

Hiroki Otsuka

Mangdala

The art space at Fridman Law Group
Curated by Matthew Waldman / NOOKA

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 another 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.

It would seem that on many levels, *manga* and *mandala* beg to be combined. *Manga* brings out in bright color our subconscious, secret desires. The esoteric and spiritual meditation of the *mandala* form combined with the populist and I dare say, obscene content of the *manga* can not be in better hands than that of artist Hiroki Otsuka.

This show will consist of silk screens and installation work from the artist.

Please join us September 30th at 6:00 PM for the opening. The show is up until November 5th. Please call Ben at the Fridman Law Group for more information: T 212 620 0935 or ben@fridmanlawgroup.com

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. From March 12-June 13, 2010, Otsuka served as Japan Society's first-ever manga artist-in-residence during the exhibition *Graphic Heroes, Magic Monsters: Japanese Prints by Utagawa Kuniyoshi* from the Arthur R. Miller Collection.

This exhibition is curated by Matthew Waldman, and Nooka Inc., www.nooka.com and made possible by Fridman Law Group www.fridmanlawgroup.com

Nooka is a New York based design company founded by artist and designer Matthew Waldman. Nooka is most famously known for its line of innovative and unique digital wristwatches which take the concept of telling time into an entirely new realm.

For more information, please contact:
RAW Information Group
info@rawinformationgroup.com
212.217.0679

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