

Makiko Azakami Sixty Bras!

September 1 - 30, 2014

Monday - Saturday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sunday & National Holidays*: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. *September 15 & 23
The Last Day, September 30: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open 7 days a week during the show.

Opening Reception: September 1, 2014 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



Bra #25

2014 152x152x75mm paper, form core board, and acrylic on gessoboard
Photographer Haruhiko Tanizaki



Bra #15 paper, form core board, and acrylic on gessoboard

2014 128x128x70mm
Photographer Haruhiko Tanizaki



Bra #13 paper, form core board, and acrylic on gessoboard

2014 204x204x70mm
Photographer Haruhiko Tanizaki

Sixty Bras

Bras are not meant to be shown
because they are undergarments.
However, as art,
I can show them without hesitation.

Just as the beauty of the moon is evaluated
against that of the daytime sun,
we are seeking the veiled radiance of women
who have been forced into obedience.

Life should be fun.
I want all the women to enjoy their lives.
These 60 bras represent that wish.

At the same time,
this exhibition is dedicated to
a young gallerist, 31 years of age,
who is beginning a voyage
with the opening of a gallery in the center of Ginza.

Life should be fun!
I believe that from the bottom of my heart.

Makiko Azakami

In this exhibition, 60 bras in the form of paper sculptures will be shown.

Since her first solo show in 1985, Makiko Azakami has been exhibiting extensively in Japan and abroad.

She has been interested in 3D objects since she was young. While studying architecture in housing and architecture department at university, she built many architectural models, then moved on to work in product design for Sony Creative Products. One day, she had the urge to make Godzilla and went on to create one with paper found around her. That was the beginning of her career as a paper sculptor.

Surprisingly, Azakami does not sketch, or draw precise layouts. She imagines a finished piece and knows exactly how to shape it into a paper sculpture. Because paper is such a light, soft and flexible material, shapes can be changed easily by simply cutting and pasting. Azakami takes wonderful advantage of these distinct characteristics.

Her concept is to set the viewer's mind free from the dimension and weight of the original object. One can see not only her fine details and technique, but feel Azakami's acute perception and unique sensitivity for the motif. In this exhibit, her bold yet delicate artistry is expressed freely, and viewers can experience the endless possibilities of paper as the medium.

Azakami's greatest wish, that every woman enjoy her life, is embodied in the sixty bras aligned in the gallery. I am grateful to Ms. Azakami, who offered her endless support for my opening Asagi Arts in Ginza.

Life must be fun!

I believe this from the bottom of her heart.

Yayoi Asagi | Asagi Arts

Makiko Azakami

- 2013 Cheryl Hazan Contemporary Art, New York, USA
kobo CHIKA, Tokyo, Japan
Onishi Gallery, New York, USA
Affordable Art Fair, New York, USA
- 2012 Red Dot Art Fair, Miami, USA
Onishi Gallery, New York, USA
Galleria BE' 19, Helsinki, Finland
Adler & Co Gallery, group show, San Francisco, USA
- 2011 Ise Museum of Modern Art, Mie, Japan
Ginza Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 Isa Gallery Kunugi, Tokyo, Japan
Fukushima Museum of Art, workshop, Fukushima, Japan
- 2009 art date bank, Tokyo, Japan
Shounandai MY Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Galerie Centennial, Osaka, Japan
- 2008 Space Yui, Tokyo, Japan
Galerie Centennial, Osaka, Japan
- 2007 Hutakotamagawa Takashimaya Roof Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Service Gallery, Osaka, Japan
- 2006 Ginza Ito-ya Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Galerie Centennial, Osaka, Japan
- 2005 Space Yui, Tokyo, Japan
Japan Women' s University Naruse Memorial Hall, Tokyo, Japan
- 2004 Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 Space Yui, Tokyo, Japan
Every Picture Tells a Story, Los Angeles, USA
- 2002 Space Yui, Tokyo, Japan
- 2001 Galerie Centennial, Osaka, Japan
Made in Japan, Bristol City Museum, Bristol, UK
- 1981 Graduate of Japan Women' s University, Architecture

Makiko Azakami lives and works in Tokyo.