PRESS RELEASE

ART BRUT JAPAN

Exhibition April 1 – July 26, 2015

Opening times: Wednesdays to Sundays, 14:00 — 18:00, as well as for special events according to our program.
For public tours in German, French and Italian, check our program.

Opening:
Tuesday 31 March 2015, 18:00 — 21:00, brief introduction at 19:00.

Press tour:
Monday 30 March, 2015, 11:00, registration requested.

From April to July 2015, the Musée Visionnaire shows over 100 works by 20 contemporary Japanese artists, who work away from the established art scene and create very original works.

The exhibition results from the collaboration with the Museum im Lagerhaus, Swiss Foundation for Art Brut and Naive Art, St. Gallen. The exhibition Art Brut — Japan — Switzerland which took place there in 2014, is taken over to a large extent by the Musée Visionnaire.

The exhibition Art Brut Japan is then broadened with works from the photographer Mario DEL CURTO.

BETWEEN TRADITION AND MANGA

Traditional ways of working contrast with Japanese current cultural trends. For example, influences from the Japanese manga (Shota Katsube, * 1991 or KOGA, * 1989) and calligraphy (SAITO, * 1983) are noticeable, whereas Objects of SAWADA (* 1982, Venice Biennale 2013) are developed with traditional tools and molding techniques, in Shigaraki kilns, following a thousand years old tradition.

EUROPA – JAPAN

While the interest for Art Brut arose in Europe from the mid-20th century in the avant-garde (Jean Dubuffet, Collection de l’Art Brut Lausanne), the promotion of Art Brut in Japan has a young success story, motivated by social and health politics. In 2004, the Borderless Art Museum NO-MA opened in the Shiga prefecture. In 2008, the Collection de l’Art Brut in Lausanne was the first major show of Japanese Art Brut artists in Europe. In 2013, Shinichi SAWADA, now one of the most famous Japanese Art Brut artists, was prominently represented at the Art Biennale in Venice and one of his works was pictured on the cover of the internationally renowned magazine ART. The Musée Visionnaire dedicates the Pavillon to the artist and documents with a photographic display the manufacturing and firing process of these unique sculptures.

pictures from up to down:

Takashi SHUJI (*1974), “bone”, watercolor paper, pastel, 79.1 x 54.7 cm
Yuichi SAITO (*1983), “Doraemon”, paper, ball-point pen, 38 x 54 cm
Shota KATSUBE (*1991), untitled, twist tie, 2.8 x 4 x 2 cm
Shinichi SAWADA (*1982), untitled, natural glaze, 46 x 19 x 24 cm.
GLOBAL LANGUAGE

The discourse and dialogue triggered by the anniversary of «150 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Switzerland» continues. The Musée Visionnaire also investigates if Art Brut is a «global language», or if there is a distinct Japanese style «Art Brut Japonais».

The Musée Visionnaire offers a second stage to the charm and fascination of Japanese art, before the works are back to Japan indefinitely and no longer accessible to the viewer in Switzerland.

MARIO DEL CURTO
Photographer and filmmaker

Mario DEL CURTO (* 1955, Switzerland) is a freelance photographer who made a name for himself in the theater and dance scenes before establishing himself as one of the most important and best-known photographers of Art Brut artists. His works, which portray not only the artists, but also their studios, parks, houses or chambers are exhibited and published worldwide. For many years, in collaboration with Bastien Genoux (* 1976, Switzerland), DEL CURTO realizes film portraits which already received numerous awards.

The Musée Visionnaire shows photographic works on Eijiro MIYAMA, Shinichi SAWADA and the Otagi Nenbutsu-Ji Temple in Kyoto and a film about the artist Macoto TOYA. For the first time, all the works and the film will be presented in a public exhibition. Some works are available in a numbered edition

PUBLICATIONS

An extensive catalogue has been released for the exhibition in The Museum im Lagerhaus St. Gallen (176 pages, E/D) and Mario DEL CURTO has also published a comprehensive edition with his photographic work about Japanese artists.

Both publications will accompany the exhibition at the Musée Visionnaire and are available in the shop.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WE 15.4.15 ART AT LUNCHTIME 12:15
Guided tour of the exhibition with Rea Furrer, then lunch to take away or enjoy in the garden.
(This program is also available for private groups, we gladly provide you with additional information.)

WE 6.5.15 CARP AND ORIGAMI, 14:00 — 17:00
On Childrens Day, Japanese carp flags are suspended for the health of the children and we tinker origami. With Anne Zürcher, for anyone over 8 years old.

SA 9.5.15 JAPAN – TRIP, 14:00 — 17:00 approx.
Guided tour with Yvonne Türler of the exhibition «Monet, Gauguin, van Gogh ... Inspiration Japan» at the Kunsthaus Zurich, then a walk to the Musée Visionnaire for a tour of the exhibition ART BRUT JAPAN, followed by refreshments in the garden.

photos from Mario DEL CURTO from up to down:
Eijiro MIYAMA
Otagi–Nenbutsu–Ji tempel
A sculpture of Shinichi SAWADA
and the artist at work
SU 17.5.15 LIVING TRADITIONS, 14:00 – 18:00
International Museum Day. Japanese tea and fortune cookies all day, in the garden in case of good weather. Tour of the exhibition with Rémi Jaccard at 15:00.

MO 18.5.15 ART MARKET AND WHAT IS STILL LEFT FROM ART, 19:00
Panel discussion about the art market and its excesses, from art to brand articles and the question of what still remains of art. Moderator Olivia Bosshart KION, followed by an aperitif.

TH 18.6.15 SOIREE JAPONAISE, from 18:00
Starting at 18:00, Japanese pop music, drinks and appetizers. 19:30 guided tour of the exhibition with Rémi Jaccard. 21:30 three short animated films by Mirai Mizue in collaboration with FANTOCHE in the open-air garden movie (in the main hall in case of bad weather).

WE 1.7.15 ART BRUT JAPAN – SWITZERLAND, 19:00
Monika Jagfeld, director of the Museum im Lagerhaus St. Gallen and curator of the exhibition held there in 2014 «Art Brut Japan–Switzerland» guides us through the exhibition at the Musée Visionnaire and tells of her encounters and experiences during her trip in Japan. In an open discussion, we address the question whether there is a specific Japanese Art Brut style. Drinks in the garden if weather permits.

For details, prices and registration. www.museevisionnaire.ch or by email to info@museevisionnaire.ch.

ADDITIONAL GUIDED TOURS

SU 19.4., 17.5., 12.7. at 15:00h with Rémi Jaccard, in German
SU 31.5. at 15:00 with Giulia Ficco, in Italian
SU 14.6. at 15:00 with Sylvie Gallin, in French
Price 10.– plus admission ticket.
Groups, private tours and school classes upon request.

CONTACT and PRINTABLE PICTURES

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