Manifold | Mitsumasa Kadota
Art for Breakfast 2021
Dec 7th 6:00-7:15pm (Dec 8th 8 - 9:15 a.m. JST)
Online: open to the public

Experiencing and exposed to the New York art scene, a contemporary artist, Mitsumasa Kadota, will talk about his life and journey as an artist and the visions he has for his future works.

When Mitsumasa Kadota was young, he had difficulties fitting in as a kid with ADHD. He was raised by his grandparents in Shizuoka and started to paint seriously when he entered Tokyo Zokei University. There he started to express in his works an “indescribable sensation” he’s had since childhood. To this day, that sensation is the driver of what he is challenging himself to express in his works.

He has worked mainly in Tokyo, but he met Cy Twombly’s nephew, Cody Franchetti, which later led to an invitation by the MoMA’s Young Patron Program to do a solo exhibition in New York City. In New York, he experienced firsthand that collectors have their own unique views and values to determine the quality of art works presented to them. He felt strongly that New York collectors understand and accept diversity and individualism of the artist and their work.

Kadota’s base is in Japan, and he wants to challenge himself to discover and express the latent emotions and sociality in values. Experiencing and exposed to the New York art scene, for this program, he will talk about his life and journey as an artist and the visions he has for his future works.

Register Here

Shojo Manga: The Power and Influence of Girls' Comics

December 16, 8pm EST

Online

As a part of our pop culture series, we will start a special “Girls’ culture series” exploring topics such as Shojo manga, Kawaii culture, Takarazuka Revue and Boys Love to gain a broader and deeper understanding of the roots of Japanese Girls’ pop culture.

Recently, Shojo manga, Japanese girls’ comics has become popular globally, but its styles and themes come from more than a century of girls’ culture in Japan.

Come join our panel discussion with four Shojo manga experts: Deborah Shamoon, Mia Lewis, Kazumi Nagaike and Erica Friedman. They will delve into the history of Shojo manga and take a closer look at the styles and themes that make the genre so unique, while exploring the universal appeal and influence of Shojo manga. The discussion will be followed by a live Q&A. If you have questions for the guests, please submit them through Eventbrite when you register.

→ RSVP HERE
Edo's Eco Life for Today: Part II - Food Culture in the Edo Era

December 17, 8pm EST

Online

Mottainai, a Japanese word encompassing the spirit of getting the most out of everything, took root in Edo period Japan (1603-1868). Edo period experts Professor Kamatani Kaoru and Professor Azby Brown will discuss food culture in the Edo Era through the lens of mottainai, a grassroots mentality that was pervasive throughout the Edo period, and discuss the inspiration we can take way for today's global community. This webinar is part of the Mottainai: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Series, which is organized and created by the Japan Foundation/CGP.

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Vistas: Visions of China, Japan, and Korea
OCTOBER 30, 2021 - FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Exhibition at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

Profound depictions of landscapes in Asia date back thousands of years. These images of nature, whether realistic or imaginary, have served many purposes—as points of meditation or escape, to assert pride in national identity, settings for lore and religious narrative scenes, as well as for aesthetic appreciation. They also reflect the political and social structures of the societies from which they come. The works on display exemplify the diversity of themes arising from this genre and demonstrate a range of methods that artists in Asia and of Asian descent employed within the long tradition of depicting land, nature, and the world around us.

Vistas: Visions of China, Japan, and Korea exemplifies our universal desire, as humans, to seek out the natural world and its wonders to find meaning, beauty, and purpose. Through multiple cultural perspectives, the exhibition demonstrates how people view, interpret, and shape their surrounding landscape and how the landscape, in turn, shapes the people who inhabit it. The multifaceted lenses of artists from China, Japan, and Korea in Vistas will offer a unique range of aesthetic approaches to thinking about and creating landscapes through traditional ink painting, contemporary works on paper, ceramics, and sculpture. Artists included are ukiyo-e master Hiroshige Andō, contemporary ceramic artist Hashimoto Tomonari, and regional artists BeiBei and LeiLei Chen, among others.

Reserve Your Ticket