

Junko Yamamoto

In my work, I explore space. The space between atoms, between people, objects, air, stars and sky; the cosmic glue which holds us and the universe together. I like to push and pull two dimensional spaces with paint, ink and visual motion to bring three dimensional light and atmosphere.

My process combines brush painting, layers of color and shapes, with rollers that help create inherently imprecise and suggestive vertical lines. The layering process is enhanced by my use of pastels, suggesting the patterns of clothing traditionally worn under more brightly colored kimonos—objects of beauty that colored my thinking from a young age.

The circular forms that reappear and disappear in all of the pieces signal consciousness and interconnectedness. My creations show my indebtedness to the forms of Japanese popular culture—particularly comic books. Dialogue bubbles invoke communication and the ways pop cultural imagery help to shape and structure our consciousness, even though they exist as an escape from “real life.” The perpetual openness of talk-bubbles and thought-clouds invites play, a precarious sense of possibility, as changeable and ephemeral as the clouds in a spring sky.

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree Cum Laude Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle WA – 1999

AA Degree, Bellevue Community College, Bellevue WA – 1995

Solo Exhibitions

EC Gallery, Chicago, IL 2010

Gallery IMA, Seattle WA 2009

Gallery IMA, Seattle WA 2008

Frank Lloyd Wright's Westcott House, OH - 2007

IT! Gallery, Boise, ID - 2006

Gallery Lotus Roots, Osaka Japan – 2006

J-Trip Art Gallery, Tokyo Japan - 2006

AT. 31, Seattle, WA– 2004

AT. 31, Seattle, WA – 2003

Art Star Project, Seattle, WA – 2002

King County Art Gallery, Seattle, WA – 2000

Odeum Gallery, Seattle, WA - 1999

Raw Gallery, Seattle, WA – 1998

Group Exhibitions

UrBANGUILD, Kyoto Japan - 2009
City Hall Galleries "Picture of Health", Seattle WA – 2008
SAM Gallery "35th Anniversary Show", Seattle WA 2008
Gallery IMA introduction show, Seattle WA - 2007
SAM Gallery "now and then", Seattle, WA - 2007
Poncho Invitational Fine Art Auction, Seattle WA – 2006
Designers Gallery @ Design Source International "Color/Texture show", Tualatin OR - 2006
Henry Art Gallery "Bashville" Seattle, WA – 2005
Gas Art Gallery "Tra Est e Ovest" Torino, Italy – 2004
Kirkland Arts Center "Material Witness" Kirkland , Wa - 2004
Seattle Art Museum Rental/Sales Gallery "Grand Opening Gala" Seattle WA–2003
Cornish College of the Arts Alumni Exhibition Seattle WA – 2003
Seattle Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery "30th Anniversary Celebration" Seattle WA – 2003
Soil Auction, Seattle WA – 2002
Poncho Invitational Fine Art Auction "All about Art" , Seattle WA – 2003
Bellevue Art Museum Gala Art Auction "Some like it art" Bellevue WA – 2002
Art Star Project "It's just like the movies", Seattle WA - 2001
Seattle Art Museum Rental/Sales Gallery "Introduction" Seattle WA – 2001-Present
Henry Art Gallery "deBASHery", Seattle WA - 2001
Bellevue Art Museum Pacific Northwest Annual Juried Exhibition, Brian Wallace Juror, Bellevue WA 2000
D'adamo/Hill Gallery Group Exhibition, Seattle WA - 2000
Soil Gallery Auction, Seattle WA - 2000
Bellevue Art Museum Pacific Northwest Annual Juried Exhibition, John Tupper Juror, Bellevue WA - 1999
Kirkland Art Center 2nd Annual Juried Print Exhibition, Tom Collins, Juror the Associate Curator of U.W. Henry Art Gallery Kirkland WA - 1999
Cornish College of the Arts B.F.A. Exhibition, Seattle WA 1999
Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Vancouver, BC - 1998
Kirkland Art Center 1st Annual Juried Print Exhibition, Sam Davidson Juror, Kirkland WA - 1998
Raw Gallery Group Exhibition, Seattle WA - 1997

Awards

Frank Lloyd Wright's Westcott House, "Wright Now" OH - 2007
Cornish College of the Arts Merit Scholarship - 1998-99
Cornish College of the Arts Faculty Select Exhibition, 2nd Place – 1998

Selected Bibliography

2008

Kangas, Matthew. "The flickering quality of the abstract painting is captured and made more explicit in the video, it's jumpy images echoing her brushwork". Art in America, November issue.

2007

Kangas, Matthew. "With her deft brushwork, and oscillating color-grounds of greens, blues and browns, Yamamoto employs the brighter colors as almost industrial contrasts. The dialogue between the pop culture references and formal elements that is simmering below the surface of these small, glowing works also might emerge more explicitly with great potential rewards"., Art Ltd. Magazine, Nov issue,

2004

Stoesz, David. "Yamamoto applies and gouges away with a joyful, intoxicating inventiveness."Seattle Weekly, Sep. 15-21

Stoesz, David. "airy abstractions of big ideas" The Stranger, Vol 13, Jan.8-14

2002

Stoesz, David. "They are dream like, but also focused toward some goal, however obscure" Seattle Weekly, Sep.18-24

Stoesz, David "Junko Yamamoto paints gorgeously weathered abstractions in warm cool colors enlivened by the occasional pink pillow shape" Seattle Weekly, Sep.25-Oct.1

2000

Hackett, Regine. "Junko Yamamoto's landscapes are weightless,drifting worlds"Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July.11

King County Art Gallery Web Site, "emanating from nothing, and always empty:wordless thoughts without a thinker" March.2-31

1998

Hackett, Regine. " find a different way to stamp their abstractions with a Post-pop sensibility" Seattle Post-Intelligencer,June

Publications/Catalogs

Art in America, Nov issue 2008

Poncho Invitation Fine Art Auction 2008

Art Ltd, Magazine, Nov issue, 2007

"Maximarism" Art at Hotel Max, Seattle WA 2005

Condé Nast TRAVELER America Issue , February 2006, page38

Poncho Invitation Fine Art Auction 2006

Southwest airlines Spirit Magazine December 2005 Page35

Gas Art Gallery, Gagliardi Art System 'Tra Est e Ovest' , Torino, Italy - 2004

Poncho Invitation Fine Art Auction "All About Art" 2003

Cornish College of the Arts 2003 " Creating, Inspiring, Transforming" Catalogs

Public Art Collections

Citigroup Private Bank, Seattle, WA

Idaho Trust National Bank, Boise, ID

Migitoro , Tokyo Japan

YSK, Tokyo Japan

The Aspen Hotel Group - Hotel Max Seattle, WA

Haber View Medical Center- Seattle, WA

Swedish Cancer Institute - Seattle, WA

Mulvanny G2 Architecture – Bellevue, WA

Mary Alice Cooley Print Collection, Cornish College of the Arts - Seattle, WA

Many more...

Related Art Experience/Lecture/Teaching

Dayton Art Institute / Lecture Dayton Ohio 2007

Youmaga.com / Art columnist Seattle, WA 2005-2006

Seattle Asian Art Museum Youth and family Program / teaching Seattle, WA 2004

Seattle Asian Art Museum Youth and family Program / teaching Seattle, WA 200