



MADSAKI, *Untitled (inspired by Stephen Chow)*, 2019. Acrylic paint, aerosol on canvas. 100 x 140 cm | 39 3/8 x 55 1/8 in. Courtesy MADSAKI/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd.

## MADSAKI

*If I Had a Dream*

**OPENING | Wednesday Jul 17, 6 – 8pm**

**EXHIBITION | Jul 17 – Aug 17, 2019**

Supported by Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd.

Despite its title, Andy Warhol's 1965 underground film, *My Hustler*, is not, as far as I can tell, one of the many cinematic references in Stephen Chow's 2004 madcap action comedy, *Kung Fu Hustle*. Yet, the work of these two artists—Chow and Warhol—both make appearances in MADSAKI's latest exhibition, and the two films, as different as they are, help to define the logic which structures much of his work: that of the wannabe or hustler.

The majority of MADSAKI's latest exhibition consists of works inspired by Andy Warhol, along with a selection of paintings depicting stills from Hong Kong cinema classics like *Kung Fu Hustle* and Wong Kar-wai's *In the Mood For Love*. MADSAKI, like Warhol before him, is skilled in the art of the hustle, and knows a fellow hustler when he sees one. Thus, where his previous copies of art historical "masterpieces" served to shore up the elitism of the western canon, MADSAKI's reproductions of Warhol's *Flowers*, *Skulls*, *Guns*, *Dollar Signs*, and *Brillo Boxes* stay much closer to the spirit of their sources, which were themselves often copies of some far distant original. To Warhol, images were not sacred and implacable but something to be passed around like common coin. He believed meaning to always be in the particulars: in the vagaries of execution and amongst variations on a basic theme. This is one of the great lessons of his thirty-two paintings of cans of Campbell's soup: things can look the same on the surface and still be very different underneath.

## MADSAKI

*假如我有一個夢*

**開幕 | 7月17日 (週三) 晚上6時至8時**

**展覽 | 2019年7月17日至8月17日**

特別鳴謝 Kaikai Kiki 有限公司

周星馳2004年的動作喜劇《功夫》(*Kung Fu Hustle*)，與及安迪·華荷1965年的地下電影《*My Hustler*》，兩者英文戲名相近卻不相干。不過，這兩部作品並列在MADSAKI的最新展覽。兩套截然不同的電影，成了重要的引旨，協助觀者解開MADSAKI作品背後的兩大概念：對經典的崇拜，以及變古易常。

這次展出的作品，靈感大多來自安迪·華荷以及香港電影的經典劇照，例如《功夫》和王家衛的《花樣年華》。MADSAKI深諳易之道，對著擅於複製與轉化的安迪·華荷，兩者似曾相識。MADSAKI曾模仿西方藝術史的大師，現在重塑華荷的《花》、《頭骨》、《槍》、《美元符號》和《布瑞洛盒》，更體貼入妙。華荷也是仿效各種實物加以創作，藉此顯示意象非一成不變，應如貨幣般流轉；他相信精髓在細節之中，比如創作手法的變幻莫測以及基本主題的發揮。華荷完成32幅金寶湯畫作後，得出的結論是：事物表面可以一模一樣，但底蘊卻大相逕庭。

MADSAKI的華荷系列，保留了華荷作品的基本構圖、顏色和大小，卻在繪畫手法、色調和情感方面另闢蹊徑。兩人的主要分別在於創作媒介：華荷使用絲網印刷，MADSAKI則使用噴漆。MADSAKI解釋說：「用噴漆來傳遞絲網印刷所表達的東西，真的很困難。我唯有以自己的方式去做。」雖是噴漆能手，MADSAKI坦承自己使用噴漆的方法「完全錯誤」，把噴嘴當成畫筆，有別於一般塗鴉或街頭藝術。正因為這種噴漆技巧，MADSAKI的創作更隨性偶發，可大幅或點滴運用色彩，加強了作品的質感、氛圍和感染力。





MADSAKI, *Untitled (inspired by Andy Warhol)*, 2019. Acrylic paint, aerosol on canvas. 170 x 109 cm | 66 15/16 x 42 15/16 in.  
Courtesy MADSAKI/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd.

Though MADSAKI's reproductions share the basic composition, coloration, and size of Warhol's paintings, it is the differences—in execution, tone, and feeling—that make them his own. The primary distinction comes from the variation between artists' two signature mediums: silkscreen for Warhol and spray paint for MADSAKI. "It's really hard to express what could be expressed through silkscreen with a spray can," MADSAKI explains, "so I've got to add my own flavor." Though he's a wizard with the spray nozzle, MADSAKI admits that his current approach to the medium is "totally wrong" in the sense that he employs it more as a "brush" than it would be in graffiti or street art. His spray techniques leave much more room for contingency and happy accidents, resulting in splatters and drips that add texture, atmosphere, and sometimes even emotional heft to his paintings.

This is particularly evident in MADSAKI's versions of Warhol's *Double Elvis*, 1963, and *The Last Supper (The Big C)*, 1986. Though Warhol also used spray paint to create the silver background of his *Double Elvis*, MADSAKI's use of the medium creates a much more painterly and impressionistic appearance, thereby absorbing the doubled figure into the overall composition and pushing the painting closer to the realm of moody abstraction. Created in the final year of Warhol's life, *The Last Supper (The Big C)* was painted entirely by hand, a return to an earlier mode of production inspired by Warhol's recent collaborations with Jean-Michel Basquiat. It has also recently been revealed to be one of Warhol's most introspective and mournful works, layered with coded references to the artist's ambivalent feelings about his Catholic faith as well as to the escalating AIDS crisis. (In 1986, HIV/AIDS was still disastrously mislabeled as "the gay cancer," and cancer was colloquially referred to as "The Big C.") Though painted over thirty years later and in response to an entirely different set of personal and cultural prompts, MADSAKI's interpretation of the painting manages to sustain, and in some ways underscore, its twin themes of suffering and salvation. By replacing Christ's downcast gaze with his signature "drippy smiley eyes," MADSAKI makes the painting at once more irreverent and more sorrowful than the original. Astonishingly, MADSAKI's small modification manages to push Warhol's composition closer to the tone and tenor of Chow's *Kung Fu Hustle*, proving the notion that, in the right hands, the art of the hustle can pave the way to enlightenment.

—Mark Loiacono



MADSAKI, *Untitled (inspired by Andy Warhol)*, 2019. Acrylic paint, aerosol on canvas. 51 x 41 cm | 20 1/8 x 16 1/8 in.  
Courtesy MADSAKI/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd.

這種效果於MADSAKI映照華荷《雙面貓王》(1963年)和《最後的晚餐(大C)》(1986年)的作品可見。華荷在《雙面貓王》也使用噴漆製造銀色背景,但MADSAKI的色彩更厚實,近於印象主義,能把貓王的雙重身影融入整體構圖,令作品更哀怨動人。《最後的晚餐(大C)》是華荷的壓軸作品,全以人手繪畫,回到與尚·米榭·巴斯奇亞合作時所帶出的創作模式。近期有人指出這是華荷最內向傷感的作品之一,充滿他對自身天主教信仰和愛滋病日益肆虐的複雜感覺。(1986年,愛滋病仍被人誤認為「同性戀癌症」,而癌症又婉稱「大C」。)事隔30多年,MADSAKI對應的個人和文化問題雖然完全不同,仍能抓緊甚或突顯華荷表達的苦難和救贖。MADSAKI把基督低垂的目光,轉換成其標誌性的「黑色眼淚哈哈笑」,令作品較原來更叛逆,同時也更哀傷。意想不到的, MADSAKI的少許改動,竟把華荷的構圖推向電影《功夫》的調子。由此可見,只要適當運用,易的藝術實可通往開悟之門。

—Mark Loiacono

繼巴黎和首爾的展覽後,貝浩登很榮幸為日本藝術家MADSAKI在香港舉辦首次個展。是次展覽匯聚他的新畫作及裝置藝術,並陳列三個系列作品:安迪·沃荷系列、電影系列及呈現流行卡通的人物系列。MADSAKI也特此製作一系列映照香港電影的畫作,當中包括王家衛的經典電影《花樣年華》和《重慶森林》,以及周星馳的《功夫》等。

MADSAKI 1974年生於日本大阪,於美國新澤西州長大,1996年畢業於紐約帕森設計學院。他的藝術創作及性格深受兩地影響,作品一方面映照藝術歷史,另一方面引述潮語、電影和漫畫人物評論大眾文化,於近期更走向抒發個人觀感的路向。MADSAKI沒曾參與街上塗鴉,卻以噴漆為主要藝術媒介。他以展現藝術大師作品的「Wannabe」畫作系列聞名,作品看似幽默風趣,但內裡蘊藏藝術家百感交集的內心世界。

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Perrotin is pleased to present Japanese artist MADSAKI's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong, his third with the gallery following previous shows in Paris and Seoul. Featuring new paintings and an installation, the exhibition will showcase three of MADSAKI's iconic series: his *Warhol* series, *Movie* series, and *Character* series depicting popular cartoons. As a special homage to the city, MADSAKI is exhibiting a series of paintings referencing celebrated scenes from Hong Kong cinema, including Wong Kar-wai classics such as *In the Mood for Love* and *Chungking Express*, comedy star Stephen Chow's *Kung Fu Hustle*, and more.

A graduate of New York City's Parsons School of Design (BFA, 1996), MADSAKI was born in 1974 in Osaka, Japan and raised in New Jersey, USA, an experience between two cultures that formed his aesthetics and personality. While much of MADSAKI's work centers on his interest in art history and critiquing mass culture with references to slang, movies, and manga characters, the artist has recently been exploring more personal and intimate topics. To express this visually, MADSAKI developed a signature style using spray paint as a fine art medium, stemming from the fact that he has never participated in illegal graffiti on the streets. The artist is particularly known for his *Wannabe* series, which at first glance humorously targets old masters, yet its deeper meaning is a recurring theme that can be found throughout MADSAKI's artistic practice, an attempt to use laughter and humor as both distraction and therapy for his internal turmoil.

**More information about the artist >>>**