

# Tomoko

## TOMOKO NAGAO ARTWORKS

### **TOMOKO NAGAO**

1976, Born in **Nagoya Japan**, works and lives in **Milano, Italy**.

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photo by Paola Francesca Arpone

Tomoko Nagao is one of the main contemporary artists of Micropop art. She was born in 1976 in Nagoya, Japan. She studied in Japan assimilating Nara Yoshitomo's style made of stylized shapes and Takashi Murakami's Superflat style. And in London she attended the Chelsea College of Art.

Her production includes original paintings (Gioconda, Infanta Margherita with Coca-Cola and Kitty), stencils (Candy-Candy Blue MicroPop Superflat, Canestra di frutta Yellow MicroPop Superflat) and vectorial art (Botticelli - The Birth of Venus with Baci, The Great Wave of Kanagawa with MC, Cupnoodle, Kewpie, Kikkoman and Kitty). She practices the Superflat style, the postmodern Japanese art movement founded by Takashi Murakami. So her artworks are characterized by flat and emphatic images and defined outlines and she's considered the most important exponent of MicroPop Art in Italy. She usually reinterprets Renaissance masterpieces employing the Japanese aesthetic concept of "kawaii" that makes everything cool. Tomoko takes Caravaggio, Velázquez, Tiziano, La Tour, Botticelli, Hokusai's artworks and she revisits them, also introducing global brands like Coca-Cola, iPad, Barilla, Play Station PSP. Nagao's adaption of Old Master paintings are intended as an ironic reference to the economic mechanisms of power in the production of images, where Renaissance patrons like Medici have now been replaced by the creative directors of major brands.

In September 2015 her "Botticelli - The Birth of Venus with Baci" was exhibited at the Gemälde Galerie of Berlin in occasion of "The Botticelli Renaissance" group show. The same artwork was also on show on March 2016 at the Victoria and Albert Museum of London.

The artist was protagonist of many other exhibitions in Italy (Forte dei Marmi, Porto Cervo, Parma, Milano) and she's going to collaborate with some famous international fashion brands. Tomoko Nagao lives and works in Milan.

By Christian Gancitano

" The emphatic flatness of the image and its clearly defined outlines, derived from the visual language of the postmodern Japanese art movement Superflat, here seem like an extreme version of the style of the Old Renaissance master, which worked on similar principles. This affinity is unintentionally reminiscent of the way in which Japanese art of the Edo period was perceived in Europe during the second half of the nineteenth century, around the same time as Botticelli was rediscovered. Superflat routinely employs the aesthetic concept of 'kawaii', known in Europe primarily through Japanese animated films, using it to comment on Japanese consumer culture. Nagao's adaptations of Old Master paintings are intended as an ironic reference to the economic mechanisms of power in the production of images, where Renaissance patrons like the Medici have now been replaced by the creative directors of major brands. "

By Ruben Rebmann, *TOMOKO NAGAO*, in "The Botticelli Renaissance", Berlin Gemäldegalerie 2015, p. 136.

2003 Graduated from **Chelsea college Art & Design, MA Fine Art, in London**

2001 Graduated from Byam Shaw Art college Post Graduate, in London

1999 Graduated from Bsemi Schooling system, in Yokohama Japan

1997 Graduated from SAGA Art college, Printing course, in Kyoto Japan

1995 Graduated from Toho High School, Fine Art course, in Nagoya Japan

Solo shows:

2020 "Women in Pop" 210 Gallery, Galleria VIK milano, Milano Italy.

2019 "TOMOKO NAGAO" Triennale di Milano, Milano Italy.

2019 "SHISEIDO ARTLAB " collaboration and workshop with SHISEIDO, Venezia Firenze Roma Catagna Milano Italy.

2018 "Iridescent Obsessions TOMOKO NAGAO" Deodato Arte, Milano Italy.

2018 "TOMOKO NAGAO" Galleria Alberto Sordi, Roma Italy.

2012 "Superflat experience di TOMOKO NAGAO" Galleria Famiglia margini, Milano Italy.

2012 "Micropop- Kawaizazione di TOMOKO" MO.OM, Olgiate Olona, Italia.

2007 "PoP PuPPet" Galleria Famiglia Margini, in Milano Italia.

1999 "Castle in the sky" at YAMATE 234 Gallery, in Yokohama.

1998 YURAKU BASHI Gallery, in Tokyo.

Group shows:

2020

"Icons of art" workshop for Uniqlo 1st univasary, Uniqlo store, milano Italy.

"living women" Casa lago, Milano Italy.

2019

"Oh my pop!", nhow milano, milano Italy.

"Girls Girls - International Exhibition of Art & Illustration", Organized by Cultural Affairs Department of New Taipei City Government, Implemented by Fun Design, at Taipei City Arts Center, Taipei China.

"SURFASHION", GALLERIA VIK MILANO, Milano Italy.

2018 "Japan pop in Franciacorta" Franciacorta outlet village, Rovato Italy.

2017 "Kirakira" Contemporary Concept in Galleria Cavour, Bologna Italy.

2016

"Monferrato Fluttuante", Castello Paleologo di Casale Monferrato, Italia

"Botticelli Rimagined", Victoria albert museum, London UK.

"The last last supper ", Villa Burba RHO Italy.

2015

"Botticelli Renaissance" Gemäldegalerie, Berlin Germany.

"Energy box-URBAN ART Renaissance" Fabbrica del Vapore, Milano Italia.

"Premio Pio Alferano 2015", curated by Camillo Langone and Vittorio Sgarbi, Castello di Castellabate, Castellabate, Italia.

"M-WAM - making our future" Expo 2015 Milano, Fondazione Triulza, Milano Italia.

"M-WAM - Milano World Arts Map " Fabbrica del Vapore, Milano Italia.

"Asta Adisco" Sotheby's, Milano Italia.

2014

"BRERART 2014" Live painting at giardini di via montello, Milano Italia.

"Popup revolution" Casorma XXIV Maggio- Milano, MdM museum- Porto Cervo Sardinia, l'art gallery- Parma Italia.

"Hungry for Art" Super studio piu, Milano Italia.

2013

"Bentornato Caravaggio 2013" la manifestazione organizzata da Decima Musa Caravaggio, Caravaggio Italia.

"Link art fair HK" in art basel in HK, Hong kong in China.

"SALOME & NIPPOSUGGESTIONI " via Dante, in Milano Italia.

2011

"SANRIO FOR SMILES EXHIBITION @ Mijapan 2011" Chiostrì dell'Umanitaria, Milano Italy.

"New grotesque" Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio Milano, Milano Italy.

2009

"FUWARI IN PALAZZO REALE", installation of Tomoko Nagao, bookshop of "mostra SAMURAI" in Palazzo reale, Milano Italia.

1999

CANON Photo Prize Show at P3 Gallery, in Tokyo.

Bsemi Exhibition at Yokohama City Gallery, in Yokohama.

"Happy go lucky" at SEZON Art program, in Tokyo.

"Hiroshima Art Works" at Haizuka Art center, in Hiroshima.

CANON Photo Prize Show at Gallery RAKU, in Kyoto.

Prize etc:

2003 Donated paintings in "Royal London Hospital - Vital Arts".

1999 Best prize in "**CANON Photo Award**".

Pubblicazioni:

2018

"**Iridescent Obsessions Tomoko Nagao**" Published by **DEODATO ARTE**, Milano Italy.

2017

"**ILLUSTRATION 2017**", Published by **SHOEISHA**, Tokyo JAPAN.

2016

"**the last last supper**" the catalogue of the exhibition at Villa Burba RHO Italy, Published by **Silvana Editriale**, Cinisello Balsamo Italy.

"**Botticelli Rimagined**" the catalogue of the exhibition at **Victoria albert museum** in London UK, Published by **HIMER** München Germany.

2015

"**Botticelli Renaissance**" the catalogue of the exhibition at **Gemäldegalerie**, Berlin Germany, Published by **HIMER** München Germany.

"**Energy box-URBAN ART Renaissance**" Published by **SKIRA** Milano Italy.

2014

"**Candy Candy**" wrote by **Lidia Bachis**, Published by **Edizioni Ultra**, Roma.

2013

the Cover of the book "**tradizione e parodia**" wrote by **Catrina Mazza**, published by **Cafoscarina**, Venezia.

present a image "Princess Candy" on the book "**io sono un mito**" wrote by **Francesca Bonazzoli**, **Michele Robecchi**, foreword by **Maurizio Cattelan**, published by **Electa**, Florence Italy.

2008

"**Sold Out**" the Catalogue a cura di Chiara Canali