

## **TADANORI YOKOO: 'KORA-JU'**

By **Robert Shuster** *Wednesday, May 9 2012*

Although best known as a designer of vivid posters in the 1960s and '70s that advertised the arts, Tadanori Yokoo has spent decades making small but visually rich collages—exhibited here in their U.S. debut. Pieced together with snippings from vintage magazines, his surrealist scenes of incongruous images often gently satirize American icons, placing him in the arena of [Richard Hamilton](#). In *California Vision* (2002), a nude pinup girl posing poolside appears oblivious to a fish, an acrobat, and a flying saucer hovering above her head. Another fantasy—*Attack What?* (2001)—has U.S. soldiers assaulting a sliced-open fruit pit, which displays decidedly vaginal clefts.

More recently, Yokoo has left narrative interests aside. The seamless layering of the earlier theatrical style has given way to rough mash-ups of cultural references. The astronauts and Neanderthals of *Science and Primitive* (2012) float in a cluttered sea of movie stills, text, and bits of advertising. No longer neatly trimmed, the individual parts seem to have been torn from their original pages and assembled in a frenzy—a reflection, perhaps, of today's information overload. [Friedman Benda](#), 515 West 26th Street, 212-239-8700, [friedmanbenda.com](#). Through June 8.

Schuster, Robert. "Tadanori Yokoo: Kora-Ju." *The Village Voice*, May 9th, 2012.

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