



Katsura Okada, *The Re-Origin: After the Last First*

January 5 - 28, 2012

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 5, 6-9 pm

Brooklyn, New York, - A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce ***The Re-Origin: After the Last First***, the second solo exhibition at A.I.R. Gallery by member artist **Katsura Okada**. With this exhibition, Okada continues to explore rice paper as a medium, forming thin rolls into long flowing forms and delicate sculptural bundles.



Katsura Okada draws inspiration from “all experiences - happiness, sadness, anger, pain, beauty and ugliness all influence my work and mature my mind, to be expressed perhaps ten years later.” *The Re-Origin: After the Last First* specifically contemplates the effects of nuclear weapons and radioactive contamination on Japan. Playing with light, color, and textural sensitivity, Okada describes *The Re-Origin: After the Last First* as a kind of prayer for the health and safety of the people of Japan and people all over the world, and as expressive of her hopes – that the first use of nuclear weapons in warfare will be the last “first.”

Okada’s ‘prayer’ is abstract, simplistic, and organic, and yet it is vocal. Her work is heavily influenced by sound, as the artist states “sounds create a picture in my mind.” The catalogue of Okada’s latest work includes an essay by curator, art historian, and critic Susanne Altmann. In her essay, Altmann notes the visual rhythm, vibrant coloring, and meditative potential of Okada’s work: “Katsura Okada composes her minimalist yet colourful wall structures in deliberate repetitions. Made of small rolls of rice paper, the works reveal Okada’s roots in Japanese visual culture and its contemplative qualities. Yet her rhythmic arrangements also evoke synaesthetic experiences and make us “feel the sound” of a piece with our eyes.” As Okada explores boundaries and relationships of line, space, color, sight, sound, and feeling, she invites the viewer also to explore their own capacity for perception and internalization.

Katsura Okada was born in Tokyo, Japan and has lived and worked in New York since 2002. Okada attended Sohkei College of Fine Arts and earned a Master of Japanese Calligraphy Arts from the Tokyo Academy of Calligraphy Arts in 1992. Since 1990, her work has shown in Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Japan, Canada and the United States. Recently, Okada’s work has been exhibited at A.I.R. Gallery in NYC, Black and White Gallery in Brooklyn, the Museum of Arts & Crafts-Itami and Imai Art Museum in Japan. Okada has received first prize/grants from the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, the Shoto Art Museum in Tokyo and the SoHo Art Competition in New York among others. Publications include ARTspeak, Manhattan Arts, NY Arts Magazine, the Yomiuri America newspaper, LUXOS – Milano, IL NOTIZIARIO DELL’ A.I.A.M. (Italy), Les Editions Arts et Images du Monde (Paris), d’ART (Canada), and others. <http://katsuraokada-artist.blogspot.com/>

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228, in the DUMBO section of Brooklyn, N.Y. Gallery hours are 11:00 - 6:00 Wednesday through Sunday. For directions, please see www.airgallery.org. For additional information call Julie Lohnes (212)-255-6651, jlohnese@airgallery.org.