

# 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 ( Nagoya, 1976), vive a lavora a Milano. Diplomata a Chelsea College Art & Design, MA Fine Art a Londra nel 2003, ha partecipato alla mostra *Botticelli Reimagined* presso il Victoria and Albert Museum nel 2016.

L' arte di Tomoko ha un approccio propenso alla contaminazione dei linguaggi e aderisce all' esperienza culturale Neo-pop e *Superflat*, capace di elaborare dei dispositivi a lettura stratificata e solo apparentemente banali: a un primo livello, infatti, assistiamo all' innesto della tradizione giapponese delle Anime nei miti della cultura occidentale, già peraltro setacciati dalla lunga esperienza Pop, da Caravaggio a Leonardo da Vinci, da Botticelli a Tiziano, a Velasquez, dalla scuola di Fontainebleau a Delacroix. In questa contaminazione e rilettura stridono le icone del mondo contemporaneo dei brand più famosi, introdotte con gusto tra l' ironia e la satira.

Un secondo piano interpretativo riguarda la scelta dei soggetti della tradizione, che interessano spesso figure femminili sottilmente erotiche o miti della bellezza occidentale, tradotti nell' estetica *kawaii*: figure che l' artista intende riabilitare come icone eroiche di una femminilità sempre soggetta alla violenza stereotipata della cultura dell' occhio maschile, da cui vorrebbero una volta per tutte liberarsi e irrompere come protagoniste. Ne consegue un ulteriore e più intimo senso dell' operare, che è connesso alla propria esperienza di donna artista nel mondo dell' arte, con le difficoltà e le ambiguità che la vicenda creativa comporta, ma intende allargarsi alla condizione femminile giapponese contemporanea, sempre più fragile e tuttavia abile a celare il dramma più sofferto dietro un' icona felice e spensierata.

" 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:

2022

"THE RED DOT" VOTRE CARRARA ITALY

"Con me o con nessuno" Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino Italy

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 Rimaged", 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" Chiostrri 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:

2022

"Le mie icone classiche" by Marta Ghezzi CORRIERE DELLASERA, A MAJOR NEWSPAPER IN ITALIA

2021

"Tomoko Nagao – Estetica kawaii e profezie distopiche" ARTEIN by Chiara gatti

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