

Mr.

Floating in the Air in the Vicinity of a Convenience Store

September 14—October 21, 2017

407 Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Hong Kong

@lehmannmaupin

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 14, 6-8 PM



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Lehmann Maupin is pleased to present *Floating in the Air in the Vicinity of a Convenience Store*, Mr.'s (b. 1969, Cupa, Japan) first exhibition at Lehmann Maupin in Hong Kong and his fifth exhibition with the gallery since 2007. This exhibition will feature recent paintings, a sculpture, and a series of drawings. **The gallery will host a reception for the artist on Thursday, September 14, from 6-8 PM, at the Pedder Building.**

Mr.'s work is closely linked to the Japanese movement "Superflat," coined by artist Takashi Murakami in 2000. Superflat refers to a tendency toward two-dimensionality in Japanese visual art, animation, graphic design,

and fashion that can be traced back to traditional painting of the 17th through 19th centuries known as *nihonga*. Contemporaneously, the style is linked with Japanese animation, *anime*, and comic books, *manga*, which proliferated after World War II. Over the span of nearly twenty years, Mr.'s oeuvre has elevated anime and manga subculture by highlighting its cultural significance rather than simply critiquing its frivolity.

For this exhibition, Mr. presents a new body of work with a renewed focus on the spritely characters that have long inhabited his visual world. These recent representations appear as floating heads, both across the gallery walls as shaped-canvas works, and in dream-like depictions, surrounded by everyday objects that defy gravity. A life-size sculpture dressed as an adolescent girl embodies the sentiment of *moe*—a platonic adoration towards manga and anime characters—representing a maturation and focus on emotional range in contrast with artist's previous, more sexually explicit works.

Additionally, in conjunction with his participation in the Yokohama Triennale (through November 5, 2017), Mr. will present a selection of drawings that incorporate notes, scribbles, and sketches that are a part of his daily artmaking process. For Mr., who is a classically trained artist, these drawings represent an intensely personal component of his practice that he likens to poetry.

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About the artist

Mr. (b. 1969, Cupa, Japan, lives and works in Tokyo), born Masakatsu Iwamoto, graduated from the Department of Fine Arts, Sokei Art School in Tokyo in 1996. Solo exhibitions of his work have been organized at Seattle Art Museum, WA (2014); and Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, France (2006). Select group exhibitions featuring his work include *Animamix Biennale 2015-2016*, Daegu Art Museum, South Korea (2015-16); *Kyoto-Tokyo: From Samurais to Mangas*, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco (2010); *Animate*, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan (2009); *KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Comics + Video Games + Art*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada (2008); *RED HOT: Asian Art Today from the Chaney Family Collection*, Museum of Fine Arts Houston (2007); and *Little Boy: The Arts of Japan's Exploding Subculture*, Japan Society, New York (2005). Mr.'s work is in numerous international public and private collections, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Seattle Art Museum, and Daegu Art Museum, South Korea.

About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Nari Ward, *TILL, LIT*, through August 25, 2017, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

From a whisper to a scream, through September 1, 201 Chrystie Street, NEW YORK

Points of Departure, through September 9, 2017, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

Mary Corse, September 7—October 7, 2017, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

Gilbert & George, *THE BEARD PICTURES*, October 12—December 22, 2017, West 22nd Street & 201 Chrystie Street, NEW YORK

Teresita Fernández, October 26—December 16, 2017, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

For more information about Mr. or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan or Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923, or visit lehmannmaupin.com.

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