



HIROFUMI TAKEMOTO

Peripheral Sentiment

Hirofumi Takemoto's portraits depict feminine figures inspired by ukiyo-e prints of Kitagawa Utamaro. However, Hirofumi Takemoto creates a new image following these famous traditional models and applying a new technique, acrylic on canvas. Takemoto's intention is to express the relationship between Japanese culture and the Western cultural world. The use of western techniques to reproduce Japanese models shows the artistic and cultural syncretism present in his work. His



reflection is based on the center-periphery theory developed by Masao Yamaguchi. Hirofumi Takemoto's artistic references such as Edward Steichen and August Sander show the relationship between geographically distant cultural expressions in the age of globalization. Takemoto wishes to show how certain values of pre-modern Japan can positively affect today's Westernized society.

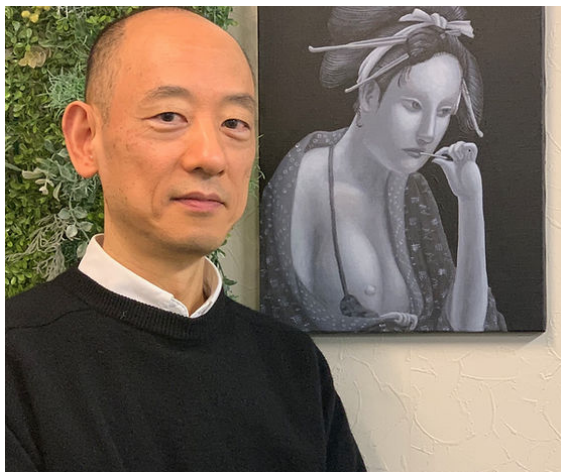
The depiction of models in black and white responds to the desire to express a beauty that is intended to be universal. The balance of light and shade shows

the reflection on an expressionist simplicity that the artist recognises in masterpieces such as the films of Akira Kurosawa.

Facing the aggressive westernization imposed by the center, Hirofumi Takemoto proposes a response that emerges from a peripheral sentiment: the desire to explore the values that globalization has rendered marginal.

About the artist

Hirofumi Takemoto was born in Osaka in 1966. He graduated from the Department of Fine Arts, Osaka University of Arts. He works mainly as an installation and performance artist.



In recent years he has continued to work with acrylics on canvas and pensive on paper. The theme of his work is to define globalization as the Europeanization of the world, and by bringing non-Western, pre-modern values into it, to create cultural dissimilarity. As a concrete form, he creates works

based on the pre-modern art of Kitagawa Utamaro. Hirofumi Takemoto's artworks are also influenced by the work of European photographers such as August Sander or Edward Steichen.