

Contact: Brooke Daniels
617-369-3605
bdaniels@smfa.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Forms in Flux: A Collaboration Between Aichi University and SMFA”
at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston March 27–April 21**

*Featuring works by faculty from Aichi: Hisashi Kurachi, Nobuyuki Osaki, Noriyori Shirakawa
and from SMFA: Patte Loper, Michelle Samour, Jennifer Schmidt*

BOSTON, MA (March 26, 2012)—A collaborative exhibition between the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA) and Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music, Nagoya, Japan, “**Forms in Flux**” is the first in a series of exhibition exchanges between the two schools. On view March 27–April 21, 2012, the exhibition features three artists from each respective institution—from Aichi University, Hisashi Kurachi, Nobuyuki Osaki and Noriyori Shirakawa, and from SMFA, Patte Loper, Michelle Samour, and Jennifer Schmidt—whose work addresses concepts of transformation, and whose collective practices become newly recontextualized among their fellow exhibitors.

“Forms in Flux” provides a meeting place for something new to be created from two geographically distant locations. Working on opposite sides of the globe, in different media and in different cultural contexts, these artists address issues of transformation, change and fluidity of perception.

Hisashi Kurachi’s prints re-imagine organic and manmade figurative forms provoking a sense of uncertainty where reality and familiarity are put into question. **Noriyori Shirakawa** is an expert researcher on painting materials and techniques, and his paintings evoke symbolic associations with light and memory, relying on each to conjure new understandings for the viewer. **Nobuyuki Osaki’s** work uses painting, video and sculptural installation to create colorful, dissolving drawings which disappear gradually, giving physical form to the shifting nature of form and perception.

Inspired by images from popular culture, such as film stills and magazine photos, **Patte Loper** paints complex scenes in which time stops to reveal and expand upon the real and the imagined. **Michelle Samour’s** works have their roots in scientific illustration and collection—from the growing, symmetrical forms in *Aggregations* to the interactive installation *Windows*, which invites viewers to manipulate and reconfigure glass slides to create their own visual discovery. **Jennifer Schmidt’s** engagement with plaid patterns, in both screenprints and video, reveals a mood-ring-like color spectrum performatively and intuitively determined through artistic process, whim and effect, drawing viewers into its expansive field of chromatic fluctuation.

“Forms in Flux: A Collaboration Between Aichi University and SMFA”

March 27–April 21, 2012

Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery, SMFA

230 The Fenway, Boston

www.smfa.edu/exhibitions

Gallery hours: Monday–Saturday, 10 am–5 pm; Thursday 10 am–8 pm; closed Sundays and holidays.

Admission is free

RELATED EVENTS

Opening reception: March 26, 6–8 pm

Public talk with exhibited artists: March 27, 5:30–7 pm

ARTIST BIOS

Hisashi Kurachi (b. 1961 Aichi, Japan) received his MFA in 1986 and BFA in 1984 from Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music. His exhibitions include: Next Door Gallery, Seoul, Korea (2012); the 2nd Bangkok Triennial International Print and Drawing Exhibition (2009); the Tokyo Contemporary Art Museum (2007); Center Gallery at Silpakorn University, Thailand (2007); International Print Triennial, Krakow, Poland (2006, 1997), Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art (2005), the Seoul International Print Biennial (2002) and Pecs Gallery, Hungary (2001). His work is in the collections of institutions such as: the Machida City Museum of Printmaking; Museum of Kitanotani, Chiba, Japan; Tikotin Museum, Israel; Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan; Dacca University, Bangladesh and Husou City Cultural Hall, Aichi, Japan. He is currently Associate Professor at Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music.

Noriyori Shirakawa (b. 1969, Tokyo, Japan) received his MFA in painting in 1995 and BFA in painting in 1993 from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. His exhibitions include: Next Door Gallery, Seoul, Korea (2012); Gallery Garando, Nagoya (2011, 2010, 2009, 2004); Hyun Gallery, Seoul, Korea (2010); Ginza Goraku Gallery, Tokyo (2006); Center Gallery at Silpakorn University, Thailand (2006); Seibu Art Gallery, Tokyo (2006); Gallery Alpha, Nagoya, Japan (2005); Suan Dusit Art Gallery, Thailand (2001); Seigetsuduo Gallery, Tokyo (1997, 1998). He has taught at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music; he is currently Associate Professor at Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music.

Nobuyuki Osaki (b. 1975, Osaka, Japan) received his MFA in 2000 and his BFA from the Kyoto City University of Arts. His exhibitions include: Next Door Gallery, Seoul, Korea (2012); Mikiko Sato Gallery, Hamburg (2011), Gallery Hosokawa, Osaka (2010), Yuka Contemporary, Tokyo (2010), National Art Center, Tokyo (2009); galerie 16, Kyoto (2008), Kyoto Art Center (2007); Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art (2007); Osaka Contemporary Art Center (2003) and Kunstraum, Duesseldorf (2003). His work is in the collections of: Machida City Museum of Print Art, Tokyo; Kyoto City Museum of Art; Kyoto City University of Arts; Contemporary Print Center, Sannohe and Sekiguchi Private Museum of Art, Tokyo and the Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama, Japan.

Patte Loper (b. 1967 Denver, CO) received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1997. Her exhibitions include: solo exhibitions at Platform Gallery, Seattle (2011, 2008, 2006); Lyons Wier Gallery, New York (2010); Massimo Carasi, Italy (2010) and Judi Rotenberg Gallery, Boston (2009). Selected group exhibitions include: Engholm Engelhorn Galerie, Vienna, Austria; Caren Golden Fine Art, New York; McNeil Art Group Project, New York; Tacoma Art Museum; Sonoma Museum of Visual Art. Her work has been covered in publications such as *New American Paintings*, *Flash Art*, *Art in America*, *Artnet*, *The Boston Globe*, *Seattle Times*, and *Seattle Weekly*. Museum and corporate collections include the Hirschhorn Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Microsoft, and the Progressive Collection. She has taught at Central Washington University and the San Francisco Art Institute and has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards. She is a regular full-time faculty at SMFA.

Michelle Samour (b. 1952, Boston, MA) received a Studio Diploma from SMFA in 1981, BFA Tufts/SMFA in 1975 and completed Fine Arts studies Alfred University 1973. Her exhibitions include: DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, MA; The Museum of Modern Art, Strasbourg, France; the Kohler Art Center, WI; the Fuller Craft Museum, MA; the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, TX and the Danforth Museum of Art, MA. She was a 2003 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship winner in Crafts and finalist ('99,'00,'01,'07), a Society of Arts and Crafts New England Artist Award winner in 2004 and has received grants to study papermaking in Japan and France. She has been featured in *Handpapermaking Magazine* and *Fiberarts* and her work is in numerous collections including Meditech Corporation, the Decordova Museum and International Paper headquarters in New York. She is part-time faculty at SMFA.

Jennifer Schmidt (b. 1975 Bedford, IN) received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1999 and a BA in Studio Art and Art History from the University of Delaware in 1997. Exhibitions and screenings include: EFA Project Space, New York, NY, Diapason Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, Islip Art Museum, East Islip, NY, Sonic Fragments, Princeton University, NJ, International Print Center New York, NY, Volume Gallery, New York, NY, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA, International Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany, Video Pool, Canada, and the Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA. She was a 2007 fellow in

Printmaking/Drawing/Artists' Books from the New York Foundation for the Arts and a 2008 grant recipient from the Puffin Foundation. She is full-time faculty at SMFA.

About the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston:

Founded in 1876 and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is one of only three art schools in the country affiliated with a major museum—the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Our mission is to provide an education in the fine arts—for undergraduate and graduate artists—that is interdisciplinary and self-directed. This education values cultural, artistic and intellectual diversity; it embraces a wide range of media; it stresses the development of individual vision and its relation to culture in general; it values equally the knowledge gained by thinking and doing; it is deeply engaged with the world as a whole. If the mission is constant, its practice is always transforming. For more information about our programs and partnerships, visit www.smfa.edu.

About Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music:

Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music was established in 1966, with the aim of creating a distinctive cultural sphere spanning East and West while contributing to the development of culture in its home of Aichi Prefecture, which is renowned for its industrial economy. The University's Graduate School was founded four years later in 1970 to facilitate the application of artistic knowledge and achievements at a more advanced level and contribute to the betterment of culture and society. The University's objectives since its founding are "the cultivation of artistic creativity on the basis of art-related studies, along with studies of applied art, to contribute to the advancement of culture."

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