

“The way down to the sky”

First comes the “plate”, and then the print on paper. The print is the finished “work”. The “plate” is the original while the image of the “plate” is transferred to the “work”. A gap of difference always exists between the two. The contradiction of “the plate being the original or not” and “the work being a copy but yet an original” are the very nature of printed art and indirect expression. The work is a reflected image. The value of its true self and its mirror image are reversed. The interest in the relationship between the “plate” and the “work” is the reason why I have continuously been driven to the art of printmaking.

My twelve years of activity in Italy has opened the path for my two-dimensional print work to evolve into a more deeper involvement of “space-time” integration. It has also given me the opportunity to pursue the relationship underlying not only between the “plate” and the “work”, but also “work” against “time”, “space”, and the “viewer”. Italy’s countless exhibition spaces filled with rich history and atmosphere has had more than a small effect on my finished works. Stepping out of the frameworks of white cubes and picture frames, and being released into the world of everyday life, my works started to breathe a life of their own. While traveling back and forth between Italy and Japan, I have practiced switching between several different viewpoints, taking into consideration, the time, perspective and whether I am on “this side” or the “other side”. The objects around me, everyday customs I have held for a long time, common knowledge I have never doubted - all these things become expressed within a different context once in a different culture, and I am constantly forced to change my mindset. Ever since I studied common aspects of life from a cultural anthropology viewpoint at a Japanese college, my curiosity towards everyday life has been swinging back and forth from “here” to “there” and has encouraged me to keep producing more and more works. Through my works, I continue to try and realize different views of life and relationships of things in general.

This exhibition is an experimental quest to link “this side” to the “other side”. The relationship between “here and there,” “above and below”, “inside and outside” continue to change in a reciprocal way as works become gently connected with each other. I also aim to release the “plate” from its attributes such as “pluralism” or “reproducibility” and visualize the relation not only between the plates but also between the plates and the works. I chose to picture things from a distance through a filter of indirect expression rather than produce print works in the actual sense of the word. This mindset overlaps the perspective I have developed while traveling from “here” to “there” and from the “inside” to the “outside”.

The perspective of things surrounding us is somehow similar to the relationship between the “plate” and the “work”. We see the interstice between true and false images through a viewpoint fostered by our own experience and education. Photographs, films, and documents that record the actual image will continue to remain throughout the ages - the false image gradually becoming the true self as the original image fades away into time. The earth which we stand on ascertaining our very existence and the sky that we look up to can switch positions if only seen from a different perspective. The sky exists not only overhead but also underfoot, and it encircles us in a comprehensive way. Through the linkage of several series of my own works, I hope to provide an opportunity for one to experience life at a different perspective.

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