

TAKE NINAGAWA

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For Immediate Release:

Shinro Ohtake
貼貼貼 (Shell & Occupy 3)
September 13 through October 25, 2008

Take Ninagawa is proud to announce the opening of the final exhibition in the gallery's three-part series of solo shows for seminal artist Shinro Ohtake, “貼貼貼 (Shell & Occupy 3).”

Emerging in the 1980s, Ohtake developed a new visual language in Japanese contemporary art that responded to mass media imagery, underground music culture and the urban environment. His series of solo shows at Take Ninagawa has underlined the artist's consistent use of “stickering,” or pasting together found materials into dense accretions of patterns and imagery, in articulating that visual language. Inspired by Japanese youth who use scores of miniature “Print Club” keepsake photos to turn objects such as cell-phones, compact mirrors and notebooks into glossy, yet ephemeral artifacts, Ohtake's stickering anticipates the “mash-up” or sampling sensibility of 21st century society.

So far the gallery has featured never-displayed works from the 1990s and two small-format series of mixed-media collages. The centerpiece of “貼貼貼” is *Poppy / Sound Shadow 1* (2008), a two-meter by two-meter wall-mounted installation made specifically for exhibition. Sealed behind a translucent lacquer coating and composed from found photographs—including black-and-white production stills from 1960s roman porno movies—with vintage record jackets and LPs, *Poppy / Sound Shadow 1* suggests the possibility of a nostalgic celebration of a bygone era. However, gestural applications of cloth strips, cardboard and paper, as well as giant blooms of white and multi-colored paint, obliterate any sense of identification with the images. Showcasing Ohtake's ability to move across different scales and formal motifs, the work exists uneasily between painting, photography and sculpture.

Also in exhibition are additional works from the “Poppy” series (2008) and collage pieces from the early 1990s.

Born in Tokyo in 1955, Shinro Ohtake is widely regarded as one of the most influential Japanese artists of the past 30 years. Public collections include the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, and Naoshima Benesse House, Naoshima. Recent exhibitions include “New Universe on the Road,” at the Fukuoka Art Museum and Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art in 2007, and the groundbreaking retrospective, “Shinro Ohtake Zen-Kei Retrospective: 1955-2006,” at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, in 2006.