

cosmetic girl and tired boy

Youichi Umetsu / Chihiro Mori

September 15 - October 16, 2010

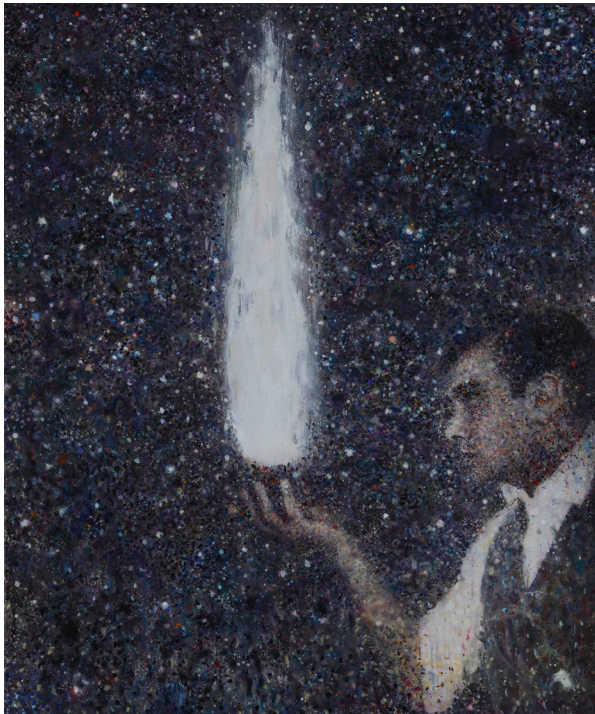
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ARATANIURANO is pleased to announce an exhibition by Youichi Umetsu and Chihiro Mori entitled “cosmetic girl and tired boy,” which will be held from September 15 to October 16.

Youichi Umetsu was born in Yamagata prefecture in 1982. He is a promising young artist who won Second Prize at the “9th Annual Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art” (2006) after graduating from the Department of Fine Arts at Tokyo Zokei University, and was selected for the VOCA 2009 exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum). Though Umetsu's works are characterized by his unique style of using delicate, pointillistic strokes, his means of expression are diverse: his two-dimensional works, ranging from oil painting, metalpoint sketches drawn with sharpened metal, and pen drawings, are exhibited as elements of installation combined with objects from daily life. His main motifs are constructs that form his self, including self-portraits, portraits of relatives, and objects that have engendered strong emotional attachments.

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Chihiro Mori was born in Osaka in 1978. After completing her Master's program in Painting at the Kyoto City University of Arts, Graduate School of Art, her activities have been notable with participation in “The Door into Summer: The Age of Micropop” exhibition (2007 / Art Tower Mito) and “Garden of Painting—Japanese Art of the 00s” exhibition (2010 / The National Museum of Art, Osaka). She is recognized as an artist who will lead the next generation. Mori's style is also diverse, with three-dimensional pieces made of waste materials and daily objects, and two-dimensional pieces and drawings on paper or panels

1.
Youichi Umetsu
Spirit
2010
Oil on wood panel
72 x 60 cm

2.
Chihiro Mori
Light Night (New Balance)
2007
Ink, felt-tip pen on paper
12.5 x 17.7 cm

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with watercolors, pencil and ink. Her pieces appear to be a distorted merging of the chaotic informational fragments that surround us. The viewing surfaces that have been intentionally deconstructed and reconstructed seem to open up new possibilities for painting.

The genesis for this exhibition was Umetsu Youichi's interest in Chihiro Mori's work. Umetsu planned this project, and invited Mori to participate. This exhibition is not based merely on a friendship between artists of the same generation, but instead, the driving force is their earnest desire to rethink and redefine "viewing" and "drawing" through the similarities and differences of their pieces.

"I first saw Ms. Mori's piece in 2005, and the inability to pin it down caught my attention. Her email address was on her website, so I emailed her this spring. That was the trigger for this exhibition.

The title, "cosmetic girl and tired boy" was a phrase thought up by Ms. Mori several years ago, and we decided to use it without modification. It felt like it was the only phrase that could represent this exhibition.

We don't have very many commonalities, but I don't think the differences are so much that one would use the word 'contrasting.' This isn't about camaraderie of a generation, nor hatred borne of proximity, but it's about exploring the meaning of our works. I want to see visual worlds collide and bypass each other. I want to feel excitement of the essence of poesy that can't be put into words. I understand it as each of us approaching it in our own ways to derail any momentum for homogenization or simplification of quality and perspective.

We look forward to sharing our new works at this exhibition."

Youichi Umetsu

In this exhibition, Umetsu's oil paintings and manga and Mori's watercolors and three-dimensional pieces will be displayed. Please look forward to seeing how pieces of completely different origin will impact and influence each other to evoke tension in this exhibition by two up-and-coming young artists.

We appreciate your cooperation with the publicity for this exhibition, and thank you in advance for your support.

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