

Art Brut from Japan

Montanelli Museum, Prague, 1 Oct. 2013 – 19 Jan. 2014

The Museum Montanelli, in collaboration with abcd Paris and abcd Prague, presents the third in a series of exhibitions on art brut.

The first ever exhibition of Japanese art brut in the Czech Republic has been organized in collaboration with the Collection de l'Art Brut, founded in Lausanne, Switzerland, by the originator and champion of the concept of art brut, the artist and collector Jean Dubuffet.¹

The exhibition presents drawings, sculptures, and embroidery by eight contemporary Japanese artists who are some of the world's most renowned representatives of art brut.

Art brut, a concept that made it to Japan only recently, remains poorly understood by the public: it is a field that the world of art and the world of social welfare and healthcare have divided amongst themselves – though without any greater mutual understanding. Art brut – which has not suffered from a flood of imitations – continues to attract attention, perhaps because it lets us see the world that disappeared with the adoption of universal “art”. It is in art brut that we still find original creations defying all attempts at classification, works of art bound to our hidden, oft subconscious or ancient histories.

Thanks to the strength of their liberated imagination, these artists have succeeded in using their tools of expression to develop their personal dreams and desires. In their vital energy, novel artistic forms, and new aesthetic language, their works build upon the precious roots of Japanese culture, which past attempts at modernization have long forced into the background.

That artists always use their tools of expression to explore their own rituals, thus breaking out of the confines of tradition. In this context, can we even speak of a “Japanese style”? This exhibition aims to document a uniqueness that exceeds the boundaries of Japanese tastes and presents a way of seeing that originates in ancient times. Whenever an artist succeeds in discovering a new way of seeing the world, the line between “art” and art brut is blurred.

Exhibition artists:

Takanori Herai

Yumiko Kawai

Satoshi Morita

Masao Obata

Chiyuki Sakagami

Shinichi Sawada

Takashi Shuji

Yoshimitsu Tomizuka

Exhibition prepared by:

abcd Paris and abcd Prague, in collaboration with Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne

¹ Jean Dubuffet defined **art brut** as “pieces of all kinds – drawings, paintings, embroidery, modelled or sculpted figures, etc. – that have a spontaneous and highly inventive quality and owe as little as possible to customary art or cultural conventions and whose creators are unknown individuals outside the professional artistic circles. (...) We are witness to an entirely pure, raw artistic activity that, in its entirety and in its individual stages, emerges exclusively from the artist and his own impulses.”

Architectural design:

Ivana Brádková

Works on loan from:

Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne

abcd collection, Paris

Yutaka Nakano

MEM gallery, Tokyo

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Katsuya Ishida, MEM Gallery, Tokyo

Réna Kano, curator, Paris

Václav Kučera, chairman of Czech-Japanese Association

Sarah Lombardi, director of Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne

Martine Lusardy, director of Halle Saint-Pierre, Paris

Pascale Marini-Jeanneret, curator of Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne

Vincent Monod, Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne

Yutaka Nakano

Museum Montanelli, Nerudova 13, Prague 1

1 Oct. 2013 – 19 Jan. 2014

open Tue – Fri, 2 – 6pm

www.abcd.cz / www.muzeummontanelli.com

info@muzeummontanelli.com

[00420 257 531 220](tel:00420257531220)