

TAKE NINAGAWA

Take Ninagawa

2-12-4 HigashiAzabu, Minatoku
Tokyo 1060044 Japan
tel&fax:+81-(0)3-5571-5844
info@takeninagawa.com
www.takeninagawa.com

Misaki Kawai

Misaki Kawai was born in 1978 and raised in Osaka. She now works between New York and Osaka.

Kawai combs through flea markets and 99-cent stores for cheap goods, manufactured in places like China, India and Mexico, to use in making her sculptures of space stations, airplanes and cars operated by characters representing both her immediate and imagined communities. The influence of cheap goods is also apparent in her bright-paletted paintings of smiling trees, strawberries and animals. Recent canvas-based and installation work has pushed further into the realm of what might be termed second-hand shop abstraction by incorporating compositions of multi-colored pinwheels and other geometric motifs made of stitched fabric.

In the context of Japanese contemporary art, Kawai can be seen as part of a continuum of female artists such as Atsuko Tanaka and Yayoi Kusama who investigate the use of color, material, patterning and performance in their practices.

Kawai has exhibited extensively at major international venues. She has had a solo show at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2007); a two-person show at one of Japan's leading private institutions, the Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (2006); and was included in "Greater New York 2" at PS 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York (2005). In 2009 she was included in "Visions of the Frontier" at Institut Valencia d'Art Modern and "I Believe: Japanese Contemporary Art" at the Museum of Modern Art, Toyama.