

SHINRO OHTAKE PAPER-SIGHT

25 September – 5 November 2016

VIP OPENING:

Saturday 24 September 6.00pm – 8.00pm



Pasture, 2015

Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake

Paper pulp painting

356 x 459 cm

Produced at STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery Singapore

© STPI/Shinro Ohtake

This September, STPI Gallery presents *Paper – Sight*, the first solo exhibition in Singapore by Japanese artist Shinro Ohtake that marks the artist's extraordinary endeavor in print and papermaking, showcasing some 30 of 140 unique and edition works executed at an incredible pace during his residency with the STPI Workshop in 2015. Highlights include a series of large-scale fluorescent paper pulp paintings—a technical feat for both Ohtake and STPI—as well as a 320-page sculptural scrapbook, consisting of 160 individual artworks, that parallel his ongoing *Scrapbook* series of 68 artist books spanning over nearly four decades.

“It was a brand-new challenge creating images using a ladle instead of a brush, but the expressive approaches derived from experimenting with a size I had never tried before in [papermaking] led to a big evolution for me. There was the possibility of realizing new ideas,” says Ohtake.

The prolific use of neon yellow coating is particularly striking in the gamut of juxtaposing colours and imagery. Referencing uranium (“yellowcake”) and radiation, the acerbic colour emanates Ohtake's preoccupation with a sense of life's transience following the March 11th Great East Japan earthquake and Fukushima disasters in 2011. The works act as recordings of radioactive contamination and can be seen as a response to concerns it raised around nuclear energy, threats from nature, considerations of the earth and the universe, and relations between families and homes affected by the disaster.

Ohtake's characteristic style and sensibility towards amassed content and “pasted pictures” remain heavily apparent in the exhibition. Only this time, recurrent themes and familiar motifs of nature and found images culled from the artist's daily life are appropriated in an amalgamation of new materials, techniques and multi-neon colour palettes, resulting in a bold and unapologetic body of work.

Deeply rooted in daily life, this exhibition harks back to basics of Ohtake's practice, which is the process of collecting, chronicling and re-presenting the contents of life and time. Rather than suggesting a specific commentary or narrative, the process stems from the artist's interest in the different strands of time embodied in each material, and it is this dense layering of multiple times existing in one moment that his works illustrate. For as Massimiliano Gioni, Artistic Director of the New Museum, New York, and the 55th Venice Biennale (where Ohtake's scrapbooks were displayed as part of ‘The Encyclopedic Palace’) described them, “they are a reflection on the ways in which images have been used to organize knowledge and shape our experience of the world.”

This exhibition is held in conjunction with SJ50, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Singapore-Japan diplomatic relations, and made possible with the generous support of our Friends of STPI.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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Book #1 / Layered Memories, 2015-2016

Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake

Acrylic, lacquer spray paint, aluminium tape, silkscreen print, paper, stainless steel
106 x 85.5 x 26.5 cm, approx 130kg, 320 pages



Yellow Path 1, 2015

Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake

Paper pulp painting
356 x 458 cm



Light in the forest 1, 2015

Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake

Paper pulp painting
169 x 263.5 cm



Square landscape, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Mixed media
146 x 138.5 cm



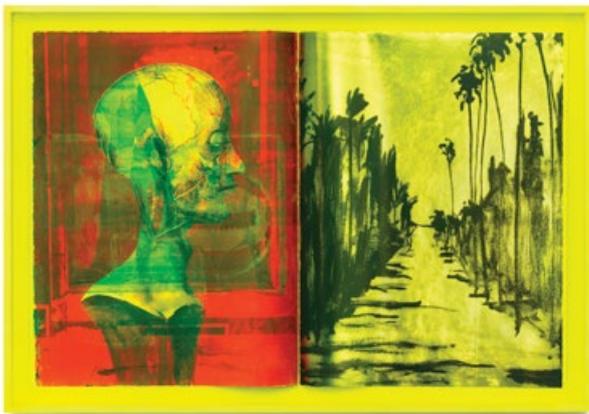
Smell, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Mixed media
122 x 96 x 6 cm



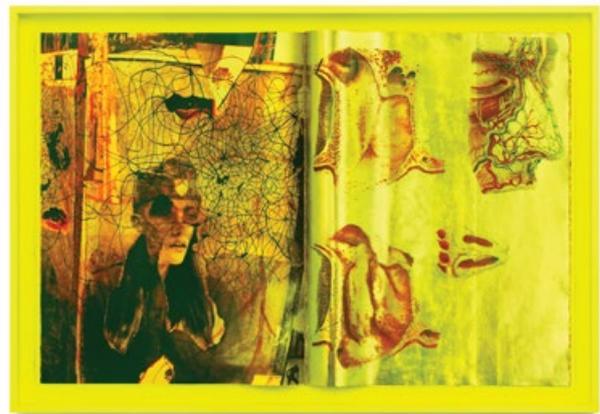
Black wall, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Mixed media
205 x 170 cm



Figure and squares, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Mixed media
170 x 134 cm



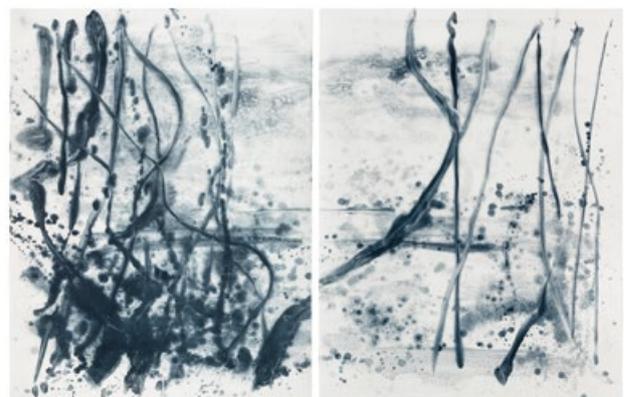
Yellow sight 1, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Screen print on Stonehenge paper, bounded with linen in yellow frame
116 x 167 x 9.5 cm



Yellow sight 2, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Screen print on Stonehenge paper, bounded with linen in yellow frame
116 x 167 x 9.5 cm



Indigo forest 10, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Lithography on Saunders paper
143.5 x 111 cm



Indigo forest 23, 2015
Paper - Sight by Shinro Ohtake
Lithography on Saunders paper
143.5 x 110.5cm each

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Born in Tokyo in 1955, Shinro Ohtake is one of Japan's leading contemporary artists. Studies of materiality, form and chance processes, his works encompass drawings, collages, paintings and large-scale assemblage pieces, as well as architectural projects and the experimental noise bands JUKE/19 (1978-82) and Puzzle Punks.

Begun in 1977, the ongoing series of *Scrapbooks* forms the core of Ohtake's practice. He has made 68 unique books to date, ranging between 50 and 882 pages. The artist works on each book for several months to over a year, pasting found imagery and materials into fragmentary compositions on each page, and then adding hand-drawn and painted elements. Over time the books take on sculptural yet organic properties. A complete presentation of the *Scrapbooks* was shown at the 2013 Venice Biennale as part of the "Encyclopaedic Palace."

Currently based between Uwajima and Tokyo, Ohtake graduated from Musashino Art University, Tokyo

(1980), and was recently awarded the Cultural Affairs Minister's Award for the Fine Arts 2013-14. He has had mid-career surveys at the Takamatsu City Museum of Art (2013), the Fukuoka Art Museum (2007, toured to Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art) and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (2006). International solo exhibitions include the Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art, London (2014) and Artsonje Center, Seoul (2012). His work is in numerous public and private collections, including the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo; Benesse Art Site Naoshima; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. In addition to the Venice Biennale, he has participated in major international exhibitions including the Setouchi Triennale 2016; the Yokohama Triennale 2014; documenta 13, Kassel (2012); and the 8th Gwangju Biennale (2010).

The artist is represented by Take Ninagawa, Tokyo.

ABOUT STPI

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper and has become one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.

STPI Creative Workshop is a rigorous incubator for pushing the boundaries of various print and papermaking techniques. Bolstered by specialised facilities and a highly qualified workshop team, STPI Creative Workshop enables leading international artists participating in its acclaimed residency programme to challenge conventions in art, explore new trajectories in their practice and share their experience with the public.

STPI Gallery is an active platform that fosters the exchange of ideas in contemporary art with its diverse exhibitions and public programme. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in the STPI Creative Workshop and regularly participates in international fairs. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its residency artists and in the mediums of print and paper. The gallery's public programme aims to engage and broaden visitor understanding of contemporary art, while collaborations with a variety of international curators, collectors and gallerists provide a holistic experience for audiences on a global level.

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

ARTIST TALK: SHINRO OHTAKE & EITARO OGAWA

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER
3.00PM – 4.00PM

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

STPI YEAR END GROUP SHOW

19 NOVEMBER 2016 – 2 JANUARY 2017

