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## The Asahi Shimbun

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### ODANI'S 'PHANTOM LIMB'

Motohiko Odani, one of the nation's leading contemporary artists, presents a 10-year retrospective of his unconventional works that delves into the surreal and horrific.

While Odani is primarily a sculptor, he also uses forms ranging from photography to video.

Be forewarned: Visitors to "Odani Motohiko: Phantom Limb" at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo's Roppongi district might find themselves surprised by the overwhelming scale, volume and grotesquery of some pieces on display.

Odani uses conventional media such as wood, stone and bronze, over which he applies such materials as wolf skin, human hair and animal teeth to peculiar, eyebrow-raising effect.

One eccentric piece even includes a stuffed fawn.

Among the exhibits are an elaborate series of beautiful fossil-like objects, a statue of a skeletal samurai on a horse, and, in the "Hollow" series, large, ephemeral white sculptures of fiber-reinforced plastic.

In the exhibition's title, the artist references the pain felt by amputees after losing an arm or a leg. In the same manner, his works, which he calls "Phantoms," are physical representations of nebulous senses and feelings.

Fascinated equally by horror and sci-fi movies and the Bud-



"SP2: New Born (Viper A)" (2007) by Motohiko Odani (Photo Courtesy: Yamamoto Gendai, Tokyo)

dhist statues seen in his Kyoto childhood, Odani showed early talent.

Advised to go to art school by a professional sculptor, Odani enrolled at the Tokyo University of the Arts and studied sculpture.

Over the past decade, he has gained international acclaim and his works have been shown at international art shows, including the Venice Biennale in 2003.

Through Feb. 27; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (until 5 p.m. Tuesdays); near Roppongi subway station; ([www.mori.art.museum](http://www.mori.art.museum))

"Odani's 'Phantom Limb,'" The Asahi Shimbun, January 7, 2010.

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