

Hiroki Otsuka

Mangdala

September 30 -November 5, 2010

The Art Space at Fridman Law Group, 287 Spring Street, New York, NY, www.fridmanlawgroup.com
Curated by Matthew Waldman / NOOKA / www.nooka.com

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Manga is a Japanese popular art form developed in the early 1700s that continues to exert a vibrant cross-cultural influence on Western art to this day. Aikawa Minwa's *Manga Hyakujo* (1814) and the celebrated Hokusai *Manga* books (1814–1878) are early examples which influenced artists as varied as Vincent van Gogh, James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Claude Monet in the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist periods as well as post modern and contemporary artists including Andy Warhol, American comic book culture, and by extension pop-art itself.

The *Mandala* is an ancient art form with roots in the Hindu artistic tradition and best known to Westerners in the sand art of Tibetan Buddhists. Many forms of *mandala* incorporate motifs of perfect squares set on a center point of a circle representing gates or realms of consciousness. It is interesting that psychoanalyst Carl Jung saw the *mandala* as “a representation of the unconscious self,” and believed his paintings of *mandalas* enabled him to identify emotional disorders and work towards wholeness in personality.

On some level, *manga* and *mandala* beg to be combined – each, in its own way, brings out in bright color the secrets within the subconscious. The esoteric and spiritual meditation of the *mandala*, combined with the populist and, often, obscene content of the *manga*, cannot be in better hands than those of Hiroki Otsuka. The show will consist of silk screens and installation work by the artist.

Please join us September 30th at 6:00 PM for the opening.

Please call or email Ben for more information: T 212 620 0935 or ben@fridmanlawgroup.com.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Brooklyn based Japanese artist/illustrator Hiroki Otsuka honed his craft drafting and inking comic book cells for a variety of projects, and illustrated for a number of major Japanese publications through 2004. In 2005, Otsuka's focus shifted from graphic to fine arts, working predominantly with traditional *sumi* ink used in Japanese calligraphy. Otsuka's debut solo show at Brooklyn's Stay Gold Gallery in 2005 prompted *The New Yorker* to write that his works “...push the populist youth quotient through the roof.” Since then, Hiroki Otsuka has gained international recognition with works being shown at Berlin's Kunstraum Richard Sorge. In March 12-June 13, 2010, Otsuka served as Japan Society's *manga* artist-in-residence during the exhibition *Graphic Heroes, Magic Monsters: Japanese Prints by Utagawa Kuniyoshi* from the Arthur R. Miller Collection. www.hirokiotsuka.com

