



EAST-EAST: UAE meets Japan, Vol 2

Press Release

November 7th, 2016

CHI-KA is pleased to announce the opening of '*EAST-EAST: UAE meets Japan, Vol 2*'; an exhibition that explores the ways in which young voices of the Emirati art scene choose to regard cross-cultural contact with the arts of Japan. The nature of the exhibition echoes CHI-KA's vision of working with artists and organisations reflecting on the Japanese aesthetic.

'EAST-EAST: UAE meets Japan, Vol 2' aims to draw parallels between Japanese and Emirati culture as both traditional societies strive to keep a balance between heritage and futurism in our contemporary world. It also intends to challenge and expand the idea of what "global art" means to artists, curators, and viewers alike in our increasingly globalized world.

Why East-East? Curator Sophie Mayuko Arni explains: "I wanted to break the overused and overheard 'East-West' terminology by turning it on its head. Why always look to the West, when we can look Eastwards? I hope for East-East to align with recent initiatives aiming to develop new models of global contemporary art making and exhibition practices."

The specially commissioned works explore the similarity in both countries' fine balance between rooted tradition and expanding modernity. Themes as Nōh and Bedouin mythology, weaving and knotting, Zen Buddhism and the desert's connection to materiality, traditional and ceremonial dress, lie in contrast with the overwhelming global capitalist influences typified by plastic materials found in Daiso, a Japanese chain store with twenty-one branches across the UAE.

While recognising tradition, CHI-KA's interest lies in exploring new boundaries and futures, often with cross-cultural resonance. As such, it was only fitting to host an exhibition as relevant as '*EAST-EAST: UAE meets Japan, Vol 2*' in its space.

The four selected Emirati artists include Khalid Mezaina, Al Anood al Obaidly, Amna al Maamari, Ahmed al Anzi, the first two being recent recipients of the prestigious 'The Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship.' The exhibition was premiered at NYU Abu Dhabi Project Space this October 2016, after a 10-month studio process in which the curator provided these ideas and contextual background of Japanese Art History. The exhibition was opened under the mentorship of the NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery team.

Four years ahead of Dubai and Tokyo hosting the internationally acclaimed Expo and Olympics respectively, the occasion seems fitting to celebrate these two cultures together.

CHI-KA is located in Alserkal Avenue H69, Dubai, UAE.

*The opening reception will be held on Nov 13, 2016, from 7pm
Exhibition runs until Nov 30, 2106*

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ABOUT

CHI-KA is a contemporary Japanese kimono and art space, working with artists and organisations reflecting on the new wave of Japanese aesthetic. While recognising tradition, its interest lies in exploring new boundaries and futures, often with cross-cultural resonance. CHI-KA sells one of a kind, hand-crafted kimono-abayas, alongside a diverse program of collaborations in fine art, design, craft, robotics, multimedia, and performance. It's space was designed by architect Takeshi Murayama and designer Manabu Ozawa.

For more information, please contact -

Nina Valjarevic
Co-Founder / Director
CHI-KA
+971507445911
studio@chikaspace.com

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