

怪談集

KAIDAN SHU

tales of mist and wind

There is a voyeuristic quality to David Hochbaum's most recent body of work. His women seem haunted, lost in indecision, captured at a moment between remembering where they have been and where they must eventually go. They ask us "why" and are more than willing to wait as long as it takes for us to answer.

This subtle, intimate and extremely personal collection of paintings, sculpture and installation, over a year in the making, evokes the austere, 14th century prints of the Japanese Muromachi period (think bold, minimalist brush strokes) while retaining Hochbaum's signature, multilayered textures. Hochbaum's use of multiple materials (photographs, oils, acrylic washes, gold and silver leaf to name a few) add an all too human character to these pieces, uniquely describing the gauzy, unsure environments his characters inhabit. It is a joy to spend the time needed to search his paintings for hidden meanings and initially hard to notice detail.

After being introduced to many of Japan's enduring mythology via books, film and good friends, David spent several weeks traveling through and photographing numerous parts of Japan. This immersion

in Japan's culture and natural beauty inspired a desire to not only depict many of the already existing obake banashi (literally translated as "ghost stories") but to take things a step further and create several new bakemono (ghosts) complete with their own mythologies and personas.

Throughout the process, David relied upon and is immensely grateful to friend and calligraphy writer Chie Kawamoto-Martin. This collaboration enabled David to maintain his use of text: Chie being able to translate his snippets of prose and ensure that his paintings maintained an authentic link to the Japanese style of printmaking.

The exhibition is part of the 150th anniversary of Japanese-German friendship and mindful of recent events, Strychnin Gallery at the request of the artist will be donating a percentage of all sales to further relief efforts in Japan.



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