

«helter skullter» (Detail) 2014, H.373×W.764mm, pen on paper

Keita SAGAKI “Convertism”

Fri. 5 September – Sun. 26 October 2014

Opening event : Fri. 5 September 18:00-18:30

Reception party : Fri. 5 September 18:30-20:00

Cashi proudly presents a solo exhibition called ‘Convertism’ by Keita Sagaki from the 5th of September to the 26th of October.

At first glance Keita Sagaki’s work looks like a painting or landscape that everyone has seen somewhere, however, as you approach it you will understand how his work has been composed by a tremendous motif of a pure white canvas that has been drawn on with a thin tipped pen. It is a very detailed work which has come together line by line, the design is rather comical like manga, and for example there are little characters and elements of gags which invite laughter. In addition there are also various grotesque sexual elements such as uteruses or fetuses which have been mixed together. The canvas is filled with an incredible amount of information which can’t be quite captured by the naked eye.

By separating ourselves from what we can see we can get closer to seeing the gap which enters our consciousness and leaves such a strong impact. It shakes our existing values and yet at the same time we are reminded that

the world we live in is constantly in an unstable flux.

The title of this exhibition is ‘Convertism,’ it is a created phrase used by writers to mean how *mitate* (見立て) can equate to a changing style. *Mitate* is a Japanese word which refers to a technique that is a well-known means of expression, but rooted within a variety of Japanese traditional culture. For example, in regards to art it can mean embedding events, people, or ideas, into images and thus creating a new meaning which can often be a parody. It can be said that Japanese art made by this technique increases universality and uniqueness. Although Sagaki’s production process involves reconstructing existing paintings the result becomes something essentially different. This work made with a motif, that incorporates ink painting and Ukiyo-e, forms the focus of this exhibition, and it interlocks the production of the artist’s style with the tradition of Japanese art. In this way it has become a structure for the transformation of the concepts of holiness and profanity.

In Japanese the name of this exhibition is pronounced as tenshiki (転式) which is the same pronunciation as the word 転失気 (tenshiki). However, this second word refers to a famous ten minute rakugo story told by storytellers. This story is about how people pretend to know medical terminology, because everyone else pretends to know the meaning of this vocabulary as well. In this way they can be preconceptions that we all possess, but it is also a point of view which changes by looking from different perspectives.

This exhibition has been cut in two by developing a first half and a second half.

Keita Sagaki won the Shell Art Award in 2007 and in 2008, in 2010 he won a TARO award at the Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art and in recent years he has also been seen performing in outstanding TV appearances. This will be the third time that he has exhibited with Cashi. On the first day there will be a reception and the artist will also be attending. By all means please visit, and please introduce yourself. We look forward to seeing you.

* First half of exhibition: from the 5th (Friday) to the 28th (Sunday) of September
Second half: from the 2nd (Thursday) to the 26th (Sunday) of October

Opening event 'Tenshiki'

Before the opening reception party we have invited well known rakugoka 'futatsume' Shunputei Shotaro to tell a tenshiki story as part of his opening act. (website: <http://shoutarou.com/>) Mr. Shunputei is a classic rakugoka (storyteller) who performs really energetically around the whole of Japan, Rakugo is a famous method for humorous storytelling that exists in Japan. These storytellers are further divided into ranks, such as first class and second class, 'futatsume' refers to a second class rank.

As the repertoire of rakugo is also included within the motif of the exhibition title we would really recommend attending this event.

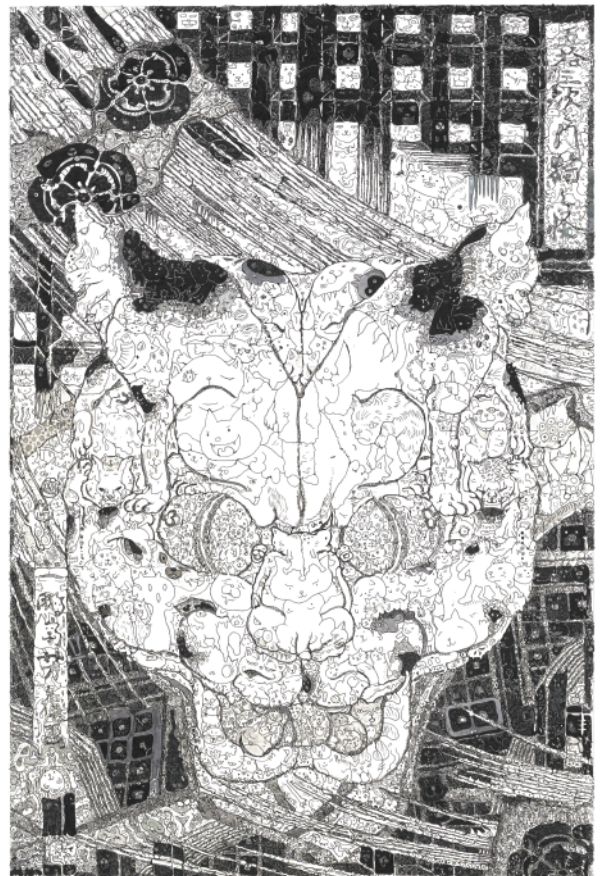
- Date and Time: September 5th (Fri) 18:00 to 18:30
- Free to Join
- Reservation required

To reserve a place please send an email to the address below with "Convertism reservation" in the subject line, and your name and number of people in the text.

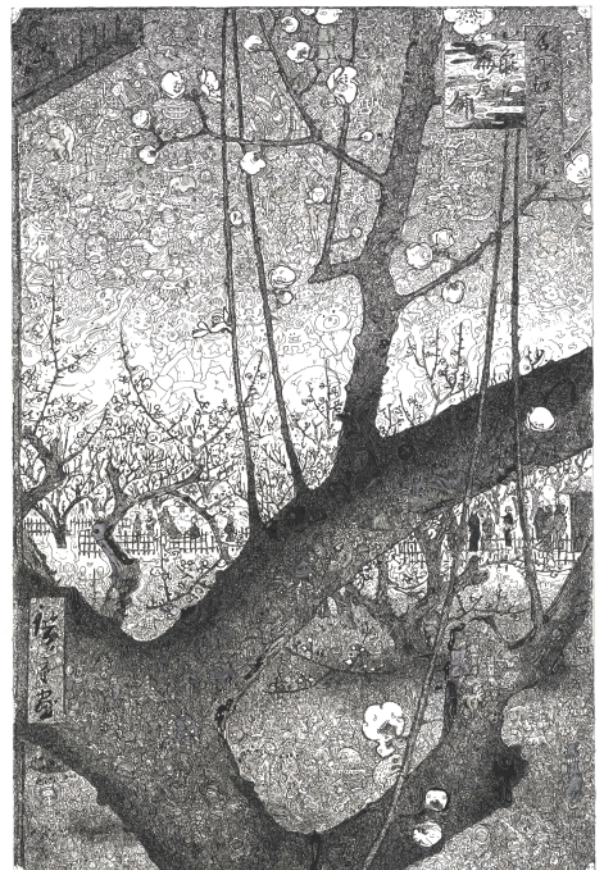
info@cashi.jp

※ we have currently planned about 20 seats

If fully booked, it will be considered on a first-come-first-served basis.



«Flea Waltz» 2014, H357 x W239mm, pen on paper



«One Hundred Famous Views of Edo : The Plum Garden in Kameido»
2014, H375 x W250 mm, pen on paper

