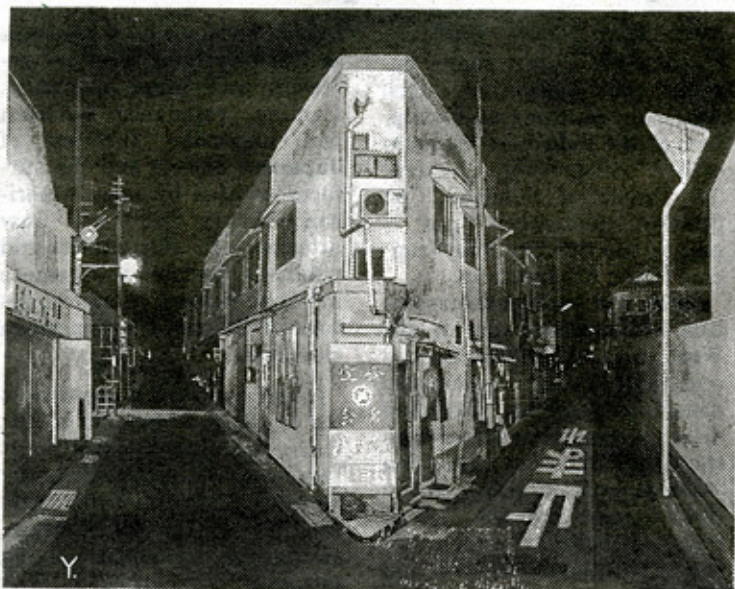


Tadanori Yokoo At Friedman Benda



Tadanori Yokoo, "A Dark Night's Flashing: N City-V," 2000, acrylic on canvas, 51³/₁₀ by 63³/₄ inches.

First American Gallery Show For Renowned Japanese Artist Opens September 10

NEW YORK CITY — Friedman Benda Gallery, 515 West 26 Street, announces it will host the first American gallery exhibition for Japanese artist Tadanori Yokoo, September 10–October 18. "Tadanori Yokoo," will show the largest group of paintings and installation work seen outside of Japan since 2005. Most of the works are coming to Friedman Benda direct from museum exhibitions in Setagaya in Tokyo, and Hyogo in Kobe.

Curated by Eric Shiner, there will be a reception for the artist on September 10 at the gallery. On Friday night, September 12, Shiner will interview Yokoo at the Japan Society, 333 East 47th Street, in an event that is open to the public.

A towering influence on the evolution and iconography of Japanese contemporary art, Yokoo has straddled the boundaries of commercial and fine art since the 1960s. His brilliance lies in his ability to weave mass imagery into complexly layered pictorial tableaux that trigger collective and personal memories.

Yokoo's appropriation of imagery and initial emergence during the American Pop Art movement has linked his work to artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, but it is his ever-evolving stylistic agility that has enabled him to captivate, communicate and remain relevant to an enormous popular audience for more than a half century.

A central figure in the Tokyo avant-garde, Yokoo's highly

accessible poster and graphic work was universally recognized, as were his collaborations with most of Japan's best-known underground personalities, including filmmaker Akira Kurosawa and the writer Yukio Mishima.

Friedman Benda's exhibition will highlight selections from a number of important bodies of work with paintings that are animated and painterly, and proliferate with nonsequential imagery derived from often imaginary indigenous landscape, as well as Japanese historical and Western classical painting.

Tadanori Yokoo was born in 1936 in Hyogo Prefecture. He began his career as a stage designer, but quickly turned to commercial graphic work, catapulting to fame with his poster art. In 1968, he was recognized by the Museum of Modern Art, where he took part in the seminal "Word and Image" exhibition. In 1972, MoMA gave the then-36-year-old Yokoo a solo exhibition, which was followed by another solo show at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. Since 1981, he has devoted himself to painting and during the last 25 years, shown his paintings only in museum and biennale venues.

Yokoo's works are in public and private collections worldwide, and in museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Fondation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain, Paris; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

For additional information, www.friedmanbenda.com or 212-239-8700.

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