

Masami Teraoka

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Catharine Clark Gallery presents
Masami Teraoka's selected works

By BLOUIN ARTINFO
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AIDS Series/Geisha and Ghost cat, Masami Teraoka,
(Catherine Clark gallery)

A special exhibition of select works from private collections of the famous Japanese artist, Masami Teraoka, will be on display at the Catharine Clark Gallery San Francisco.

Featuring over 40 works from 1972 – 2002, the exhibition presents a stunning survey of major works from some of Teraoka's most important series, including selections from Venice Nude Beach, New Views of Mt. Fuji, McDonald's Hamburgers Invading Japan and the AIDS Series,

among others. The highlight of the collection includes AIDS Series/Makiki Heights Disaster (1988), an outstanding folding screen with mounted watercolor panels that depict an overgrown forest people with ukiyo-e style figures struggling with a monstrous serpent and frog, fantastic and subtle creatures that represent agents of infection in an amazing visual narrative about disease and its various means of transmission. The screen is a witness to Teraoka's early commitment to addressing the subject of AIDS in art, as well as an introduction to the later AIDS Series. Reflecting the enormity of the impact AIDS was having on our culture and his community, Teraoka's watercolors became large scale and on canvas. By the late 1990s, Teraoka's subject matter and approach shifted again. He began producing large-scale narrative paintings addressing social and political issues, especially sexual abuse by priests, and hypocrisy on the part of leaders in religious and government institutions, specifically the Catholic church and the Russian government under Putin. Teraoka's approach to content and composition in his watercolors and paintings lies in integrating reality with fantasy, humor with social commentary, and the historical with the contemporary.

The exhibition will be on view through September 2, 2017, at the Catharine Clark Gallery 248 Utah Street, San Francisco.