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Nayuki Taiga : The World of Coexistence

October 12 ~ 26, 2014

Open 7 days a week during the show.

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday & National Holidays: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Last Day, October 16th: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Opening Reception: October 12th, 6 - 8 p.m.



"Under the sparkles", 41.0 x 27.3 cm
"Kumohadamashi", washi, hide glue, sumi ink,
calcium carbonate, pigments, 2014

Asagi Arts is pleased to present **The World of Coexistence**, a solo exhibition of new work by **Nayuki Taiga**.

When he was still in elementary school, Nayuki Taiga learned the word, "Anthropomorphism", which means assigning animals or objects human characteristics. He has continued to pursue this theme until the present. He was influenced by Mickey Mouse, Kyōsai Kawanabe, and Choju Jinbutsu Giga (caricatures of frolicking birds, animals and humans). He points out the following: "Mickey Mouse is expressed as a human being, but he is differentiated from humans by having only 4 fingers on each hand." Kyōsai Kawanabe created a wide variety of work from traditional Nihonga, from caricatures to satire. From Choju Jinbutsu Giga, he learned energy and style for representing anthropomorphism. Inspired by these influences, Nayuki has

created entertaining characters that seem to express distinct feelings, with which viewers can identify and empathize.

He values negative space, also important in Nihonga which is, at times, ornamented with gold leaf. But Nayuki questions this conventional handling of negative space because modern interiors are so brightly lit. Alternatively, by using yellow, his work is harmonious in a variety of spaces. He is very particular about this aspect of his work.

Why did Nayuki choose frogs to anthropomorphize?

1) Frogs don't have hair.

Humans do have hair, but are not covered with it.

2) Frogs are amphibians; they live in water and on land.

We humans live on land, but can live at the water's edge and like being in water.

3) Our appearance changes from birth to adulthood.

"What goes on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and on three legs in the evening?" It is a universal riddle and the answer is humans. As this question indicates, our appearance is changing throughout our lives. It is the same with frogs.

It may seem comical to replace humans with frogs but when you see them depicted as behaving in human ways, they begin to reflect our own various behaviors. We can see that the frogs Nayuki Taiga depicts are mature beings freely cavorting in the world. By looking at the world he has created, we must reconsider our coexistence with animals, nature and all living things.

Artist's Statement

Human behavior is clearly different from that of other animals. As humans, we often forget how distinct that difference can be. It is sometimes uncomfortable seeing animals pictured behaving like us, but as a result, we can observe our own behavior subjectively. This is why I have anthropomorphized frogs. I believe humans today are living too selfishly. I wonder if our existence on this earth is necessary.

In the work exhibited in this show, I am depicting anthropomorphized frogs realistically and nature in silhouette. The contrast is apparent. By depicting nature in such a simplified way, I am expressing its strength. We often disregard humans, objects, and other living creatures because they are so close to us. I hope my work helps to reaffirm the meaning of coexistence on earth.

Nayuki Taiga