

Your God Once Looked Like You

Mika Yokota
Exhibition Preview

Residency: Project Space
February 11th – 25th, 2023

—Residency



Mika Yokota

Mika Yokota (b. 1985, Kyoto, Japan) is a Japanese-American immigrant living and working in Los Angeles. She studied illustration and painting at Art Center College of Design and is currently pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts at Otis College of Art and Design.

Mika has worked experimentally across genres including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, music, and performance art. In her printmaking and paintings, figures and symbols tumble together to discover what it means to reclaim the femme intuition and the access to bodily knowledge as a guiding source. Music and ceremony are explored to thin the veil between this world and ancestral spirits. Her work offers discourse on East Asian diaspora and the ways in which Asians can be made more legible as human in Western society.

Previously, Mika studied for two years as a printmaking artist-in-residence at the Kala Art Institute in Berkeley, CA. Her work has been shown at the Kala Art Gallery, Judson Gallery, Athens B Gallery, The Gallalery, Proxy Place Gallery, Berkeley Civic Arts Center and a permanent mural resides at the Meta Headquarters.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Your God Once Looked Like You

This collection of work is created in collaboration with the spirits. The goal of this exhibition is to create a space where the matrilineal ancestors reveal themselves and offer antidotal wisdom through music, ritual, embodiment practices and community care. By connecting pathways to one's ancestors, the hope is to bring viewers a sense of belonging after generations of displacement, oppression, colonialism and the ongoing rippling consequences of cultural wounding. This project is in devotion to the ways in which Asians can be made more legible as human outside of tragedy and acts of service.

Your God Once Looked Like You explores the theme of reclaiming the cultural landscape of the East Asian American diaspora through the lens of an ancestral matriarchy. This project seeks out the reclamation of the femme intuition and the access to erotic bodily knowledge as guiding sources. Yokota honors the use of the sensual, physical, emotional and psychic expressions that exists in each of us to inform life pursuits that bring us the most joy and fulfillment. Yokota seeks to ask what are the visual and somatic clues that your body is being conquered, and in what ways can we reach the euphoric?



Rest
2023
Acrylic paint on birchwood panel
60x30in



Rest
2023
Acrylic paint on birchwood panel
60x30in



Excitement
2023
Acrylic paint on birchwood panel
60x30in



From Up Here
Silkscreen, pen and ink on watercolor paper
26x36in Framed



From Down Here
Silkscreen, pen and ink on watercolor paper
26x36in Framed



Still
2023
Silkscreen, pen and
ink on watercolor paper
20x24in Framed



Corpse
Silkscreen, pen
and ink on watercolor paper
20x26in Framed



Silenced

2023

Silkscreen, acrylic ink on printmaking paper
20x20in Framed



In service

2023

Silkscreen, acrylic ink on printmaking paper
20x20in Framed



Upholding
2023
Silkscreen,
acrylic ink on printmaking paper
20x20in Framed



Mask
2023
Silkscreen, acrylic ink on printmaking paper
20x20in Framed



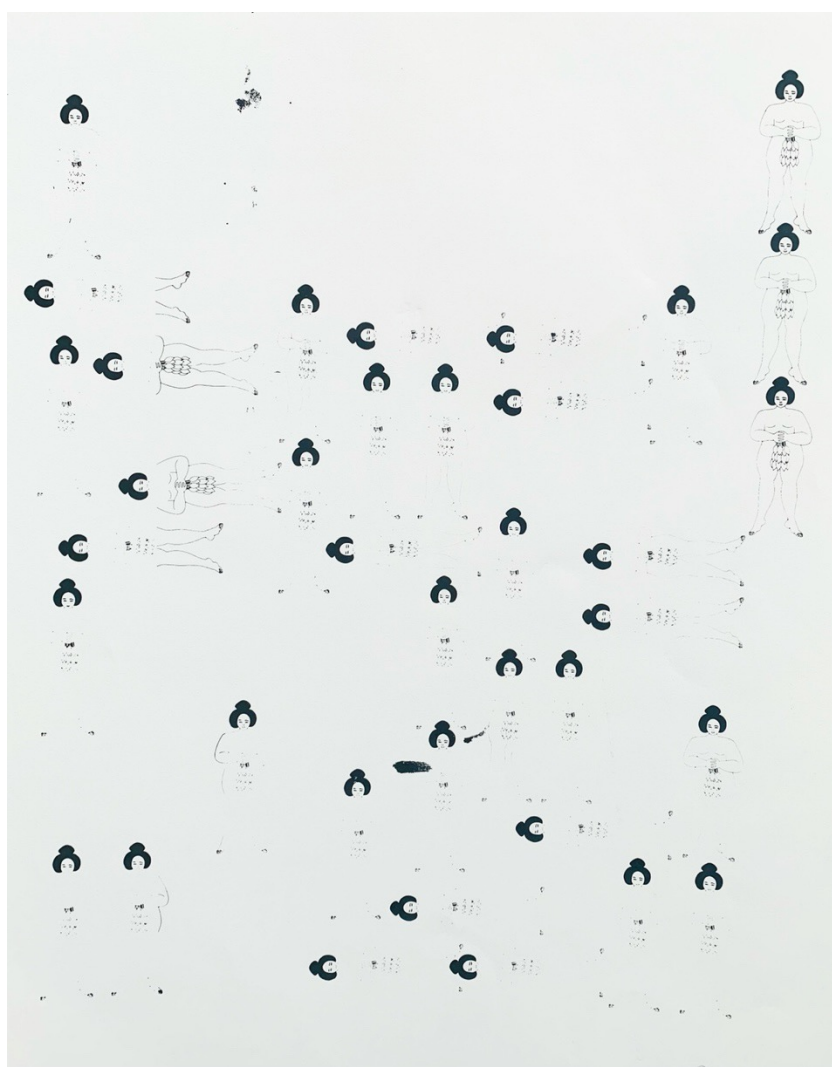
Minimized

2023

Silkscreen, acrylic ink
on printmaking paper
20x20in Framed



Ancestral Telegrams (B&W)
2023
Acrylic ink on watercolor paper
21x27in Framed



Ancestral Telegrams (Color)
2023
Acrylic ink on watercolor paper
25x20in Framed

