, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

Booby Trap, The Hole, New York, NY

2015

Powerful Babies: Keith Haring's Impact on Artists Today, Spritmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden (curated by Bill Arning and Rick Herron)

Tiger Tiger, Salon 94, New York, NY

Outta Town Sh*t, Kravets/Wehby Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Nina Chanel Abney)

She Sells Seashells by the Seashore, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY

Post-Analog Painting, The Hole, New York, NY

Woman House, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY (curated by Eric Firestone and Michelle Tillou)

2014

Playmaking, The Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa, Japan

This Is Not A Toy, The Design Exchange, Toronto, Canada (created by Pharrell Williams)

More Material, Salon 94, New York, New York, NY (curated by Duro Olowu)

Early Man, The Hole, New York, NY

Tee Pee Project, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY (curated by Eric Firestone and Michelle Tillou)

2013

Where To Go, MUJI to go kitte, Tokyo, Japan

Area, The Hole, New York, NY (curated by Jeffrey Deitch)

Japanese Artists in New York, Marunouchi House, Tokyo, Japan

Anxiety, The NY Times, New York, NY

Draw Gym, 247365, Brooklyn, NY

Chicken Or Beef? A Transcontinental Survey of Figurative Painting, The Hole, New York, NY

2012

The Big Bang, The Watermill Center, Water Mill, NY

Fun, Riihimäki Art Museum, Riihimäki, Finland

Permanent Collection, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY

Friends & Family, Kenny Schachter / ROVE Projects LLP, London, U.K.

Casa de Empeno, Anonymous Gallery, New York, NY

2011

75 Artists in 75 Years, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA

Status – Somewhere Between Position and Condition, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

In the Garden, Utopian Slumps, Melbourne, Australia

Face Maker, Royal / T Art Space, Los Angeles, CA (curated by Kathy Grayson)

International Exhibitions / Fumetto, Luzern, Switzerland

2010

Mutant Pop, Loyal, Malmö, Sweden

Insider/Outsider, Portugal Arte 10, Lisbon, Portugal

Not Quite Open For Business. The Hole. New York, NY

Album, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

The Cheaper Show, No. 9, W2 Storyeum, Vancouver, Canada

FIAC, Take Ninagawa, Paris, France

Happily Unhappy, Blanc Compound, Mandaluyong, Phillipines

2009

I Believe: Japanese Contemporary Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan

Visions of the Frontier, Institute Valenciá d'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain

The Overlooked Space, Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art, Winnipeg, Manitoba (curated by Paul Butler)

Wild Feature, Galerie Zürcher, New York, NY (curated by Brian Belott)

Wild Feature 2, Galerie Zürcher, Paris, France (curated by Brian Belott)

Flight of Fancy, Kenny Schachter / ROVE, London, U.K.

I Can't Feel My Face, Royal/T Art Space, Los Angeles, CA (curated by KAWS)

15 Year Anniversary, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Playing Around, Brattleboro Museum, Brattleboro, VT

2008

Last Second First – Narrative Art for the New Century, ISB Gallery, Providence, RI (curated by Jordin Isip)

Mail Order Monsters, Max Wigram Gallery, London, U.K.

The Lords, David Lawrence, Los Angeles, CA

Fun House, Park Life, San Francisco, CA

Just It (Just Be), Galleri Opdahl, Stavanger, Norway

Panorama Project, Jonathan Levine Gallery, New York, NY

Return to Sender, Krets, Malmö, Sweden

I Won't Grow Up, Cheim & Read, New York, NY

Everything Else, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY

Wet 'n' Wild, Kim Light Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Move 16, Cinders Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (curated by Rich Jacobs)

Object Salon, Honey Space, New York, NY; White Space Gallery, London, U.K. (curated by Bob Nickas, Kathy Grayson, Pascal Spengemann, Brooke Geahan and Thomas Beale)

Kunst Gruppe, Werkstätte, New York, NY

Kawai Misaki & Tao Soju, Gallery J-Chen, Taipei, Taiwan

2007

Those Bloody Yanks, Leonard Street Gallery, London, U.K.

Hey You Guyyyys, Community Outreach Gallery, Toronto, Canada

Making a Home: Japanese Contemporary Artists in New York, Japan Society, New York, NY

Gallery Artist, Take Ninagawa, Tokyo, Japan

Sporty Club GR2, Giant Robot, Los Angeles, CA

Red Hot: Asian Art Today from the Chaney Family Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

Animal Wrestling, Kinzelman ArtCounseling, Houston, TX

Art Under Glass, Macy's, Herald Square, New York, NY (curated by Gabrielle Bryers)

Homegrown, David Krut Projects, New York, NY (curated by Renee Riccardo)

Not only A, but B, Transformer Gallery, Washington DC (curated by Atsuko Ninagawa)

Paper Trails – New Adventures in Drawing, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

I Love Tourism, organized by Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Galleria di Piazza San Marco, Venice, Italy

Look Behind You, Giant Robot, New York, NY

These Bagels Are Gnarly, Cinders Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (curated by Rich Jacobs)

Five Painters, Galleri Loyal, Stockholm, Sweden

2006

Guy Ben-Ner & Misaki Kawai, TAKEFLOOR 404&502, Tokyo, Japan

Unwrapping the Wing, Invisible Museum, Denver, CO (curated by Devon Dikeou)

Boro-Boro and Doro-Doro, Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan

Art Parade, organized by Deitch Project, New York, NY

A Thousand Things, MU Museum, Eindhoven, Netherlands (curated by 2K by Gingham)

Collage Party, ZieherSmith Gallery, New York, NY

Waves, Mollusk Surf Shop, San Francisco, CA (curated by Marsea Goldberg)

It's a Beautiful Day, Ise Cultural Foundation, New York, NY (curated by Paul Laster and Renee Riccardo)

Don't Abandon the Ship, Allston Skirt Gallery, Boston, MA (curated by Eddie Martinez)

The Studio Visit, Exit Art, New York, NY

Mars Investigation Laboratory, Kantor / Feuer Window, New York, NY

2005

Live Through This, Miami Design Direct, Miami, FL (organized by Deitch Projects)

Tiger Drip, Gallery Loyal, Stockholm, Sweden

Loyal and His Band, Galleri Loyal, Stockholm, Sweden

Dear New Girl or Whatever Your Name Is, Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Hanging By a Thread, Moore Space, Miami, FL (curated by Nina Arias and Jose Diaz)

No Bones About It, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA

MOVE #13, Clementine Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Rich Jacobs)

Greater New York 2005, P.S.1 MoMA, New York, NY

The New Image Art Show, RVCA, Los Angeles, CA

2004

Five Artist Show, Kenny Schachter/ROVE, London, U.K.

Trunk of Humours, Deitch Projects, New York, NY (curated by Kathy Grayson)

Majority Whip, White Box, New York, NY

The Hunt For Your Family, Odd Number, Stockholm, Sweden (curated by Loyal at V1 Copenhagen)

Becoming Giants, Le Roy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY (curated by Camila Marambio)

2003

Special Projects Fall 2003, P.S.1 MoMA, New York, NY

Sun Park, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX

Baby You Can't Drive My Car, Cooper Classics, New York, NY (curated By Kenny Schachter)

Art Band, Capitale, New York, NY (curated By Kenny Schachter)

Lead Poisoning, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA (curated by Rich Jacobs and Marsea Goldberg)

Funny Cry Happy, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA

Crazy Bastard, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA (curated by Marsea Goldberg)

Collective Conscous, Mavi, New York, NY (curated by Scenic)

2002

Tensionism, Kenny Schachter/Rove, New York, NY (curated by Kenny Schachter)

Dime Bag, New Image Art, LA & The Front Room, Brooklyn, NY (curated by Jordin Isip and Rodger Stevens)

Super Hero, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA (curated by Marsea Goldberg)

Panorama, San Francisco & The Front Room, Brooklyn, NY (curated by Jordin Isip and Rodger Stevens)

Mica & Misaki, Transformer, Washington D.C. (curated by Victoria Reis and Jayme McLellan)

2001

The Exquisite Day Project, Plus Ultra, Brooklyn, NY (curated by Jording Islip and Rodger Stevens)

2000

Move East, One Pixel, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Rich Jacobs)