

T.A. Art Projects

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Retrospective Exhibition

TATSUMI ORIMOTO

MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo

January/April 2008

**Opening 10th January 2008 at 7 p.m. with the performance
“50 Grandmothers”**

Curator Tereza de Arruda



**1908-2008
100 ANOS
IMIGRAÇÃO
JAPÃO-BRASIL**

DNA



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Retrospective of Tatsumi Orimoto at MASP- Museu de Arte de São Paulo

The Japanese artist Tatsumi Orimoto is well known in Brazil since he participated twice of the São Paulo Biennial: 1991 with the performance “Bird, Bread Man in a City” and also 2002 with the series of photography “Art Mama” and the performance “Two Bread Men”. In 2001 he participated at the Venice Biennial where he conquered the European public through his performative presence as well as by the presentation of bizarre photos where he presented his mother and neighbors with a tire on their neck or presented them in a big paper box.

The first retrospective exhibition of Tatsumi Orimoto outside of Japan to be presented in MASP coincides with the centenary of the Japanese Immigration to Brazil which will be celebrated in 2008. This exhibition will be then the first event planned for this context starting on January 10th and finishing at middle April 2008.

MASP was founded im 1968 in the Avenida Paulista, main road in São Paulo, to preserve and present its collection composed at that time by 7500 art works and 60.000 publications in the library. It developed as one of the most relevant institution in South America (www.masp.art.br).

Tatsumi Orimotos photo production is intimately connected with his performances, in which he deals with trivial subjects. He uses since years his own environment as subject for his artistic production. His works of art became renowned with his provokingly performance, in which he decorated his mother with car tires and putted her into a cardboard box at the Venice Biennale in 2001. The current works of him result from a subjective, familiar outlook where Tatsumi Orimoto reflects the everyday life. The private, homely atmosphere appears in public, the pictures remain authentic to the reality: Mother and son in their own kitchen, living room and garden being presented out of the introspective context with transparency to the society.

In his early twenties Tatsumi Orimoto worked in the USA as an assistant of Nam June Paik. During the Fluxus movement his artworks dealt with the matter of communication. An important example for this were his uncommon “Bread-Man” performances, where he communicated with people on the street all over the world while he had some loafs of bread corded around his head.

The planned exhibition conceived for MASP will be the first retrospective of his artworks out of Japan. The exhibition will start with an introduction including documentation of his first initial period. His photographic works, which represent a documentation of his performance activities, will compose the main part of the exhibition. One image will be presented at the façade of the museum to acquire a direct confrontation with the public being part of the urban space of Avenida Paulista in São Paulo. Since the mid-nineties Tatsumi Orimoto turned to present the relation between him and his mother because he is responsible for her welfare assistance. Being affected with Alzheimer and Depressions, his mother needs to be tended by him 24 hours per day. Concurrent she became the vital element of his artistic production. The artist ended up developing an “Art Mama Diary” as homage to her related to her and her existence.

This situation reflects the reality and worries in the contemporary Japanese society transferred automatically to the big Japanese community living in Brazil. That's the importance of presenting this exhibition as part of the Celebration of the Japanese Immigration to Brazil!

This exhibition is planed to be a travelling exhibition through Brasil (Museu Dragão do Mar/Fortaleza), England (Baltic Art Center), North America, Mexico (Museu Carrillo Gil) and South America.

The first approach that the curator Tereza de Arruda had with Tatsumi Orimoto's work was 1991 at São Paulo Biennial. Since then she followed the development of his production in different international exhibitions. Both of them work together since 2005 and this partnership resulted in different projects as his solo exhibition in C/O Berlin as part of ASIANART – Asian contemporary art in Berlin Mitte curated by Tereza de Arruda as part of the Festival Asian-Pacific –Weeks 2007.

The exhibition is MASP will present works realized in the last 30 years and will be his first retrospective out of Japan. The selection of the works was done during different meetings in Europe.

Vídeos: there will presented a series of 10 videos as documentation of Tatsumi Orimoto's performance activities realized since the 70ies. This historical material will be presented integrated in the exhibition in monitors as a lounge where the visitor feels comfortable to appreciate the development of different performances.

Photographies: we present below single images of different photo series from Tatsumi Orimoto, which are composed of at least 10 images/series. The exhibition will present 1000 images of different historical periods and series from Tatsumis Performances

Drawings: around 200 original drawings were selected to compose this exhibition. They transfer a sensitive and instigate palette of Tatsumis artistic input, which deal sometimes as inspiration for the performances or documentation of the process.



Mother and Son, 2005



Boxing Partner, 2003



16 Drum Cans + 16 People, 2002



Tire Tube Communication, 1996



Bread Man Son + Alzheimer Mama, 1996

1- Performance to be presented at MASP

Tatsumi Orihoto plans for São Paulo a similar performance as “50 Grandmamas” presented at Kawasaki City Museum in 2006, including 50 Grandmothers from the Japanese community living in São Paulo, who represent the different generations that immigrated to Brazil. This performance is an allusion to the act of offering a gift as gratification. Tatsumi Orihoto will offer the traditional Japanese Meal “Nara-cha-meshi” to the participants. The artist assumes that “the existence of Grandmothers makes he feel the art itself, that’s why he invites the 50 Grandmothers to the Museum MASP to get familiar to the presented works while he offers the meal and his art work to them as a sign of gratification”

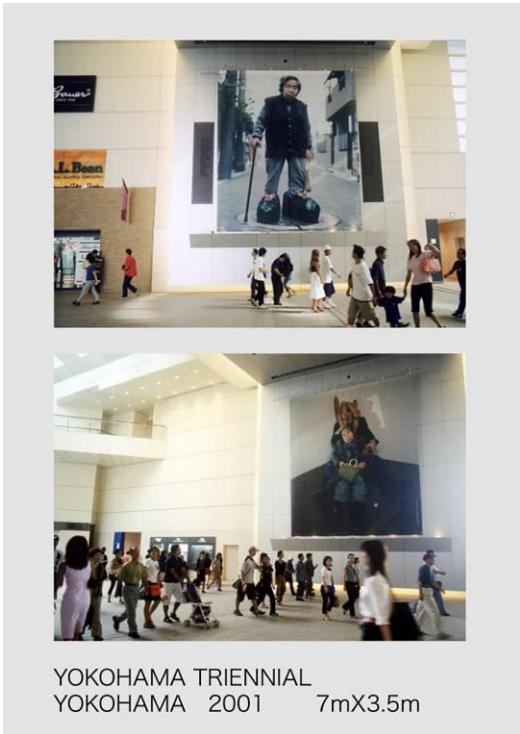


2- Art work for public space/the façade of MASP

A banner is supposed to be presented at the façade MASP similar to the one presented at BALTIC – Center for Contemporary Art during the opening exhibition in 2002 or also similar to the one presented at the Trienal of Yokohama in 2001 to develop a dialogue with the public of the Avfenida Paulista, the main street in the city. The technical details will be discussed with the technical department of the museum.



BALTIC
U.K. 2002 21mX?



YOKOHAMA TRIENNIAL
YOKOHAMA 2001 7mX3.5m

3- Curriculum Tatsumi Oriimoto

- 1946 born in Kawasaki City, Japan
Tatsumi Oriimoto lives and works in Kawasaki
1969 Study at the Institute of Art / Kalifornien, USA

1971	Move Soho / New York, USA
1972	Assistant of Nam June Paik
1977	Return to Japan

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

2007	<i>Bread man</i> , C/O Berlin, Germany
2005-06	<i>Mother and son</i> , DNA / Berlin, Germany
2004	Kawasaki City Museum / Kawasaki City, Japan Academie / Den Haag, Niederlanden
2003	ARTicle Galerie & Edition / Köln, Germany Gallery 21 + Yo / Tokio, Japan DNA/ Berlin, Germany
2002	Catalyst Arts / Belfast, England Kawasaki City Museum / Kawasaki City, Japan DNA / Berlin, Germany
2001	Center for Contemporary Art / Fukushima, Japan
2000	Hara Museum / Tokio, Japan Fotogalerie / Wien, Austria Kunstihoone Galerii / Tallin, Estland Museum für Photographie / Braunschweig, Germany Gallery 21 + Yo / Tokio, Japan

Group Exhibitions (selection)

2007	<i>Art Mama - the existence of my mother is art</i> , Fotografia, Festival Internazionale di Roma, Centro Internazionale di Arte Contemporanea / Rom, Italien
2006	2.Bukarest Biennale / Bulgarien <i>Made in Kawasaki</i> , Kawasaki City Museum / Kawasaki City, Japan <i>Wunder der Prärie</i> . Internationales Festival für Theater, Performance, Tanz, Kunst, Festivalzentrum L1 / Mannheim, Germany
2005	Fukushima Museum / Fukushima, Japan Skulpture Hus / Stockholm, Schweden National Museum of Ethnology / Osaka, Japan City Gallery/ WHITE CUBE OSAKA / Osaka, Japan Gallery 21 + Yo / Tokio, Japan
2003	Sharjah International Art Biennale / Dubai, Vereinigte Arabische Emirate Nagasaki Brick Hall / Nagasaki, Japan ALBION art museum / Nara, Japan Towada Exhibition / Towada City, Japan
2002	Biennale / Sao Paulo, Brazil Busan Bienale / Busan, Korea Baltic Museum / New Castle, England Bunker / Berlin
2001	Biennale / Venedig, Italy Triennale / Yokohama, Japan Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum / Naoshima, Japan

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| 1994 | Performance Festival, S.F. Georghe |
| 1992 | Museum City Tenjin / Fukuoka, Japan |
| 1991 | Biennale / Sao Paulo, Brazil |
| 1989 | P.S.I. Museum / New York, USA |
| 1988 | Biennale / Sydney, Australien |