





# A DOT AND A LINE

SOLO EXHIBITION Guerilla Cafe, Berkeley, California July 5, 2009 - August 23, 2009 A letter consists essentially of dots and lines and philosophically, people communicate through these simple man-made symbols. I had 15 pieces exhibited, which were all new works for this solo exhibition under the theme of "A Dot and A Line." I explored new

possibilities for the ancient art of calligraphy - juxtaposing traditional with contemporary styles.















# 燿 AKA-GARI

SOLO EXHIBITION Hokusen Gallery Ivory, Sapporo,

Hokkaido Japan August 1, 2008 - August 8, 2008 "Akagari" means the bright gleam of burning flame. In hopes to send a message to the audience that everyone has a raw diamond, I created 17 pieces for this exhibition in different styles that juxtaposes traditional and contemporary calligraphy of original poetry, excerpt from a poem by Shuntaro Tanikawa, excerpt from Taoism teaching, and old saying in Buddhism. All the words I chose portray what is shining in our world - in nature, in the city, in philosophy, and in one's life.















# **TOKI**

**GROUP EXHIBITION** 

Space Gallery, San Francisco, California September 22, 2006 A spiritual and inspirational collaborative art exhibition by Japanese talents from various disciplines residing in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I exhibited five calligraphy pieces that are all self-written poetry in the gallery space. I also wrote a title of the show "Toki" in Japanese calligraphy for the flyer design.











# SILENCE AND MOTION

静と動

LIVE PERFORMANCE

Ensoma, San Francisco, California July 20, 2006 Silence and Motion was a duo-show with a photographer Tokio Kuniyoshi, in an attempt to visualize the element of Japanese art that are on the wall silently but has 'movement' in its powerful storytelling. I performed live Japanese calligraphy in both traditional and contemporary styles utilizing unique media

such as flower stems and cleaning mop. I also wrote calligraphy on a model's clothing, improvising words inspired by the personality of these models. Without exhibition of prepared and framed calligraphy pieces, the show was successful in telling the beauty of silence and motion that artistic expression possesses.















# **WORDLESS ELOQUENCE**

雄弁な沈黙

LIVE PERFORMANCE White Rabbit, New York March 15, 2007 Wordless Eloquence is an art exhibition and performances with Japanese artists residing in San Francisco and New York. The title "Wordless Eloquence" connotes that the art does not speak words but eloquent in its influential storytelling. I performed two sessions of live Japanese calligraphy in different formats: sumi-ink on hand-made

Japanese paper, white acrylics on black panels, white acrylics on a model, and black ink on a large panel using a mop. In front of multi-cultural audiences, the performance was for 80 minutes total, introducing the world of my original poetry and contemporary Japanese calligraphy.















# CHISEKI -TRACES OF NATURE-

LIVE PERFORMANCE 310 Lounge, New York March 7, 2010 Japanese artists now living in Sweden, San Francisco, and New York explore the theme of *ChiSeki* through installation, performance, visual and photography in hopes of leaving a trace of human distinctions in reverence of the natural order of life.

As the dancer make abstract motions and dynamic moves, I wrote abstract calligraphy strokes on her fabrics, as well as when she

stops for a moment. I also wrote a poem as the traces of the models' path by calligraphy brushes on a large paper laid on the floor. This performance was accompanied by music and video projection that enhance this sublime and organic atmosphere. The video was projected directly on the body of models as a part of performance.



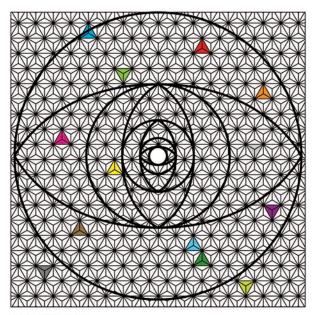












**GROUP ART SHOW** 

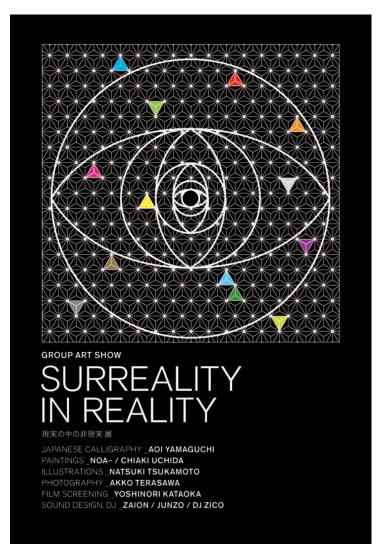
# SURREALITY IN REALITY

現実の中の非現実展

### JAPANESE ART EXHIBITION

RECEPTION: FRIDAY MAY 2ND, 2008 / FREE / 21+ / DOORS 8PM FILM SCREENING AT 11PM, LIVE PERFORMANCE AT 12AM EXHIBITION: MONDAY APRIL 28 TO SUNDAY MAY 4TH

AT SPACE GALLERY / 1141 POLK ST. / SF / BTW SUTTER & POST 415.377.3325 / SPACEGALLERYSF.COM



# **SURREALITY IN REALITY**

**GROUP EXHIBITION** 

Space Gallery, San Francisco, California April 28, 2008 - May 2, 2008 A spiritual and inspirational collaborative art exhibition by Japanese talents from various disciplines currently residing in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I exhibited 9 calligraphy pieces that took over largest wall of the gallery space. On the night of the reception, 2 May 2008, I was part of a live performance that combines film

screening, live Japanese calligraphy and painting, which was accompanied by live improvisational music.











# SAI

祭

GROUP EXHIBITION / LIVE PERFORMANCE Space Gallery, San Francisco July 5, 2008 The second series of art exhibition and live art performances is presented by Surreality In Reality: an art crew consisting of cutting-edge Japanese talents currently residing in San Francisco Bay Area. "Sai" primarily means the Japanese traditional summer festival that celebrates a generous crop, blessings from the spirit of God and nature,

and the family's health for the year. "Sai" can be interpreted in numerous number of ways. Thus, using this as a theme it allows each artist is able to exhibit his or her own artistic interpretation of "sai" with various media that blends the juxtaposition of traditional and contemporary styles.















Surreality In Reality presents Japanese art exhibition and performances. At Space Gallery. October 3rd. 2008

Surreality In Reality presents Japanese art exhibition and performances

At Space Gallery October. 3rd



Artists:

Noa- (Live Paintings, Exhibition)
Aoi Yamaguchi (Live Calligraphy, Exhibition)
Akko Terasawa (Photography)
Junko Maegawa / Daisuke Maki (Graphic Art)
Lavit Sea (Illustrations)
Kayoko Kanayama (Oil Paintings)
Yoshinori Kataoka (Film Screening)
DJ Nishiyama / Zaion / DJ Yusai / MC Eleven
(Sound Design, DJs)

The third series of this Japanese art exhibition, featuring live performances, will be presented by a plethora of mind-blowing Japanese local talent known as S.L.R. Introducing Japanese traditional culture just in time for the falling of Autumn leaves for this, the season of reading, each artist visually depicts creations inspired by their favorite prominent Japanese poet or novelist.

Space Gallery 1141 Polk St, SF. btw Sutter & Post, 415-377-3325. 21+, FREE before 10pm, \$5 After. Door 8pm, Livepainting 10pm



# **PAGE**

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GROUP EXHIBITION / LIVE PERFORMANCE Space Gallery, San Francisco October 3, 2008 The third series of this Japanese art exhibition, featuring live performances, will be presented by a plethora of mind-blowing Japanese local talent known as S.I.R. Introducing Japanese traditional culture just in time for the falling of Autumn leaves: for this, the season of *reading*, each artist visually depicts creations inspired by their favorite prominent Japanese poet or novelist. I chose a Japanese classic novel "Kokoro" by Soseki Natsume. I wrote several lines cited from

the novel in calligraphy on square slate panels, and carved my seal. For the live painting performance in collaboration with fellow painter Noa-, I chose a poem titled "Bird" by Shuntaro Tanikawa, and wrote the poem over the painting of a bird.















# **COLORLESS SPECTRUM**

GROUP EXHIBITION / LIVE PERFORMANCE Space Gallery, San Francisco January 30, 2009 From the chilly winds of winter, the fourth in this series of art exhibitions and live performances was presented by Japanese local talents known as "Surreality in Reality". As an epilogue to the cyclical Four Seasons, the show was titled as "Colorless Spectrum" — seemingly paradoxical, reminiscent of the ancient Japanese philosophy revealing that behind everything lies the primordial nothingness. Seeking the infinite possibilities of the color white, the key hue of the winter

season, the only color composed of all colors, each artist presents their own interpretation of the Colorless Spectrum through various media.

I had four pieces of stencil and calligraphy in a self-designed frames. Noa-, Natsuki Tsukamoto and I collaborated for the live painting performance. We prepared unstretched canvas in various sizes and disassembled and reassembled them as the performance progresses into different stages.













# Surreality in Reality Presents: Japanese Art Exhibition and Performances Four Elements vol.1: 水 - WATER RECEPTION: Friday May 29th, 2009 @ Space Gallery 1141 Polk Street, SF jbtw. Suttler & Post Street 415.377.3215 | www.spacegallery\*stcom 21+ | Door 8pm | FREE until 1.opm w/ RSVP EXHIBITION: EXHIBITION: Monday May 25 - Friday May 29th EXHIBITION: Monday May 25 - Friday May 29th EXHIBITION: Work and the cycle begins anew. As the prologar of that review, melting sizes from grant with the prologar of this epic, this series of a real-billions and layer from the cold Virties, melting sizes with the series of a real-billion and performances will be desired by the prologary of the series of the series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be series of a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-billion and layer from Street will be seried as a real-b

# FOUR ELEMENTS VOL.1 WATER -水-

GROUP EXHIBITION / LIVE PERFORMANCE Space Gallery, San Francisco May 25 - May 29, 2009 Surreality in Reality Crew have departed for another journey in persuit of the Four Elements of nature: Water, Fire, Earth and Wind. Awaken from the cold Winter, melting snow feeds the rivers and makes the rain fall from the atmosphere above; the Water of Springtime feeds the rebirth of plant life and cycle begins anew. As the prologue of this

epic, this series of art exhibitions and live performances was presented by Japanese local talents, known as S.I.R., showcasing their artistic interpretation of "water" in various media. I had one piece exhibited, titled as "Impermanence". Live painting performance was in collaboration with three other artists and accompanied by live music.

















# FOUR ELEMENTS VOL.2 FIRE -火-

GROUP EXHIBITION / LIVE PERFORMANCE Space Gallery, San Francisco September 9, 2009 "Four Elements vol. 2 FIRE" was the second series among the four elements of nature: Water, Fire, Earth and Wind. Appreciating the fire as a source of life on the earth, this series of art exhibitions and live performances was presented by Japanese local talents, known as S.I.R., showcasing their artistic interpretation of "fire" in various media. I made a book of original short story

in collaboration with Akko Terasawa, a photographer. The story is about a young boy's first love that is a reminiscent of fragile candle flame that burns for a short period of time and goes off. For the live calligraphy performance, I wrote a original poem about the blessings of fire in the history of human evolution in red ink on a large hand-made paper, which was hung from the ceiling.



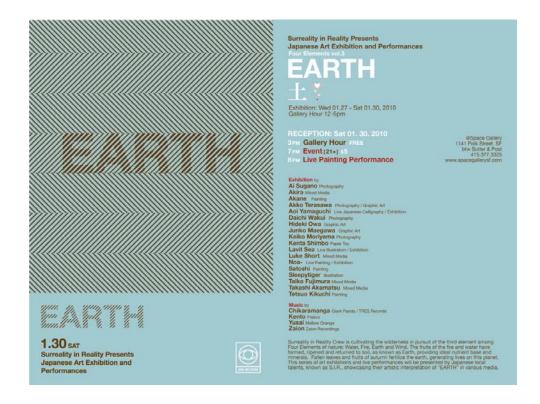












# FOUR ELEMENTS VOL.3 EARTH -±-

GROUP EXHIBITION / LIVE PERFORMANCE Space Gallery, San Francisco January 30, 2010 "Four Elements vol.3 EARTH" was an exhibition under the theme of third element among Four Elements of nature – "EARTH". The show was designed to remind people the importance of nature by telling a story that the fruits of the fire and water have formed, ripened and returned to soil, as known as Earth, providing ideal nutrient base and minerals. Life emerges from the soil. Soil consists of the core of the planet earth. The soil generates the cycle of life – birth, growth,

blossoming, decay, death, decomposition, and returning in another cycle of reincarnation.

By utilizing actual minerals and plants from the earth I intend to revive ancient Japanese *Kanji* characters "Sprout", "Gravel", and "Fertile Earth", from thousands years ago, shapes that are not in use in modern times, as if the natural mineral constituents left behind these aesthetic traces themselves.















# FOUR ELEMENTS VOL.4 WIND -風-

GROUP EXHIBITION / LIVE PERFORMANCE Space Gallery, San Francisco April 26 - May 1, 2010 Awakened by the scents of Springtime released into gentle breezes, animal life rises from hibernation beneath fertile soil into the fresh WIND: the voice of nature.

Through art and media, Surreality in Reality (S.I.R.) has been exploring the elements, WATER, FIRE, EARTH, and now WIND, to bridge cultures with an awareness of nature inspired by the ancient Japanese philosophy

of harmony between the four elements. In this final exhibition completing the cycle of our series, the members of S.I.R. Japanese Art Collective and I prepared a space for the invisible force of WIND, it's power finding expression with a live performance, an exhibition, and in carrying the music.















# INVASION BY PUNK DRUNKERS

LIVE PERFORMANCE D-Structure, San Francisco December 18, 2009 I performed live Japanese calligraphy at a launch event of Tokyo-based fashion brand Punk Drunkers at clothing store called D-Strcture in San Francisco. I had five models wearing colored Tshirts, and wrote Kanji-characters that say "Invasion of Punk Drunkers" in Japanese on each of them. There was two session of performance: the first one was at the store's front window, and the second session was at the center of the store. The performance was accompanied by live Djs playing soulful R&B and Hip-Hop music.















# **PLACES+SPACES**

LIVE PERFORMANCE Poleng Lounge, San Francisco September 4, 2009 I performed live Japanese calligraphy at a DJ Green Tea's official CD release party for "Places + Spaces." For the celebration of his album, my painting was dedicated to portray the world of Green Tea's album, which triggered me to choose the color of green for the theme, and the title of the album for the calligraphy part. The performance was accompanied by Green Tea himself and Kero One, an San Francisco-based Hip-Hop MC who participated in the album.















# POST TURKEY FEATHER SHAKE

LIVE PERFORMANCE SOM, San Francisco November 28, 2009 I performed live Japanese calligraphy painting in collaboration with Noa-, a fellow Japanese painter at an event celebrating Thanksgiving Day.

Accompanied by groovy sounds provided by three resident DJs, an guitarist and poems in a swirly flow of

brush strokes emerged in our painting, portraying the joy of music. This painting took about three hours to complete. I also designed the flyer for this event.









# **HAPPY FEET**

LIVE PERFORMANCE Mighty, San Francisco June 7, 2008 Happy Feet is a annual music event featuring DJ Rich Medina and Bobbito Garcia from NYC and Philadelphia, who blend genres such as Afro-Beat, Latin, Jazz, Dance, Breaks, progressive Hip Hop, and Soul seamlessly. I was invited to perform live Japanese calligraphy on the stage as Rich Medina rock the crowds behind his turntables. I prepared four canvases in

different sizes and colors (red, yellow, green and blue), I wrote four Japanese Kanji characters with meanings that characterize each colors of the canvas: "Dawn", "Vision. Vivire. Sound.", "Rustle", and "Water Drip". In front of 500+ audiences dancing in joy with their happy feet, the performance took about 40 minutes and received great applause.















# THE BRIDGE

GROUP EXHIBITION
Gallery One, San Francisco
September 12, 2009

The Bridge is the borderless music and art event by mixing unique culture of African, American, and Japanese. DJ SPODY a.k.a. Spiritual Odyssey (Club Jazz), DJ Kent (Bossa Nova), Aoi (Japanese Calligraphy), Akira(Mixed Media) collaborated to introduce the world of modern Japanese music and art. I had five pieces exhibited on a movable wall in the gallery space of the venue. One of the

piece was a collaborative art with an African sculptor, GITHINJI, who creates unique and strong sculpture with found objects. I took a minimalistic approach to show the beauty of the texture of Japanese hand-made paper and the fluidity of sumi-ink that are fixed on canvases. I aimed to bridge three different cultures by utilizing the power of art, through sending a message "beyond boundary."













Nichigo-bu Women's fellowship Japanese Calligraphy Workshop with Parents & Kids

Date:Sunday, June 6,2010 Time:1pm~2:30pm

Place:Sycamore Church

Part 1: Let's get familiar with sumi-ink! Part 2: Let's write your favorite words! Part 3: Let's make your own calligraphy art:

This workshop is designed for both those who have no experience with Japanese calligraphy and those who are experienced to have hands-on workshop to get to know with the beauty of this traditional art.

For part 1: Instead of calligraphy brushes we will be using tree branches, bamboo sticks and other natural plants to play with sumi-ink.

For part 2: After you learn the characteristics of sumi-ink, you will practice writing your favorite words or phrases on Japanese (washi) paper with a calligraphy brush. The phrases or words could be cited from your favorite poem, song lyrics, novels, or could be just one kanji character or even your name!

For part 3: The final session of the workshop will be creating your original calligraphy art on (shikishi) paper that you can take home with. You will combine the technique that you learned from part 1 and 2, and make a finalized memorable

Please sign up if you are interested!!!

### Nichigo-bu women's fellowship "Japanese Calligraphy"workshop

There will be a shodo (Japanese calligraphy) workshop hosted by Nichigo-bu women's fellowship on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2010. Our instructor is Japanese calligrapher Aoi Yamaguchi. She is a master of Japanese traditional calligraphy as well as live performance collaborated with many local artists. Please meet at Sycamore church at 1pm. The children are also welcomed! Let's enjoy the calligraphy together).

### •Aoi Yamaguchi Profile•

She was born in Hokkaidou Japan in 1984, she landed in California twenty years later fueled by her ambition to bridge multi-cultural communities word-wide. With her Tobanko' spirit she has been declicated to the ancient ard of Japanese Calligraphy since the age of 6, owning the Title of Master Student Calligrapher(2002), as well as the recipient of the first prize from the Japanese Minister of Education in 1999, among other awards. In 2009, she initiated a Japanese art crew as know as Surreality in Reality(SIR) seek in San Francisco Bay area, siming to provide opportunity for Ocal Japanese artist to share their artistic creations internationally. Currently residing in Oakland, she pursues her career to preserve traditional arts with music in the modern world.

### Awards

- 2002 Title of Master of Student Calligrapher 2001 Hokkaido Federation of Japanese Calligraphy Award 2000 Asahi Newspaper Publishing Company Award 1999 First Prize in Japanese National Student's Calligraphy Expo First Prize from Japanese Minister of Education

### Freelance Works

- 2009 Restaurant logo for Ramen Dojo, San Mateo,
  2008 Banner installation for Kinokuniya Bookstore Building (Monthly, March 2009March 2010)
  Restaurant logo for Dohatsuten Ramen8Tapas, Palo Alto.
  2007 Decorative calligraphy installation for Ozumo Restaurant/Sake Bar, San
  Francisco
- - T-shirts design for Tennis Team of Health Sciences University of Hokkaido

Website: www.glamorousmonochrome.com SIR Webisite: http://sir-sf.com/

# JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY **WORKSHOP**

**INSTRUCTOR** Sycamore Church, Albany June 6, 2010

This workshop is designed for both those who have no experience with Japanese calligraphy and those who are experienced to have hands-on workshop to get to know with the beauty of this traditional art.

Part 1: Let's get familiar with sumi-ink! Part 2: Let's write your favorite words! Part 3: Let's make your own calligraphy

art!



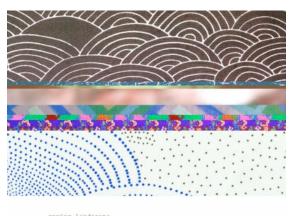












\_\_\_\_spring landscape\_\_
join us for an event featuring
catherine brooks\_stitches and stones\_fine accessories
paula malesardi\_allma\_handmade apparel
marion pernoux\_ensoma skincare
aoi yamaquchi\_live japanese calligraphy
aimee friberg\_sound

saturday, march 3
6 to 10 pm
152 6th street
san francisco

book a treatment by 5.3.07 and receive a complimentary 20 minute
massage. visit ensoma.biz or call 415 867 6002.

# **SPRING LANDSCAPE**

LIVE PERFORMANCE Ensoma, San Francisco March 3, 2007 Spring Landscape was a conceptual event that combines fashion, art and music live performances, featuring local female designers and artists in San Francisco. The event was held on March 3rd, just in time of the arrival of Spring.

I performed live Japanese calligraphy at this event. Inspired by the I chose Japanese words that connote the essence of

Springtime – life, spirit, intimacy, and human relationships.











