

Isolated Microcosm

Jave Yoshimoto

Second Floor Gallery

Oct 5 – Dec 14, 2024

Artist Statement:

My work takes on the ephemerality of news and information and how the emotions we bring to each tragedy in the news cycle are swept away by the wave of information that floods the media. I address this social amnesia through my art with the work acting as a social memory for tragic events so quickly forgotten in our information age.

My development of “Godzilla invading U.S.” series led to eventual refinement of my painting techniques. What started as paying homage to Asian art history evolved into my own personal graphic technique. While “Godzilla invading U.S.” series focused more on my personal struggle as an Asian-American, my following project, “Baptism of Concrete Estuary” allowed me to reconnect with the Japanese heritage that I struggled for many years to forget.

“Baptism of Concrete Estuary” is the culmination of my knowledge and techniques. Through years of striving to find the means to articulate my personal vision, a process that I found moving from small to medium sized paintings to this monumental work. My intention in creating a 30 feet scroll painting was that the audience would be able to have an intimate look at the painting as in traditional Chinese and Japanese scroll, while also feeling overwhelmed by the massiveness of the paper as a physical object in comparison to the individual viewer.

Employing images of the overwhelming power of the Japanese tsunami and earthquake to inspire empathy in the painting’s viewers. I used visual color blocks and large fields to draw in the audience for a closer

view, while the finer details of the piece keep the audience fixated and allow them to feel immersed in the painting themselves.

Accompanying the large scroll, reproductions were created for distribution. These prints, their distribution and ubiquity are intended to serve as a constant reminder that events such as this should always be remembered, especially since there are those in Japan still in dire need of assistance. This gave birth to my “Disaster” series, then my laser cut sculptural series, which ultimately represent my belief that art should act as a bridge and be accessible to its viewers through humanist tales of struggle and survival as played out in the prevalent social amnesia of the information age.

Bio:

Jave Yoshimoto is an artist and educator of multi-cultural background. He was born in Japan to Chinese parents and immigrated to United States at a young age. He has since traveled and lived in various parts of the country which influenced his artistic practice. He believes in creating art works that are socially conscious and true to his authentic self.

Yoshimoto has received his Bachelors from University of California Santa Barbara in Studio Art, his Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Painting and Drawing and Masters of Art in Art Therapy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his Masters of Fine Arts in Painting at Syracuse University.

