

MEDIA RELEASE

Media contact: Kathy MacPherson, galleryinfo@otis.edu, 310.665.6909. Images available.

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Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design is pleased to announce:

MASAMI TERAOKA is the Spring 2006 Jennifer Howard Coleman Distinguished Lecturer and Resident

Masami Teraoka is the Spring 2006 Jennifer Howard Coleman Distinguished Lecturer and Resident in Otis' Fine Arts Department, April 9 – 22, 2006. He will be conducting one-on-one critiques with Otis students and giving a free public lecture about his work entitled *Culture of Confession* on **Thursday, April 13, 7:30pm**, Forum, Ahmanson Building on the Goldsmith Campus; seating is first come, first served.

The Jennifer Howard Coleman Distinguished Lectureship and Residency is designed to give Otis students an opportunity to engage with a professional artist who is pursuing an active and viable studio practice. This program is made possible with the generous support of The Samuel Goldwyn Foundation.

Mr. Teraoka was born in 1936 in Onomichi, Japan. In 1959, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Aesthetics from Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan, and in 1968 a Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts from Otis Art Institute (now Otis College of Art and Design). He has been exhibiting his work internationally since 1974, and has won several awards from National Endowment for the Arts. Over six monographs have been published about his work with the newest book *Ascending Chaos: Masami Teraoka 1966-2006* due out in late 2006 by Chronicle Books. Two very popular documentary films were produced, "Masami Teraoka: Cloning Eve and Geisha" by Lynda Hess (2004) and "The Floating World: Masami Teraoka and His Art" by Louise Lo (2002). He currently lives in Hawaii and is represented by Catherine Clark Gallery in San Francisco. www.masamiteraoka.com, www.cclarkgallery.com/artists/teraoka.html

Masami Teraoka states:

In the early 70's I started my *Ukiyo-e Series* as a way to express my cultural identity. My *McDonald Hamburgers Invading Japan* and *31 Flavors Invading Japan Series* evolved soon afterwards. I worked with issues such as cultural homogenization, environmental degradation, and AIDS through the late 1980's.

A few decades later another identity as an American of Japanese origin surfaced. I knew an inner evolution was taking place and thought it had to come out someday. I have traveled abroad extensively from the late 70's to the present and that helped me realize what American culture is all about.

(more)

This awareness prompted me to explore an American side that had not been expressed in my work previously. Americans love to confess to strangers and share their personal histories or discuss social and cultural issues with random others. This observation was the context for my *Confessional Series* which started in the early 1990's. Sexual ethics, human and civil rights, and global issues became major forces behind my imagery.

Although the visual aspect of my work has changed drastically over the years, conceptually there are still obvious links. In both my Ukiyo-e style paintings and my recent Renaissance style paintings I write my own narratives. I am the Kabuki playwright and director of all of my work. I still have a long way to go to uncover all of the enticing visions hidden inside me.

Location: Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking: Free visitor parking in structure on La Tijera and on street

Gallery Office Hours: Mon – Fri: 10a – 5p

Information: 310.665.6905, galleryinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu

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