

ALEX ADAM GALLERY

PERCEIVING REALITY AND THE VISIONS BEYOND

A Two-Person Exhibition of Beñat Iglesias and Fumiko Toda

The Alex Adam Gallery is pleased to announce a two-person exhibition featuring the paintings and sculptures by Beñat Iglesias Lopez and Fumiko Toda. The exhibition is curated by Patricia T. Li, and presents an intriguing dynamic of aesthetic juxtaposition of the individual yet connected artistic visions of Iglesias and Toda. We encourage the audience to reflect on their own visions inspired by everyday experience. The gallery invites you to join us in celebrating Iglesias and Toda's personal stories as well as their artistic achievements. The exhibition is on view from May 15 through June 5, 2014.

May 15 – June 5, 2014

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 15, 6-8pm

Collectors Party: Thursday, May 22, 6-8pm

Perceiving Reality and the Visions Beyond

by Patricia Tingchen Li

The concept of a two-person show is intriguing: each artwork takes on further significance when displayed next to another distinctly realized approach. Such juxtaposition of artistic qualities guides the viewer to recognize the individual way of color, shape, texture, and above all, the artistic instinct to transform personal experience into aesthetic expressions. As artists from two different cultures working in New York City, Iglesias and Toda share a passion for art making and believe in inspiring their audience with unconventional perspectives in art. Displaying Beñat Iglesias' mysterious yet provocative sculptures in the same space with Fumiko Toda's whimsical combination of painted abstraction and representational depictions, this exhibition provides infinite possibilities of visual and psychological inspiration.

By taking a quiet moment to contemplate Iglesias' sculptures, the audience is struck by their appealing yet haunting qualities. Iglesias works directly from life, and gradually decontextualizes his subjects by piecing them together with fragmented elements that render the illusion of timelessness. The psychological power of the heads fill the room with intense emotions: each piece by itself provokes a sense of confusion, yet when displayed together, they create an artistic energy that is reinforced by the manifestation of timeless imaginations, one labeled with Iglesias's own artistic identity.

While sharing the same belief in exploring the psychological power embedded in her artworks, Fumiko Toda takes a different artistic approach in her painting and printmaking. The initial encounter with Toda's work invites the audience into a fantasy with dreamlike representations: the whimsical breeze of pastel shades, the integrated composition of playful elements, and the clever juxtaposition of realist details and bold abstraction. Yet, the delicate charm of Toda's works makes the viewers wonder what is beyond the surrealist surface of romantic fantasy. By utilizing a variety of techniques in oil painting, printmaking, and mixed media collages, Toda transforms her images into a profound reflection of her personal experience and artistic voice.

The exhibition of Beñat Iglesias and Fumiko Toda goes beyond showcasing their individual approaches to transform reality and personal experience, but also presents an interesting juxtaposition of distinct practices and styles influenced by the different artistic traditions in Western and Eastern cultures.

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Beñat Iglesias Lopez

Beñat Iglesias, a native of Spain, lives and works in New York City. He approaches art through a variety of mediums, such as sculpture, painting, printmaking and photography.

His artwork explores the nature of human relationships, the essence of self in society in our modern world. His focus is on creating artworks that allow the viewer to question our tendency of jumping to conclusions, or our desire to categorize everything into definable boxes. Iglesias's artworks are visually engaging and provocative. These unsettling works of art prompt us to reconsider our understanding and appreciation of our own complex identities.

In 2013, Mr. Iglesias's monumental sculpture *The Bathers*, was chosen to be installed at the Riverside Park in NYC, where it is currently on view.

He has been the recipient of many awards and prizes, including First Prize, Self-Portrait Cover Competition by American Artist Magazine, Grand Prize at ACOPAL (America China Artist League) Second Annual Competition, The Ann & Brunno Luchessi Grant and the prestigious Xavier Gonzalez and Ethel Edwards Travel Grant.

Mr. Iglesias was chosen as one of the "11 Artist To Watch in 2011" by American Artist Magazine. His work has been exhibited at prestigious fine art institutions nationally and internationally, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Tokyo, The World Art Museum in Beijing, Shanghai Art Museum, The Butler Institute of American Art Museum and the National Academy Museum of New York among others.

Fumiko Toda

Japanese artist Fumiko Toda often escaped to a nearby pond where she would observe insects and bugs for hours. These tiny creatures eventually worked their way into her artwork, where they remain to this day. She studied at the Sugii Art Institution in Mie, and graduated from Kyoto University of Art and Design in 2000.

In 2002, Toda moved to New York City, where she studied printmaking at the National Academy of Fine Art. Toda moves seamlessly between the realms of painting and printmaking and has exhibited her work extensively.

Recent solo and 2 person exhibitions include Tim Liddy and Fumiko Toda at ZIA|Gallery, Chicago (2013), "Recent Painting" (2012) and "Illuminated & Adored" (2010) at Susan Eley Fine Art, NYC and "Recent Insects" at the Safe-T Gallery, NYC(2009). Group exhibitions include Matrix to Impression: Contemporary and Modern prints at Madelyn Jordon Fine Art Gallery, NYC, the 183rd Annual An Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art at The National Academy Museum, NYC(2008). Toda is currently participating in The Big Egg Hunt sponsored by Fabergé and her egg sculpture is on view at Rockefeller Center April 18-25th, 2014 with pieces by other leading artists such as Jeff Koons, Zaha Hadid, Tracey Emin, Peter Beard, RETNA, Julian Schnabel, and Leo Villareal.

78 West 120th St, Parlor F1
www.alexadamgallery.com
info@alexadamgallery.com

Gallery Hours: Thursday-Saturday, 1-6pm and by appointment