

Fiber & Textile Artist MIKA YAJIMA

Overview

From the start of her freelance career, MIKA YAJIMA based in Japan, produced mainly on order artwork to hotels, corporate buildings, JAL's domestic and International lounges, etc., for architectural spaces by using original techniques - weaving, knotting, winding, collage, and polyester coating with fiber material. A paradoxical combination of thin thread & metal, light & heavy, soft & hard, and the like are her hallmarks. From 2006 she exhibited some conceptual installations pursuing more spirituality with stronger messages.

In recent years, she has made a transformation from folk art materials to the modern arts returning to the original self-cultivated material series -Asian royal fern, Basho fiber, Kudzu fiber etc., that continues from her art college days, while bringing in her experience of working in the production of artworks for kimono and architectural objects.



Awards

- 1989 Encouragement Prize '89 Asahi Contemporary Craft Competition (Tapestry)
- 2016 Nicholas Usherwood Prize DISCOVER THE ONE JAPANESE ART London 2016 (Tapestry with frame)

Collections

- 1989 KYOTO ICHIDA Corporation "Nanzenji, Kyoto Tairyu Villa" (Tapestry)
- 1995 NAGASAKI Ms. M's Residence (Framed Mirror)

Commission Works some works discarded due to various circumstances

- 1994 BANZAI,LTD. Tateshina Villa (Entrance Hall, Lounge, Floor) Owner changed→TATESHINA Benefit Station Tateshina no Mori
- 1994 TOKYO Minato-ku Mr. Y's Residence (Framed Mirror for Guest Dining)
- 1995 KOREA Seoul Garden Hotel (Entrance Hall & Lounge etc.,)
- 1996 OSAKA Hotel Seagull (Royal Suite Room)
- 1996 MALAYSIA Renaissance Hotel "SAGANO" (Entrance Hall, etc.,)
- 1996 NIIGATA Atemakogen Resort Hotel Belnatio (86 Guest Rooms)
- 1997 TOYOHASHI Hotel Associa "Japanese Restaurant KAUN" / Closed
- 1997 NAGANO President Resort Karuizawa (227 Guest Rooms) FAM
- 1997 FUJI Chugai Pharmaceutical Company (Entrance Hall)
- 1998 VIETNAM Japanese Embassy Hanoi (Residence hall)
- 1998 NEW YORK JAL Lounge / J.F.K. International Airport Terminal 1(Entrance Hall) Moved→2015 OSAKA JAL Sakura Lounge / Kansai International Airport
- 1998 KARUIZAWA Bridgestone Co., (Entrance Hall, Lounge etc.) FAM
- 1998 NARITA JAL Sakura Lounge / New Tokyo International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 1999 IBARAGI NTT DoCoMo Mito Bldg. (Entrance Hall)
- 1999 FUKUOKA JAL Sakura Lounge / Fukuoka International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 1999 TOKYO ALTECH Co.,Ltd. (Entrance Hall & 8 ELV. Halls) / Closed
- 1999 YOKOHAMA Minato-Mirai Yokohama Media Tower / NTT Group (Hall)
- 1999 TOKYO Hotel Forest Hongo (Entrance Hall, 4 Elv. Floor, 100 Guest Rooms) FAM
- 2000 OSAKA JAL Sakura & First Class Lounge / Kansai International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 2000 OSAKA JAL Sakura Lounge / Osaka International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 2000 UTSUNOMIYA Canon INC. (Hall)
- 2001 KOREA JAL Sakura & First Class Lounge / Incheon International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 2001 SAITAMA NTT DoCoMo Bldg. (The Branch Manager's Room)
- 2001 CHIBA Asahi Diamond Industrial Co.,Ltd. (Floor)
- 2002 NARITA JAL Sakura Lounge Annex / New Tokyo International Airport (Entrance Hall) Moved→2015 TOKYO JAL Sakura Lounge / HANEDA Airport
- 2002 IKEBUKURO Club House Wedding Riviera (Entrance Hall) Moved
- 2003 NARITA JAL Domestic Lounge / New Tokyo International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 2004 NARITA JAL Sakura Lounge satellite / New Tokyo International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 2004 OSAKA JAL Sakura Lounge / Osaka International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 2005 AICHI JAL Sakura Lounge / Chobu Centrair International Airport (Entrance Hall)
- 2005 TOKYO 'J' Bldg. (Entrance Hall)
- 2005 FRANCE LES DOMAINES DE SAINT-ENDREOL Golf & Spa Resort (Spa Entrance Hall)
- 2009 CHIBA Asahi Diamond Industrial Co.,Ltd. (Floor)

Exhibitions

- 1989.05.05-06.07 '89 Asahi Contemporary Craft Competition Osaka-Tokyo
- 1993.04.02-04.07 Competition CKI Japan Fair & Fukuoka Fair
- 1993.05.07-05.26 93 Asahi Contemporary Craft Competition Osaka-Tokyo
- 2001.11.18-11.20 Group Exhibition 25th ZOB TEXTILE ART EXHIBITION / AXIS GALLERY
- 2006.04.03-04.16 Group Exhibition Water + Wind '06 / GALLERY le bain
- 2006.11.19-11.26 Group Exhibition 30th ZOB TEXTILE ART EXHIBITION / KUWASAWA DESIGN SCHOOL
- 2006.07.23-09.10 Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale2006 / Niigata (Installation by membrane structure at summer ski field)
- 2006.12.01-12.10 Solo Exhibition INSIDE— Blue Flower Project Vol.2/ ZAIM Yokohama (Conceptual Installation)
- 2006.12.01-12.30 December Decoration for ZAIM 2006/ ZAIM Yokohama (Conceptual Installation for outer walls of with Yokohama Citizen)
- 2007.04.03-04.15 Group Exhibition Water+ Wind '07 / GALLERY le bain (Rope work)
- 2010.06.14-06.24 The Publication Memorial Exhibition of "Dying · Weaving · Fiber Arts " / ART BOX GALLERY Ginza, Tokyo.
- 2014.03.10-03.22 Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition -Quintessence du Yamato a Paris- / La Galleries Mona Lisa , France.
- 2015.04.08-04.15 Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition in Paris D'ART CONTEMPORAIN JAPONAIS PRINTEMPS / Galerie Etienne de Causans, France.
- 2016.05.17-05.21 Competition DISCOVER THE ONE JAPANESE ART by 100 Japanese artists / Menier Gallery, London, UK
- 2016.10.20-10.23 Kamakura To Nice WORLD PEACE ART EXHIBITION 2016 / Phoenix Parc Floral de Nice, France. (Rope work)
- 2017.04.12-04.15 Art Fair World Art Dubai 2017 / Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE (Natural Fiber Weaving)
- 2017.10.05-10.08 Art Fair Accessible Art Fair Brussels 2017 / Bozar, Brussels, Belgium (Natural Fiber Materials)
- 2017.11.30-12.03 Art Fair Luxembourg Art Fair ART3f 2017 / Parc des Expositions - Luxexpo, Luxembourg (Natural Fiber Materials)
- 2018.02.26-03.09 Short Listed Exhibition Royal Arts Prize V. Edition 2018 / LA GALLERIA PALL MALL London, UK (Natural Fiber Weaving)
- 2018.04.18-04.21 Art Fair World Art Dubai 2018 Solo Artist / Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE



Biography

Born 1965, Kochi Prefecture, Japan. Raised by her parents, who were both educators. In high school, she discovered an ambition to practice dyeing and weaving, and in order to study under Professor Akiko Shimanuki, a pioneer of Japan's tapestry world, she enrolled on the Textile Design course of Tokyo Zokei University's Department of Design, in 1988. The discovery of her great-grandmother's belongings in the family warehouse, and the realization that she had practiced dyeing and weaving, led her to the experience of personally cultivating and gathering Asian-royal-fern and raw cotton fibers on the land of her ancestors, cutting down the Basho banana plants that had grown wild there, and weaving the thread by hand. The theme of her graduation piece was 'Basho, paper cloth and Asian-royal-fern weaving fusing independently transmitted dyeing and weaving folk craft materials that have never before met', and included research on materials and a tapestry piece. After her graduation, the piece won the incentive award at the '89 Asahi Contemporary Craft Exhibition, and was bought by her employer at the time, ICHIDA Corporation.

In 1988 she joined the business department of ICHIDA Corporation's Tokyo Kimono Division as a regular employee, and spent 2 years in charge of merchandising specially selected kimono made by a variety of craftspeople including Japanese living national treasures. She spent a further 2 years in the marketing room of the sales department in charge of sales promotion for events such as a cultural event where imperial and samurai daily clothes and furnishings were exhibited, and a special event involving several thousand consumers, before leaving the company in 1992 to go freelance.

While in the process of attempting semi-three-dimensional modeling by carrying out resin treatment on textiles she had woven herself, in 1993, through an introduction by the art business company she was formally employed at, she offered technical cooperation for a golf course lounge artwork project run by a construction company. From then on, she was able to specialize in architectural spaces, and handle order-made artwork that involved building up the space while directly exchanging opinions with architects and clients.

After giving birth and while bringing up her child, she jointly produced original artwork for hotel rooms with a focus on collage, in a collaboration with other female designers. Representative works include the 1995 Seoul Garden Hotel series where all main floors of the hotel were decorated with art deco YAJIMA works, a 1998 private work for the entrance hall of the ambassador's residence in Hanoi of country J which had strips of woven in metal bars coated in gold leaf as its motif, and a 1999 work for Yokohama Media Tower Entrance Hall, which became the work by the youngest female artist among works in the Minatomirai area. From 1998 to 2005 she designed artworks for the entrance halls of the international and domestic Sakura Lounges of Japan Airlines at airports with an emphasis on theme.

At the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale 2006 she exhibited a cloth installation consisting of a 300m membrane structure on a ski slope in summer and in the same year at Yokohama ZAIM she experienced a participatory installation where citizens decorated the outside of the building with origami silver balloons for Christmas. At the same solo exhibition, 'INSIDE', she took on the challenge of a collaboration with a musical piece composed by a child - 'Moon Flowers' - conducted an exhibition where participants drank rose tea in an aromatic space, while tasting and enjoying the space, and in other ways attempted to express the 'INSIDE' through constructing spaces made up not just of looking and showing, but with the five senses plus the sixth sense as their total.

Recently, to a base consisting of the research theme she has more or less continued since her university days - the self-cultivated and selected plant fibers from her birth place in Kochi - she has added the unique essence of her experience at work that involved her in kimono fabric and the creation of architectural spaces, resuming her attempt to transform folk craft dyeing and weaving into modern art. In what way are those expressions felt by people from overseas? In 2014 she began displaying her works overseas at selective exhibitions and in other ways, and in July 2016 one of those works won the Nicholas Usherwood Prize at the Japanese artist's competition held in London. From 2017, she experienced several art fairs, and be selected as a short listed artist of 'Royal Art Prize V. Edition', was held by galleries at Royal Opera Arcade in London on February 2018. Nominated in the category of International Artist Award at The World Art Dubai 2018, UAE.

