

TAKE NINAGAWA

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Soju Tao

Soju Tao was born in 1977 in Tochigi, Japan, and is currently based in Tokyo. In 2002 he earned a BA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and Design, London, and in 2003 joined the MFA in Painting program at SLADE School of Fine Art before returning to Japan without a degree. Working under the label Okame Pro, Tao makes drawings, paintings, installations, videos and music inspired by the cheap production capabilities of Xerox copy machines. Okame Pro's 10 employees include artists, poets, musicians and writers, almost all of whom are actually Tao himself.

Recent solo exhibitions include Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery's "project N" series of solo shows for emerging artists in 2007 and Gallery J☆Chen, Taipei, in 2009. Tao was selected by Sophie Calle for inclusion in the "CHANEL: Mobile Art" art exhibition that toured to Hong Kong, Tokyo and New York in 2008, and that same year was commissioned to make a special design for the Bloomberg BloomBus! shuttle service by the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. In 2009 he was included in the prestigious annual exhibition of emerging artists "VOCA: The Vision of Contemporary Art" at Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo.