

POLA MUSEUM ANNEX

Hiroko Kubo: Steel framed Goddess

Opening April 26 (Fri.), 2024



POLA Museum Annex (Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo) is proud to announce that it will hold an exhibition of works created by Hiroko Kubo, titled "Steel framed Goddess," from April 26 (Fri.) to June 9 (Sun.), 2024.

The artist has produced statues and earthenware-shaped objects using familiar materials usually found on construction sites, such as blue poly tarps, steel and concrete. Focusing on farming and idols, Hiroko Kubo shares sculptures that re-creates the everyday forms of ancient prayers in the present day. After showcasing dynamic installations that worked in concert with their locations at events including the Setouchi Triennale 2016 and Saitama Triennale 2020, Kubo's works have gained prominence. Works inspired by the theory and other elements of prehistoric art and cultural anthropology embody the positive energy of life through motifs that support people as they continue their endeavors in the face of harsh natural conditions. In these days when we often find ourselves at a crossroads, thinking about "life" amid frequent natural disasters, Hiroko Kubo's works offer us a sense of the "use for the mind" as we seek emotional support.

This exhibition will feature approximately 60 pieces of the artist's works, including the newly crafted "Steel framed Goddess," which is made using windbreak nets. During the exhibition period, along with numerous three-dimensional works, such as amulets made from concrete and earthenware-shaped objects made from blue poly tarps, two-dimensional works by Kubo will also be displayed in the first-floor window of the POLA Ginza Building.

|| General Information ||

Title	Hiroko Kubo: Steel framed Goddess
Term	April 26, 2024 (Fri.) to June 9 (Sun.)
Hours	11:00 - 19:00 (Last entry by 18:30) *Open every day of exhibition period
Admission	Free
Venue	POLA MUSEUM ANNEX https://www.po-holdings.co.jp/m-annex/en/
Address	POLA Ginza Building 3F, 1-7-7 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061
Organizer	POLA ORBIS HOLDINGS INC.
General inquiries	050-5541-8600 (Hello Dial, only within Japan)

Top image: "Steel framed Goddess" 2024 180×172×74 cm steel, plastic net

|| Artist's Statement ||

Steel framed Goddess

On New Year's Day of 2024, a massive earthquake struck the Noto Peninsula of Japan. Every time we witness a natural disaster, we become strongly aware of the vulnerability of what we have developed, as well as our own bodies. Just like prehistoric earthenware, stone statues, and cave paintings, technologies such as skyscrapers, subways, and satellites are all proof of humanity that has resisted and adapted to harsh natural conditions, while offering prayers in the face of such hardships.

Through his theory of folk art, Soetsu Yanagi claimed that beauty resides in utilitarian objects made by common people. This concept is called the "Beauty of Use." According to Yanagi, the folk crafts made for "use" are opposite to the works of fine art created for "beauty" and industrial products manufactured for "profit."

Religious art and folklore can also be considered as a type of folk art born out of the spiritual needs of humans, or the "use for the mind," so to speak. As an artist, I am committed to pursuing this concept because I feel that it embodies rich mythological thoughts that cannot be measured by modern rationality, and that humans still need this kind of thinking today.

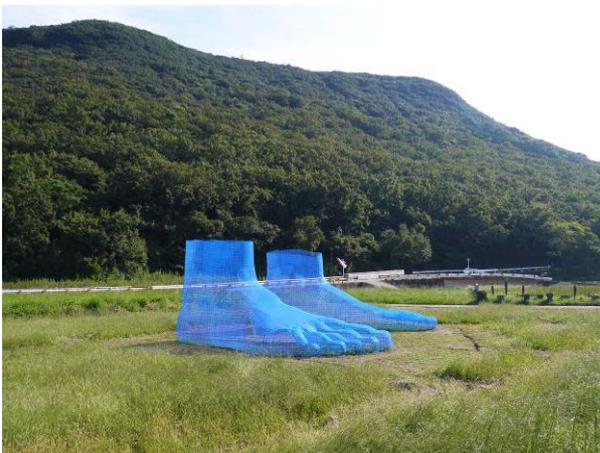
We are on the verge of losing mythology and folk art as we live in this modern era. Is it possible for us to find a "goddess" within industrial products that are driven by efficiency?

Following the tradition of ancient people, who created tools and idols from everyday materials around them, I too create my works using common things found around us today, such as blue poly tarp, cotton work gloves, and wire mesh. I believe one day they will turn into fragments of new myths and goddesses.

2024 Hiroko Kubo

Hiroko Kubo <https://hirokokubo.net/>

Born in Hiroshima, Japan in 1987, Kubo received her MFA from Texas Christian University in 2013. Based on her research of prehistoric art, ethnic art, and cultural anthropological theories, she uses everyday materials to create sculpture works. Recent major exhibitions include "GO FOR KOGEI" (Kansui Park, Toyama, Japan, 2023), "Takamatsu Contemporary Art Annual vol.10: There Is No Boundaries Here./?" (Takamatsu City Museum of Art, Kagawa, Japan, 2022) and "The Romantic Route 3 Art Festival" (Miaoli, Taiwan, 2023). Her large works are in the collections of KAMU KANAZAWA (Ishikawa, Japan), Chishima Foundation for Creative Osaka (Osaka, Japan) and others.



Left: "Muddy feet" 2015-2016 360×620×790cm steel, plastic net / Right: "street amulet" 2022 60×70mm cement, brass

Press Contact

POLA MUSEUM ANNEX

Office: info-annex@po-holdings.co.jp

Tel: +81-(0)3-3563-5540 / Fax: +81-(0)3-3563-5543

Press release and images are available from below URL:

<https://pogp.box.com/s/nb6vvd6y9qvpz4y3srz9q8uev8oydzhv>

*These are available for press use following condition:

- Should you use photos, add credit and caption. It's not allowed to crop the photo and text over the photo.
- Submit a manuscript of the proposed document to us for proofreading before publication.
- Send us a copy of the publication (paper), URL, DVD, CD, etc. for our archives.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!