

July 15, 2015

Aru Sunaga Solo Exhibition

The Winner of TERRADA ART AWARD 2014 Grand Prize

Aug 20, 2015 (Thu) – Sep 2, 2015 (Wed) @ Warehouse TERRADA (Shinagawa, Tokyo)



“beam” H2590mm×W3880mm / oil painting on canvas

The first solo exhibition by Aru Sunaga, the Grand Prize winner of TERRADA ART AWARD 2014, will be held from August 20, 2015 (Thu) to September 2, 2015 (Wed) at T-Art Gallery, operated by Warehouse TERRADA. This exhibition comprises as a part of the supports we offer to the Grand Prize winner of TERRADA ART AWARD, which was launched last year.

For Sunaga, the winning work, “from the other side”, was challenging herself on the theme of “what is painting?”. In the picture, the woman in front sees a world beyond through the chasm on the canvas, which might suggest that a world is prepared for Sunaga beyond the canvas. The work takes a unique approach to the dimension only possible through paintings. Sunaga explains, “I painted this with searching of my place as an artist in the non-dualistic world where the borderline of here and there had disappeared”. Even though she expresses artists and their circumstances, the woman depicted in “from the other side” is not herself but a symbol of women who was portrayed in numberless artworks in the long art history, and watches the world beyond the canvas (where viewers or the painter are watching the canvas) from behind.

With this theme and approach, her destination is “striding towards the new horizon by creating works where her world and the painted world face off against each other.”

In this solo exhibition, she will show dynamic works demonstrating her innate boldness in an attempt to further extend possibilities of 2D painting. In addition to oil paintings on canvases, about 20 powerful drawings with pencils and/or oil pastels will also be on display.

Sunaga is currently in the master's course of Oil Painting, Graduate School of Fine Arts at Tokyo University of the Arts (Tokyo Geijutsu Daigaku). In the fall 2010, the year she enrolled in the university, she put her work on "A CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART ATUDENTS – PRODUCED BY MR. X" (produced by Takashi Murakami, Artist). Since then, Sunaga has been thinking seriously about the meaning of living within the framework of "contemporary art".

She defines that an artist is "someone who finds, creates, and puts into practice a new perspective". She puts her definition into practice through her commitment to artistic activities and expressions.

On August 29 (Sat), 2015 during the exhibition, we will hold a special talk show by Aru Sunaga and Yumi Yamaguchi (Art Producer) at the exhibition site. This is an open and casual event where you can interact with many folks along with her works. We hope you to join as well as the exhibition.

Warehouse TERRADA aspire to redefine Tennoz Isle as the new artistic and cultural hub of Japan through diversified approaches that support and promote art. At TERRADA ART AWARD, we hope to support talented young artists domestically and internationally through various activities.

Event Information

■Title	Aru Sunaga Solo Exhibition
■Period	August 20, 2015 (Thu) – September 2, 2015 (Wed)
■Venue	Second Floor, Warehouse TERRADA Head Office Bldg. 2-6-10 Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo TEL: 03-5479-0541
■Hours	11:00 – 18:00 (Tue & Wed), 11:00 – 19:00 (Thu – Sun) *Closed on Mondays
■Admission	Free
■Organizer	Warehouse TERRADA
■URL	http://www.terrada.co.jp/event/gallery/art2
■Facebook	Art by Terrada (https://www.facebook.com/terrada.art.award)
■Contact	tart_gallery@terrada.co.jp

<Introduction by Yumi Yamaguchi, Art Producer, TERRADA ART AWARD Jury>

"Aru Sunaga – Beyond the light"

Yumi Yamaguchi (Art Producer)

What is so unique about Aru Sunaga's artworks is that she has the excellent color sense. The award winning work of TERRADA ART AWARD, "From the other side", leaves you the strong impression with the bold yellow, orange, and brown. And beyond the mass of lights, there is a female body figure, which looks like she's staring at something, painted in navy, which is a complementary color of yellow and orange. She has great sense in color balance, color harmony, and she could see what is beyond the light. If I would point out one thing, she can improve her theme to be stronger. In order to do that, she needs to read more, talk more, get experience more, and learn more, including studying overseas.

She has loved painting since her childhood, and from watching her mother cook wearing yellow apron everyday, blue became her favorite color. Her interest of lights has also started from her infancy. She was kind of a girl who was fascinated by the reflection of the sunlight. Therefore, she has strong memory of a scene she saw back when she was in elementary school, someone inside the bright light leaning against a glass, breaking that glass with the weight.

I see the power of color inside of her works that lead audience inside the paintings. That power is necessary to set paintings the center of contemporary art once again. The infinite possibilities hidden inside her small body is enough to challenge the international art world, and there are chances of success. Her journey ahead is not an easy one, however; all she has to do is to go straight ahead little by little. There will always be lights ahead of devotion.

<Introduction by O JUN,Artist>**Paintings by Aru Sunaga****O JUN**

Ms. Aru paints large paintings. When I say that the paintings are large, I am not just talking about the size, but the depth in terms of taste and quality as well. One would probably say that she is of small stature, but there is an impression left due to the fact that this small person is painting these large paintings. This contrasting relationship brings a harmony to her and the world that she faces. The weight that rests on the both sides of that scale is always changing and never fixed. Thus, while the two sides of the scale are not able to measure each other's weight, they barely maintain a balance. This is the correct way of facing the world and people. Previously, she had been painting scenes and images that are conjured up in sentences and words within essays and novels. Once she told me words she used as a motif. However, her paintings were more than just words. Words are accompanied with references and meanings. Therefore, when I heard those words, I created a certain image in my mind. That image ended up being different from her painting. That says how the image in people's minds can be shared or be similar, but often times they are different from each other. I heard that she no longer uses words for her paintings. That is probably the reason why it looks as if the colors have come to life, and that the brush that she used was full of energy. Her paintings are howling, "Why am I painting pictures?!" The paintings themselves probably bypass the underlying meaning of words.

<Aru Sunaga>

1989 Born in Gunma Prefecture, Japan

2015 Enrolled in the master's course in painting at, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts

2014 "Taro or Alice vol. 5," an exhibition by the Oil Painting No. 7 (O JUN) Lab, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts, at TURNER GALLERY, Tokyo

2014 The 62nd Graduation Works Exhibitions, Tokyo University of the Arts, at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo

2013 "PASSAGE," at Bambinartgallery, Tokyo

2010 "Contemporary Art Exhibitions by Current Art College Students – Produced by Mr. X," at Kaikai Kiki Gallery/Hidari Zingaro, Tokyo

Award-Winning History

TERRADA ART AWARD 2014 (1 Grand Prize)

CAF ART AWARDS 2014 (Jury's Special Award)

Warehouse TERRADA

Main Business: Real Estate Business, Safekeeping/Preserving Business

Representative: President, Yoshihisa Nakano

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Foundation: October 1950

■ Press Contact for Enquiries on Painting Materials, Interview Requests, etc.

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