

Mai Miyake • Biography

Early Life, Themes of Nowness and Spirituality



Sometimes the Apple Falls Far from the Tree (S), 2020, Stone, glass, 23 x 20 x 10 cm

Mai Miyake accesses inner monologues and identities which are both Japanese and not, drawing on her own international upbringing and outlook. Born in Japan, growing up in Australia and educated in France, her own inspirations are manifold and various.

Beyond place, she is an artist preoccupied with time itself and its intersection with the very purpose and even origins of human life. She assesses and questions the true nature of things by seamlessly connecting the past, present, and future. In so doing, she allies a belief and passion for the intricacy and perfectionism of the traditional arts and crafts of Japan with her own spiritual contemplation.

Academia and Early Career

Mai Miyake graduated from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 2008, and remains a leading figure in academia in her native

Japan, where she was appointed Professor of Art & Design at Kyoto University in 2017. Prior to

graduating, she had won acclaim for contributions to exhibitions such as 2005's "Criterium 65" at the Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito (Ibaraki, Japan) and "[express] Shanghai" at the Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art in the same year.

An artist who restlessly explores the nature of her national identity, and the heritage and customs of Japan, Mai Miyake continually interrogates Japanese culture and its friction points with western civilization. She developed and expounded these themes in other successful shows in the following years, such as 2008's "Auspicious" at the Gallery Kochukyo in Tokyo and 2010's "NEXT Vol.1 Sparkling Days" at Yokohama Civic Art Gallery.

Diversity of Output and Emotion

Her practice fuses traditional media with emergent technologies (including artificial intelligence), asserting the perspective that they are all objects made by the hands of man and are thus on the same plane. Her work creates feelings of nostalgia and pathos, which not infrequently give way to touches of humour, mischief and subtle disorientation.

Prizes and Versatility

This range of output and emotion has seen her win accolades in Japan which included the Terrada Art Award in 2015, and the Bulgari Aurora Award of 2016.

The artist has shown herself to be exceptionally versatile and fluid in her creative expression, able to harness elemental, man-made and technological forms to apply the most subtle and flexible meanings to her work. This chameleon-like flexibility of approach brings antiques, craftwork, contemporary art, design, product making, and literature into her sway. In addition to publishing novels and essays through historic Japanese publishers such as Kodansha, she has engaged in a wide range of activities such as serving as a director of Shiseido the Store Window Gallery since 2018. Her fourth book, entitled "Everybody's Girl is Nobody's Girl" was published in 2017.

First Presentation at Art Basel



The Table with Light , 2018, Wood block printing Japanese pigment mica shell, paper cutting technique, paper collage, cloth for scroll, 269 x 111.5 cm

Mai Miyake's work is being presented for the first time in Ora-Ora's booth at Art Basel Hong Kong. Her new series of scrolls melds the ancient and the modern, the classical and the contemporary, human-made and elemental, to form a concept which is of all times and just one: the now. Exploring those departure points and cross-roads where the Japanese fantastical and allegorical make contact with everyday norms, she forms new imagined realities which are anchored in glass, wood and stone. Her love of collage and of combinations

situates her as an artist devoted to eschewing limitation.

Recent Exhibitions



The Salt of Earth You Are The Salt of Earth, 2019, Wood block print, Japanese pigment Japanese washi paper, acrylic, 103.8 x 68 cm

Recent solo exhibitions by the artist include 2018's "The Salt of the Earth" at Shibuya Kuroda Touen (Tokyo, Japan) and "Tea Ceremony Fascination of Art and Design - Marcel Wanders, Sudo Reiko, Miyake Mai" at Oita Prefectural Art Museum in the same year. She has featured in several recent museum exhibitions, including 2019's "Throughout Time: The Sense of Beauty World" Heritage Site Nijo-jo Castle, Ninomaru Goten Mori Museum, 2018's" Kanazawa:

Altering Home" at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa and 2018's "BOTANICA" at the Busan Museum of Art in South Korea.

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Mai Miyake

Mai Miyake is an artist who questions the true nature of things and the universality of expression, by seamlessly connecting the past, present, and future, through the intricacy and depth of the traditional arts and crafts of Japan and with her own esprit. She has been highly praised for her lithe works, which challenge the viewer's preconceptions and exercises the subconscious. Her unique yet somehow nostalgic and poetical works are timeless and contain symbols and stories that create a unique world that envelops the viewer with its multiple layers. Unrestrained by the straightjacket of genre, Mai fuses together antiques and craftwork with contemporary art, design, and cutting-edge technology, such as artificial intelligence, from the perspective that they are all objects made by the hands of man and thus on the same plane. Her expression freely cuts across mediums, to overcome the cramped divisions of antique, craftwork, contemporary art and design, flawlessly moving between tradition and innovation with her humor and unique interpretation of the context of Japanese art. Art director of the window art works for the renewal opened SHISEIDO THE STORE.

She studied at École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (Paris, France) from 2008. Her 4th art book "Everybody's Girl is Nobody's Girl" has been published in 2017.

SOLO EXHIBITION

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| 2018 | Solo Exhibition "The Salt of the Earth" Shibuya Kuroda Touen (Tokyo, Japan)

"Everybody's Girl is Nobody's Girl" Morioka Shoten Ginza (Tokyo, Japan) |
| 2017 | "Vestiges" Wacoal Study Hall Kyoto Gallery (Kyoto, Japan)

Tobi Art Fair 2017 "Mai Miyake: The Breath of Dragonfly" Tokyo Art Club, Murakoshi Gallery Booth (Tokyo, Japan)

"Tenningosei (With the Force of Five Celestial Beings)" t.gallery (Tokyo, Japan)

"Duodecimal" Nihombashi Takashimaya, 6F Art Gallery X (Tokyo, Japan)"Time Flies" TRI GALLERY OCHANOMIZU (Tokyo, Japan) |
| 2016 | "The Shape of Prayer" (Tokyo, Japan) |
| 2015 | "Thing that Reminds" at the EM District Japan Week (Bangkok, Thailand)

ART FAIR TOKYO 2015 "Heaven and Earth" Tokyo International Forum / Gallery Murakoshi booth (Tokyo, Japan) |
| 2014 | "A Sign" Gallery Kochukyo (Tokyo, Japan) |
| 2013 | "Heaven Helps Those Who Help Themselves." Pola Museum of Art (Hakone, Japan) |

- "Little Lily - White Lie" Pola Museum Annex (Tokyo, Japan)
- "Obaitori" (cherry, plum, peach, and apricot trees), Hiroshima Mitsukoshi 7F
 (Hiroshima, Japan)
- ART FAIR TOKYO 2013 "March drifting clouds bring forth April flowers" Tokyo
 International Forum / Gallery Murakoshi booth (Tokyo, Japan)
- "THE SEVEN TALES OF A CAT" Gallery Murakoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
- ART FAIR TOKYO 2013 "March drifting clouds bring forth April flowers" Tokyo
 International Forum, B2F Exhibition Hall / Gallery Murakoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
- "THE SEVEN TALES OF A CAT" Gallery Murakoshi (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2012 "Dead Angle" ICN Gallery (London, UK) "Queen Projects by Ishibashi" Gora Kadan
 (Hakone, Japan)
- 2011 "Down the Rabbit Hole" Bunkamura Gallery (Tokyo, Japan) FINE ART ASIA 2011
 "OPEN WINDOW" (Hong Kong)
- 2010 "NEXT vol.1 Sparkling Days" Yokohama Civic Art Gallery (Yokohama, Japan)
- 2008 "Auspicious" Gallery Kochukyo (Tokyo, Japan)
- "A Little Prayer" Matsuzakaya Nagoya Art Gallery (Nagoya, Japan)
- 2007 ART FAIR TOKYO 2007 "Luna Park" Tokyo International Forum / Gallery Murakoshi
 (Tokyo, Japan)
- "When U Wish Upon a Star" sake KYOKA (Tokyo, Japan) Art Fair Tokyo
- 2005 "Pudding Rather than Praise" Murakoshi Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
- Art Fair Tokyo 2005 "Tokyo International Forum" Gallery Kogure (Tokyo, Japan)
- Umi-Mori Art Museum (Private Museum at Hiroshima, Japan) "Criterium 65"
 Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito (Ibaraki, Japan)
- 2004 "Miyake My Room" Laforet Lapnet (Tokyo, Japan) "Time for Tea" Bunkamura
 Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2003 Solo Exhibition Printemps Ginza (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2001 Solo Exhibition Beaux-art Mieux (Tokyo, Japan)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 "Aurore Thibout Les Modesties" Wacoal Study Hall Kyoto Gallery (Kyoto, Japan)
- Throughout Time: The Sense of Beauty World Heritage Site Nijo-jo Castle,
 Ninomaru Goten Daidokoro (Daidokoro Kitchen),
 Okiyodokoro (Okiyodokoro Kitchen)
- 2018 "Culture City of East Asia 2018 Kanazawa: Altering Home" Neighborhoods in 21st
 Century Museum of Contemporary Art,
 Kanazawa (Kanazawa, Japan) Busan Museum of Art "BOTANICA" (Korea)
- "Tea Ceremony Fascination of Art and Design -Marcel Wanders, Sudo Reiko,
 Miyake Mai" Oita Prefectural Art Museum (Oita, Japan)
- Group Exhibition Yokohama Takashimaya 7F Gallery (Yokohama, Japan)
- 2017 "Kakegawa Chaennale" Shiseido Art House (Shizuoka, Japan)
- "VOLTA 13" GALLERY KOGURE Booth, MARKTHALLE (BASEL, Switzerland)
- 2015 「Peninsular Practices: The New Faces of Realism」
- Asian Art in London (Purple) : Women of Mankind (Singapore)
- 2013 "Ukiyo-e POP" Shizuoka Tokaido Hiroshige Museum of Art (Shizuoka, Japan)
- 3rd support for reconstruction of the great et Japan earthquake Charity Art Bag
 Auction" Takashimaya, Kyoto/Nihonbashi (Kyoto/Tokyo, Japan)
- Mai Miyake participating in Imago Mundi, a Collateral Event of the 55th
 International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale. Fondazione Querini Stampalia
 (Venice, Italy)
- "SUMMER SHOW 2013" Takashimaya Nihonbashi/Shinjuku (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2012 "Dead Angle" ICN Gallery (London, UK) "Queen Projects by Ishibashi" Gora Kadan
 (Hakone, Japan)
- 2011 "NEXT vol.1 Sparkling Days" Yokohama Civic Art Gallery (Yokohama, Japan)
 September 30 – October, 2011
- Charity Art Auction for the Great Earthquake Disaster in Eastern Japan October 5 –
 9, 2011 "Japanese Art Today" Tokyo Art Club (Tokyo, Japan) "Spiritutainment" 100
 Tonson Gallery (Bangkok, Thailand)

- The Great East Japan Earthquake Charity Art, Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, Japan)
- ART HK11, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (Hong Kong)
- “Ohako” Gallery (London, UK) September 8 – October 19, 2011
- 2010 Art Fair Tokyo 2010 “3 Sanpuku-tsui” Tokyo International Forum / Murakoshi Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2009 “LOWER AKIHABARA. 1st” LOWER AKIHABARA. (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2008 “Kuchu Teien” Gallery Kogure (Tokyo, Japan)
- Art Fair Tokyo 2008 “Forget-me-not” Tokyo International Forum / Masuho Gallery (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2007 “Hako Ningen” Gallery Kogure (Tokyo, Japan)
- Dan/Dans “Le Monde de Coco” Chanel Nexus Hall (Tokyo, Japan)
- EDO ISHO “Maister Meets Designer vol.1” Gallery le bain (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2006 “Toumei Ningen” Gallery Kogure (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2005 “[express] Shanghai” Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art (Shanghai, China)

INSTALLATION

- 2019 “SHISEIDO WINDOW GALLERY 2019” SHISEIDO THE STORE (Ginza)
- 2018 SHISEIDO THE STORE Window Display (Tokyo, Japan)
- Culture Cities of East Asia 2018 Kanazawa “Altering Home” Co-organized by 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art
 (Kanazawa, Japan)
- 2016 BEAMS JAPAN (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2015 “Can Not See the Forest for the Trees” Tokyo Midtown DESIGN TOUCH 2015 (Tokyo, Japan)
- Oita Sightseeing Wall “Mai Miyake’s World Cuckoo-Clock – WORLD could be a safer place CLOCK” Oita Prefectural Art Museum
 (OPAM)

- 2014 "HOTEL RYUMEIKAN OCHANOMIZU HONTEN" (Tokyo, Japan)
"Andaz Tokyo Toranomon Hills" (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2013 TOTO "NEOREST x 4 CREATORS" TOKYO DESIGNERS WEEK 2013 / ROPPONGI HILLS (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2012 "Aqua x Ignis" in Mie prefecture (near Ise Jingu)
"Forest of words" Keio University (Kanagawa, Japan)
- 2011 「FINE ART ASIA 2011」 Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
- 2010 "Oriente ed occidente uniti da un filo di carta washi" with Torafu Architects Inc. Villa Necchi Campiglio (Milano, Italy)
"East and West, linked by a washi paper thread" with Torafu Architects Inc. The Italian Cultural Institute (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2008 KOGANECHO BAZAR (Yokohama, Japan)
Dan/Dans "The House" Nihon Homes (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2007 Window Display "COME RAIN OR SHINE" Maison Hermès, Ginza (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2006 "Inside Out" And A (Osaka/Yokohama/Fukuoka, Japan)
- CONTRACTED WORKS

WORKSHOP

- 2012 "Forest of words" Open work shop at Keio University with Mai Miyake. Date: November 15 – 21, 2012 (closed on sunday) Venue: Hiyoshi campus Keio University, Raiosha Gallery Talk show (music and art on Claude Achille Debussy)
Yasuhide Shimbata, Chief Curator of the Bridgestone museum with Mai Miyake
Artist M.C: Masaya Suzuki, manager of "Harold" Date: September 8, 2012 starts 7pm Venue: Rokujigen in Ogikubo
- 2010 Yokohama Art University (Yokohama Japan)
- 2007 Setagaya Museum (Tokyo, Japan)

COLLECTION

2016	BEAMS JAPAN (Tokyo, Japan)
2015	HOTEL RYUMEIKAN OCHANOMIZU HONTEN (Tokyo, Japan)
	Andaz Tokyo Toranomon Hills (Tokyo, Japan)
2013	Pola Museum of Art (Hakone, Japan)
	LUCIANO BENETTON COLLECTION (Italy)
2012	AQUA x IGUNIS (Mie, Japan)
2009	Kakegawa Ninomaru Museum of Art (Shizuoka, Japan)
2005	Umi-Mori Art Museum (Hiroshima, Japan)
	Fujiyama-Museum (Yamanashi, Japan)

GRANTS

2016	BVLGARI AVRORA AWARDS
2010	DE LA MER 10th Anniversary Female Artist Award
	Machida KumiNoguchi
	Rika Murayama
	Ruriko Yanagi
	Miwa Fujishiro
	Namiko Tezuka
	AikoMori Mariko
	Aoki Katsuyo
	Yasumoto Masako
	Miyake Mai
2003	Special Jury Prize, Amuse Artist Audition in Kyoto

JURY IN AWARDS

2015	Terrada Art Award 2015
2014	1st Terrada Art Award
2013	Art Award "THE DEBUT 2014"
	KONICA MINOLTA eco & art AWARD 2012
	art_icle Award vol.5
2010	Kawaii Award 2010
2009	Maebashi Art Competition Live 2009, vol.13
2008	Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award 2008