

## Saya Irie Solo Exhibition "Recreated Images"



"Ballet Dust" (2013) eraser dust, photograph  
photograph: 205 x 146 mm / figure: 32 x 18 x 15 mm

Exhibition Title: Saya Irie Solo Exhibition "Recreated Images"

Dates: 7 September (Sat) – 28 September (Sat)

Location: Tokyo Gallery+BTAP | Tokyo  
7F, 8-10-5 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 〒104-0061  
TEL: 03-3571-1808 / FAX: 03-3571-7689

Opening hours: (Tues—Fri)11:00-19:00 (Sat)11:00-17:00

Closed: Sundays, Mondays and Holidays

Artist talk: 7 September (Sat) | 15:00-16:00

Opening : 7 September (Sat) | 16:00-18:00  
At Tokyo Gallery + BTAP

Inquiries: Hiroyuki Sasaki ([hiroyuki.sasaki@tokyo-gallery.com](mailto:hiroyuki.sasaki@tokyo-gallery.com))

Tokyo Gallery+BTAP announces “Recreated Images”, a solo exhibition by **Saya Irie** beginning on Saturday 7 September.



“Higuchi Dust” (2007) eraser dust, banknote  
bust: 18x10x9 mm / *kakitsubata*: 18x10x9 mm

Born in 1983 in Okayama, Irie completed Hiroshima City University’s pre-doctoral art studies course in 2009, and is currently based in Hiroshima. Her work was honoured in the 2009 Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art, and she was the recipient of the sixth Shiseido “Art Egg” award in 2012. An up-and-coming artist, Irie also exhibited works at London’s ICN Gallery in July 2013 in a solo exhibition.

Irie’s technique is to rub out a two-dimensional image with an eraser, and then use the eraser residue to recreate the same image in three dimensions. In one work, an image of the goddess Guanyin has been erased from a scroll only to be re-embodied in three dimensions, hovering in space. In another, a portrait on a banknote has been recreated as a bust placed on the bank note. By taking icons that have attained “currency” through their ubiquity, erasing them, and then recreating them as three dimensional sculptures in the same realm as the viewer, Irie’s works ask humorously modern questions about the way we interact with these images.

This exhibition will unveil the artist’s latest works, in which photographic reproductions of historic paintings have been turned into three-dimensional figures. The theme of dynamic engagement with “ready made” images is one that the artist has pursued consistently.



“Kanon Dust”(2010) eraser dust, hanging scroll  
Guanyin : 45x30x25 mm / scroll : 600x1800 mm

### Director Message (Hozu Yamamoto)

Since ancient times, the inhabitants of Japan have believed that everything around them has a spirit. This is not limited to natural objects such as mountains, trees and flowers –we also sense a presence in the houses we build and the implements we create, which is why we have historically valued objects and spoken of how they should not be wasted.

It is the works of Irie Saya that remind of this in today’s modern consumer society with all its materialism.

The first work by Irie that I saw consisted of a small human figure standing in front of an old scroll. When I looked closer, I realised that the tiny figure was Budai, the laughing Buddha. What’s more, Budai’s image had been rubbed off the scroll with an eraser and the resulting residue had been transformed into a sculpture of Budai. This magical work gave the viewer the impression that Budai had been released from a picture in which he had been trapped.

The works exhibited at the 2012 Shiseido Gallery exhibition all suggested genies conjured from consumable

commodities. It can be said that art is all about breathing life into one's medium in order to communicate with people: Irie's works do just that.

The understanding of the importance of conserving resources will without doubt be a major theme of communication in this, the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a time when the finite nature of these resources has become apparent.

### **About the Artist**

Saya IRIE (b.1983; Okayama, Japan)

2010~2013 Research assistant, Hiroshima City University

2009 MFA, Hiroshima City University, Faculty of Art

2008 Foreign exchange student at Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weissensee, Berlin Germany

2007 BFA, Hiroshima City University, Faculty of Art

### Solo Exhibitions

2013 "Every Popular Thing is Beautiful" ICN gallery / London, UK

2012 "Shiseido Art Egg 6: Daily Happiness" Shiseido Gallery / Tokyo, Japan

2011 "Every day day" curated by Okamoto Yoshie, Space ZERO / Hiroshima, Japan

2010 "Daily earth" the Center for Creative Communications / Shizuoka, Japan

### Projects & Group Exhibitions

2012 "Food, Clothing and Shelter – Hiroshima meet Soul" Seokyeoeng University/Soul, Korea

2011 "TSUSHIMA ART FANTASIA 2011" Tsushima / Nagasaki, Japan

"Between Scrap and Build" Miyajima / Hiroshima, Japan

2010 "Rokko Meets Art 2010" Mt. Rokko / Hyogo, Japan

"The 13th Exhibition of the Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art" Taro Okamoto Museum / Kanagawa, Japan

"ARTJAM TOKYO 2010" NADiff A/P/A/R/T / Tokyo, Japan

"HiroshimArt" Yoshijima / Hiroshima, Japan

2009 "Kippo Maru: exploring inside the ship!" Yoshijima / Hiroshima, Japan

2008 "Hiroshima Art Project 2008 CAMP HIROSHIMA" Old Bank of Japan Hiroshima Branch / Hiroshima, Japan

"Hiroshima Art Project 2008 CAMP BERLIN" Berlin, Germany

2007 "Hiroshima Art Project 2007 GELDSCHIESSER IN VAULT

### Prizes

2012 "Shiseido Art Egg 6", First Prize

2010 "Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art"

"ROKKO MEETS ART 2010"

2009 "AMUSE ARTJAM in Kyoto 2009", Special Award from Chie Morimoto

2007 "Re-Act New Art Competition 2007 Re-Act", Special Award from Taro Amano

2005 "Tokyo Designers week 2005", Special Award from Fujitsu