

Izuru Mizutani



Izuru Mizutani is a contemporary multimedia artist born in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan, in 1961. He is the son of Isao Mizutani, an independent artist who mastered the traditional Japanese painting techniques on paper and silk using mineral pigments and animal glue. Isao Mizutani, known for his diverse artistic endeavors including murals, illustrations, stage sets, and teaching, instilled in Izuru a profound artistic spirit and independence.

Growing up in this rich artistic environment, Izuru Mizutani was influenced by a wide range of artists, including Butoh dancers Kazuo Ohno and Tatsumi Hijikata, playwright Juro Kara, and actor Akaji Maro. This diverse exposure deeply inspired his creative development.

In his youth, Mizutani worked as a director for a TV station. A pivotal moment in his career was his travel to Cambodia to report on the genocide by the Pol Pot regime, which profoundly impacted his artistic vision. This experience became the foundation for his career as an artist, leading him to explore themes of war, political, social, and civilizational issues through his art.

Mizutani's basic style includes installations where figures reminiscent of corpses wrapped in rags lie in front of large screens depicting desolate killing fields, evoking scenes of battle and massacres. His work uniquely addresses themes often overlooked in the complacent Japanese art world, which has distanced itself from such issues since becoming an economic superpower in the 1970s.

Mizutani's work is characterized by his use of varied materials such as water, light, video, and computer technology, often combining two-dimensional and three-dimensional elements. His installations are participatory and interactive, drawing from his studies in psychology to engage viewers deeply.

His innovative approach has gained recognition, particularly in Korea, where he is considered a leading figure in Japanese anti-war art. Mizutani's art has been showcased in numerous international venues, including New York, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Miami, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Barcelona, Basel, and Locarno, Switzerland.

Izuru Mizutani continues to challenge and captivate audiences worldwide, creating art that provokes thought and dialogue on critical social issues, human psychology, and the intricate interplay between self and other, certainty and uncertainty, reality and illusion.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 Solo Exhibition "Where the world is created" (Il Rivellino LDV Gallery/Locarno, Swiss)
- 2012 Solo Exhibition "Reflection", (Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery, Osaka, Japan)
- 2012 Solo Exhibition "Collapse", (Galleria Finarte, Nagoya, Japan)
- 2009 Solo Exhibition "Tears of the sky 2009", (Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery/Osaka, Japan)
- 2008 Solo Exhibition "Lost words", (Galleria Finarte, Nagoya, Japan)
- 2007 Solo Exhibition, "Magic of communications" (A.S. Popov Central Museum of Communications /St.Petersburg, Russia/ Supported Gallery G-77)
- 2006 Solo Exhibition, (Vermont Studio Center Red Mill Gallery/ Vermont, USA)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 "1suee exhibition" (Oriol y Bont Gallery in the University of South Wales/South Wales, England)
- 2019 "Under the Perfect Canopy & Return to the Roots" Exhibition (AMC Art & Mind Center, Kawadrada House) Nagoya, Japan
- 2017 Live painting performance in Italian Pavilion and Lithuanian Pavilion in Astana World Expo /Astana, Kazakhstan
- 2016 "Context New York (New York, USA) Gallery G-77
- 2016 "Scope Art Show" (New York, Swiss) Gallery G-77
- 2015 "Scope Art Show" (Miami, Swiss) Gallery G-77
- 2014 Stephan Spicher x Izuru Mizutani Two men show "Reflection of blossom (Design Gallery in Nagoya International Center/Nagoya Japan)
- 2014 "Hazing Kyoto Invitational Group Exhibition " (Star Gallery, Beijing, China)
- 2013 "Foreign Affairs Five Artists from Japan " (Hamden Gallery of University of Massachusetts,

Amherst,U.S.A)

- 2013 "Art Southampton" (NewYork/U.S.A) Gallery G-77
2013 "Scope Art Show" (Basel,Swiss) Gallery G-77
2013 "Scope Art Show (NewYork,U.S.A) Gallery G-77
2013 "LA ART SHOW" (Los Angels,U.S.A) Gallery G-77
2012 "Art Asia Miami" SCOPE ART SHOW presents (Miami,U.S.A) Gallery G-77
2012 "Selection Art Fair Basel" Special Project (Basel/Swiss) (In cooperation with Gallery G-77)
2012 "Swab Art Fair Barcelona " (Barcelona/Spain) Gallery G77
2011 "Gates and Doors"Exhibition (The Russian Museum/St.Petersburg,Russia/Supported by Gallery G77)
2011 "ART STAGE SINGAPORE" (Singapore) Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery
2010 "Eternity" (Galerie Karin Shutter/Basel, Swiss)
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2010 "On the Planet Exhibition in Vermont" (SPA Art Center/Barre, Flynn dog/Burlington)
2010 "SKY in the ART" Exhibition (The Russian Museum/St.Petersburg,Russia/Supported by Gallery G77)
2010 "Art Karlsruhe- Contemporary Art Fair" (Messe Karlsruhe/Germany) Gallery Pack of Patches
2010 "Fun de Nagoya Art Exhibition 2010 On the Planet-We will live on this planet" (Nagoya citizens Gallery, sponsored by Nagoya City Cultural Promotion Agency)
2009 "Art Asia Miami" SCOPE ART SHOW presents (Miami,U.S.A) Gallery G-77
2009 Exhibition"logbuch 2009" (Jena, Germany)Gallery pack of patches
2009 "Forest of the Art, Aichi " (Tyuo Hirokoji Bilding/Nagoya, Japan)
2009 "Close your eyes ...and visualize what you see" (The Museum of Modern Art,/Mito, Ibaraki, Japan)
2009 "SEA LEVEL" II International Independent Art Festival, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Art-Center "Pushkinskaya-10" (Central Exhibition Hall "Manezh"/Saint Petersburg/Russia)
2009 "Cutlog Contemporary Art Fair" (Messe Paris/France, Gallery Pack of Patches)
2009 "Art Asia Basel" (Basel,Swiss),Gallery G77
2009 "Bridge Art Faire" (New York, USA) Gallery G77
2008 "Paradise" Eastern Contemporary Art Exhibition ' (Hedonism Community, Beijing, China)
2007 "Exhibition Ecology and Human Being, Gail Art Museum,(Gyeonggi Province, Korea)
2007 "Freedom" Exhibition of Japanese Artist with Chinese Artist" (Hedonism Community, Beijing, China)
2004 "Declaration 100 Artist for Peace" (National Museum of Contemporary Art,Seoul,Korea)
2003 "Asia art Now" (Marronnier Museum, Seoul, Korea)
1994 "NHK Art Wave '94", NHK Nagoya center Building, sponsored by NHK Nagoya.
1990 "Japan-France Contemporary Art Exhibition", (Grand Palais Museum, Paris, France)

PRIZE , GRANT, Topic

- 2007 "The 23th Art Creation Prize" (Nagoya City Cultural Promotion Agency,Japan)
2007 "The 14th Annual VSC Asian Artists Fellowships "Alternate (Freeman Foundation,U.S.A)
2006 "The 15th Annual VSC Asian Artists Fellowships" Alternate (Freeman Foundation,U.S.A)
2016 Winner of the Design for the "Ping Pong Diplomacy Monument" for Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium.

Public collection

World Expo Museum Shanghai
Maruki ART museum
Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium