

TOKOHAMATSUDA

Artist Biography

Matsuda was born in Hokkaido, and grew up in Kiryu, in the prefect of Gunma, Japan. Being very interested in creating art, Matsuda went to a private art class from the time she was a kindergartner, and received many awards with her art work in her childhood.

She decided, however, to study liberal arts rather than fine art at college, and entered Hokkaido University in Sapporo. She focused on sociology, anthropology, and social psychology, and earned a BA in behavioral science. Her current artistic interests in social structure, social phenomena, intercultural communication, and feminism originated at that time. While engaged with her academic curriculum, she resumed her study of drawing and painting as well.

After graduating, she joined Kao Corporation as a marketing research specialist in Tokyo, and continued to study art at several classes. She displayed her works at several group exhibitions. It was the economic “bubble” era in 1980s Japan. During the period, with its materialistic frenzy, Matsuda experienced a sense of emptiness. She began to question her role in the corporate environment. While struggling, she met an artist, Kiyoko Kai and Kai’s mentor, Toyoharu Tasa. The encounter with them and joining Kai’s drawing workshop were a milestone marking a change in her life. She became aware of her strong desire to create art.

In 1990, Matsuda came to the United States, seeking to continue her art study and develop her career as an artist. She attended the Art Students League of New York for a number of years, where she studied drawing, painting, and printmaking. Also, she was enrolled in Hunter College, the City College of New York, and earned a BA in studio art and an MFA in graphic art. She also participated in Wolf Kahn’s landscape workshop at Sebasco Estates, Maine, in 2000.

Since her involvement in the MFA program at Hunter College, she has been exploring her artistic ideas within the context of contemporary art. This marked a departure from her earlier representational work in the human figure, still life and landscape, which was mainly in oil. On the other hand, it was an expansion of her realism and figurative art. In her recent work, she has concentrated on printmaking, photography, photo-based printmaking and mixed media.

Matsuda had successful one-person shows at Takekawa Gallery in Ginza, Tokyo, Japan, both in 2001 and 2005. She also had solo shows in New York at Nexus Gallery in 1998, at Riverdale YM-YWHA Art Gallery in 2004, and at Buzzer Thirty in 2006. She has been included in many group exhibitions in the United States, Japan, and other countries. From 1996 to 1999, she was represented by Chinoh Art Gallery, New York, and she has been represented by The Old Print Shop, New York, since 2006. She has also displayed at many art fairs. Her works are in numerous private and corporate collections.