

UMETSU Youichi - POST GRADUATION

March 29 - May 2, 2008

アラタニウラノ
ARATANIURANO

ARATANIURANO is pleased to announce that from March 29th to May 2nd, 2008, we will be holding Yoichi Umetsu's solo exhibition "POST GRADUATION".

Yoichi Umetsu was born in Yamagata Prefecture in 1982. After graduating from Tokyo the Painting Department at Zokei University, he won Second Prize at the 9th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art Exhibition in 2006, which brought him into the lime-light.

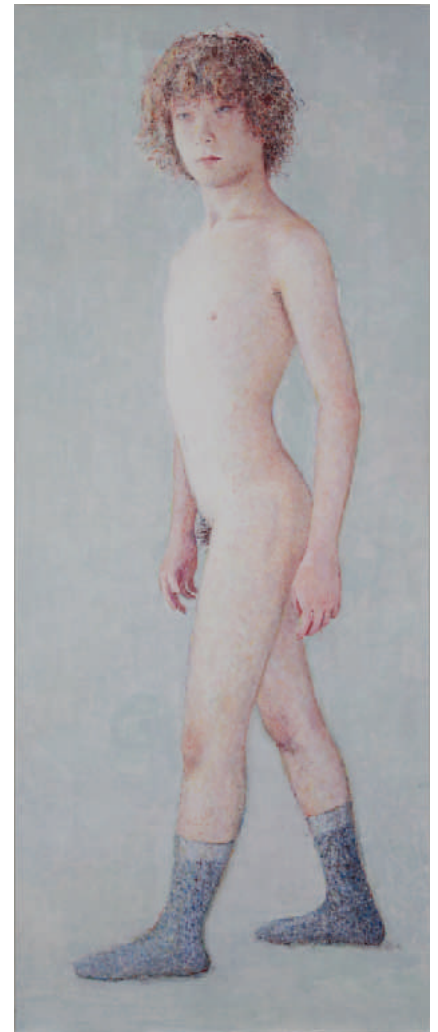
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Umetsu employs three very distinct techniques to achieve different expressive qualities in his work. There are his very finely detailed oil paintings, such as the erotic self-portrait he submitted to the 9th Taro Award in 2006, recalling 'Floreal' by Raphael Collin, a painter famous in Japan but forgotten in his home country of France. There are his metalpoint works, into which he has engraved images of relatives who died during the war, taken from old photographs. Lastly, there are his heartrending pen drawings, which look like manga with words. All of Umetsu's works reveal something intimate about the artist's life and his way of working.

For this exhibition, Umetsu says, "By installing paintings and personal possessions in the gallery space, I want to 'moisten' the boundaries between things, and render things (qualities) in bright red, like a throbbing inflammation—things that will resemble the pain of love, or the distortion of historical viewpoints..."

Umetsu is an unusual young artist in terms of his approach: while of course on the one hand he is taking an analytical stance towards modern painting, his personal history and surroundings, and he has a high sensibility as a painter, on the other hand he makes his works as a form of 'clues' that incorporate motifs such as his persistent whims, imperceptible subtle feelings, the changing of his mind a few hours later, unstable values, and sex. Perhaps the interplay of these motifs and their qualities as a tumor-like 'moistened' and 'throbbing inflammation' are in fact a manifestation of Umetsu's own self-awareness. People who see his exhibition will react in a manner that shares incoherent and distorted thoughts, and their anxieties will become throbbing red rashes.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to come and see Yoichi Umetsu's first major solo exhibition.



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In conjunction with this press release, we would also like to announce the following:

ARATANIURANO will also be participating in the 101 Tokyo Contemporary Art Fair 2008, and will be holding a solo show of Yoichi Umetsu's work in its booth.

Dates : April 3rd (Thu) - 6th (Sun) 2008.

Venue : Former Rensei Chugakkou, 6-11-14 Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

URL : <http://www.101tokyo.com>

1. [K]night
2007-2008
h.183 x w.74.2 cm