

AKIRA ARITA



MARIGNANA |
ARTE

AKIRA ARITA
DISEGNI E DIPINTI

Curata da Giorgio Mastinu / *Curated by Giorgio Mastinu*

Venezia, dal 27 settembre 2014 al 17 gennaio 2015 / *Venice, from September 27th 2014 to January 17th 2015*

La galleria Marignana Arte di Venezia presenta la prima mostra personale in Italia del pittore giapponese, naturalizzato americano, Akira Arita (1947).

Una nuova grande opera su carta introduce la mostra e farà da contrappunto a opere pittoriche selezionate nel lavoro degli ultimi dieci anni, tutte inedite. La preoccupazione principale di Arita nei suoi dipinti e disegni è radicata nella logica visiva, la sua opera è frutto di un'incessante ricerca rivolta a una semplicità estrema, con uso limitato di colori. Considerando i propri dipinti non come un'illusione, ma come un'entità tangibile, egli riduce il vocabolario pittorico a un unico colore o ad accumuli casuali di linee tracciate con un regolo, come a testare dove e quando venga meno la coerenza pittorica. A prima vista, le opere di Arita sembrano riflettere immagini minimaliste; in realtà, rifuggono il concetto di minimalismo. Incessante è l'attrazione per un senso dicotomico del reale in continua evoluzione, in cui il realismo assume un aspetto astratto e l'astrazione diviene realista. Il lavoro oscilla tra equilibrio e squilibrio, la ragione e la contraddizione. Ad esempio, componendo le stesse forme e colori per la costruzione di due immagini diametralmente opposte in un dittico, o un foglio di carta bianco accompagnato da un'immagine disegnata con grande intensità. Nei lavori meno recenti, si può notare il tentativo di staccarsi dall'opera simmetrica, l'interruzione della prospettiva lineare e una maggiore adesione alla rappresentazione isometrica che massimizza l'effetto non illusionistico, come se le opere seguissero le orme di Matisse. Le opere non sono viste come una parte o un prolungamento dell'artista; al contrario, hanno vita propria. Mentre dipinge egli ascolta le immagini per seguirne e guidarne gli sviluppi possibili. È molto simile a un pianista o direttore che cerca di estrarre l'essenza della musica dalle note musicali del compositore. Invece che controllare o pianificare, Arita lascia che l'opera prenda una direzione propria. Dopo un trentennio è tornato al disegno figurativo. Le opere in mostra comprendono gli ultimi dieci anni di sperimentazione e sono rappresentative dell'evoluzione artistica di questo autore.

Giorgio Mastinu

The Gallery MarignanaArte in Venice presents the first solo exhibition in Italy of the Japanese-born American painter, Akira Arita (b.1947). A most recent, large scale pencil drawing on paper introduces the exhibition and juxtaposes the works selected among those of the past ten years which have never before been shown. Arita's main concern in his paintings and drawings is rooted in visual logic, incessantly attempting to bring the works to extreme simplicity with limited use of colours. Considering the pictures not as an illusion, but as a tangible entity to reduce the pictorial vocabulary with a single solid colour or with random accumulations of lines drawn using a straight edge as though testing where and when the pictorial coherence falls apart. At first glance, Arita's works seem to reflect minimalist images but each work flees from the idea of minimalism. The artist's fascination with the sense of dichotomy continues to evolve as realism takes on the appearance of abstraction and abstraction as realism. The work fluctuates between balance and imbalance, reason and contradiction. For example, by composing the same forms and colours to construct two diametrically opposite images in a diptych, or a blank sheet of paper accompanied by an intensely drawn image. The earlier works in this exhibition begin to break away from symmetrical composition to asymmetrical composition, and also move away from a linear perspective to an isometric perspective to maximize a non illusionistic approach as if following in Matisse's footsteps. He considers his works not as a part or an extension of himself, firmly believing the works have their own existence. Listening to the pictures as he paints, following and guiding the possibilities and potentialities. It is much like a pianist or conductor who tries to extract the essence of the music from the musical notes of the composer. Rather than controlling or planning, Arita lets the work take its own direction. After 30 years, he has returned to representational drawing. This exhibition encompasses the last ten years of this artist's experiments and evolution.

Giorgio Mastinu



Tête d'Aphrodite

2014

255 x 392 cm

Matita su carta

Pencil on paper



Rose madder

2010

90 x 90 cm

Olio su tela

Oil on canvas



Senza titolo

2012

27 x 22 cm

Matita colorata su carta

Pastel on paper



Dialogo III

2004

54 x 54 cm ciascuno
54 x 54 cm per each

Olio su tela
Oil on canvas



Senza titolo

2009

200 x 200 cm

Olio su tela

Oil on canvas



Senza titolo

2010

30 x 21 cm

Gouache su carta
Gouache on paper



Senza titolo

2010

30 x 21 cm

Gouache su carta
Gouache on paper

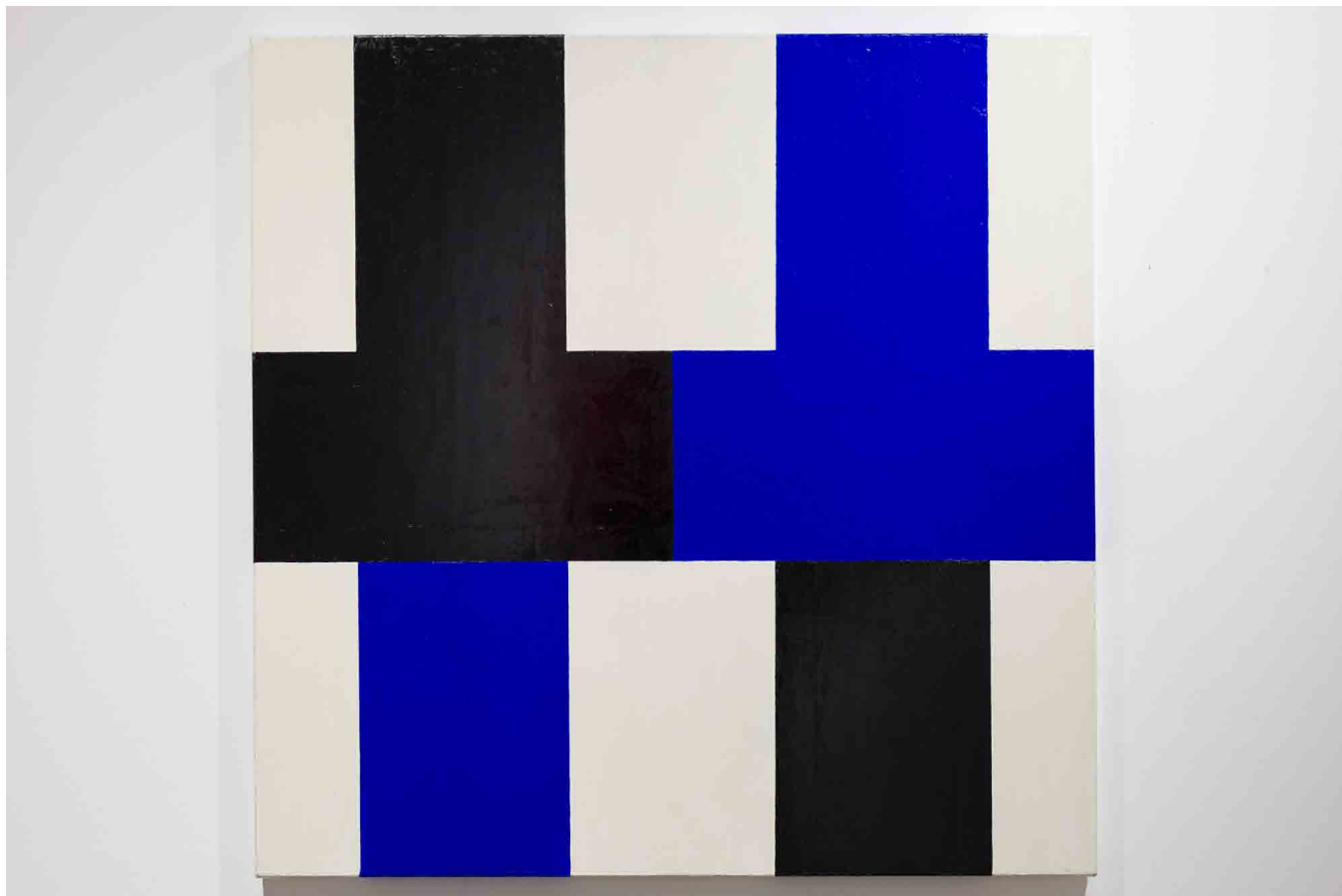


Senza titolo

2010

30 x 21 cm

Gouache su carta
Gouache on paper



Senza titolo

2007

76 x 76 cm

Olio su tela

Oil on canvas



Senza titolo

2007

76 x 76 cm

Olio su tela

Oil on canvas



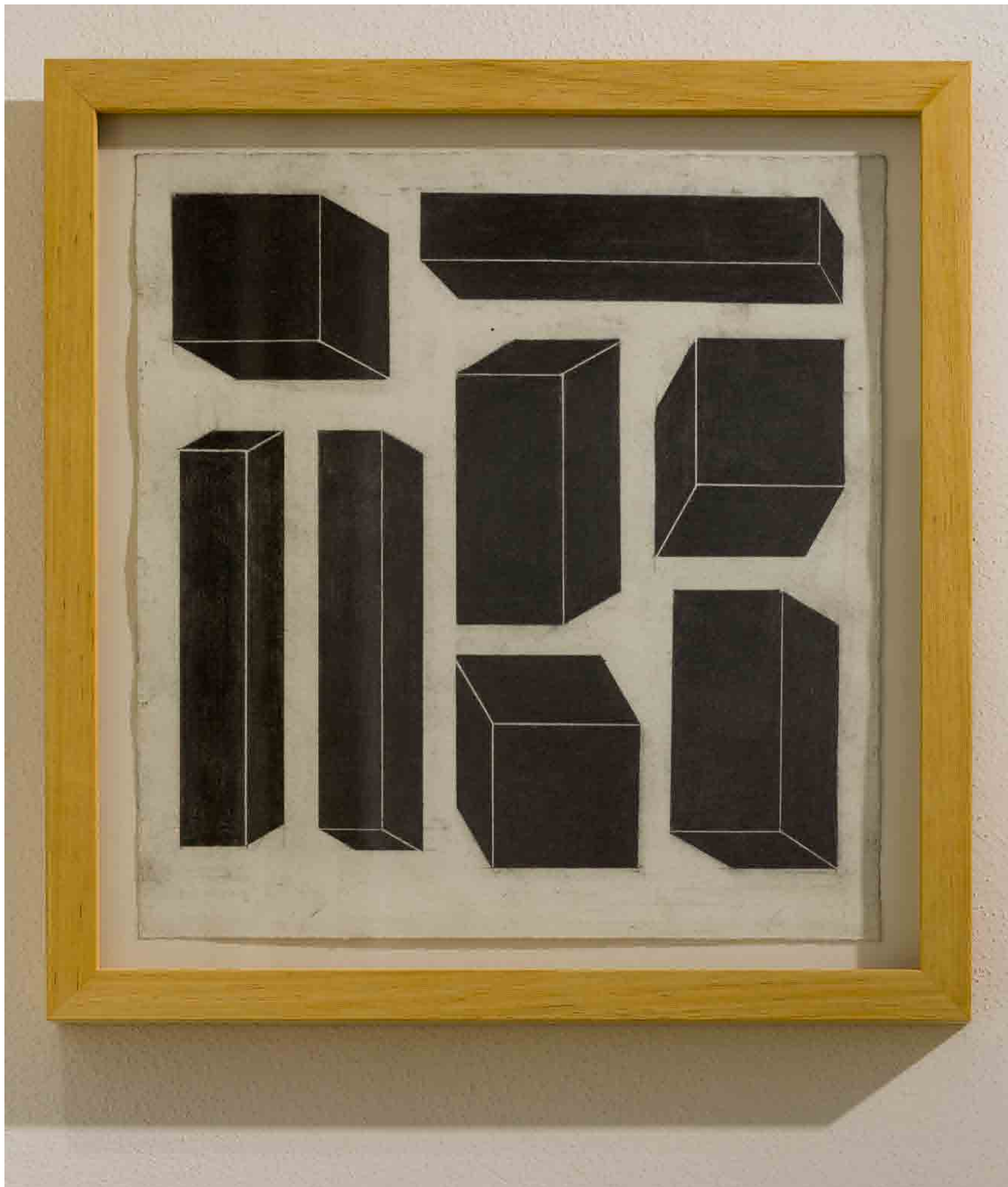
Senza titolo

2007

76 x 76 cm

Olio su tela

Oil on canvas

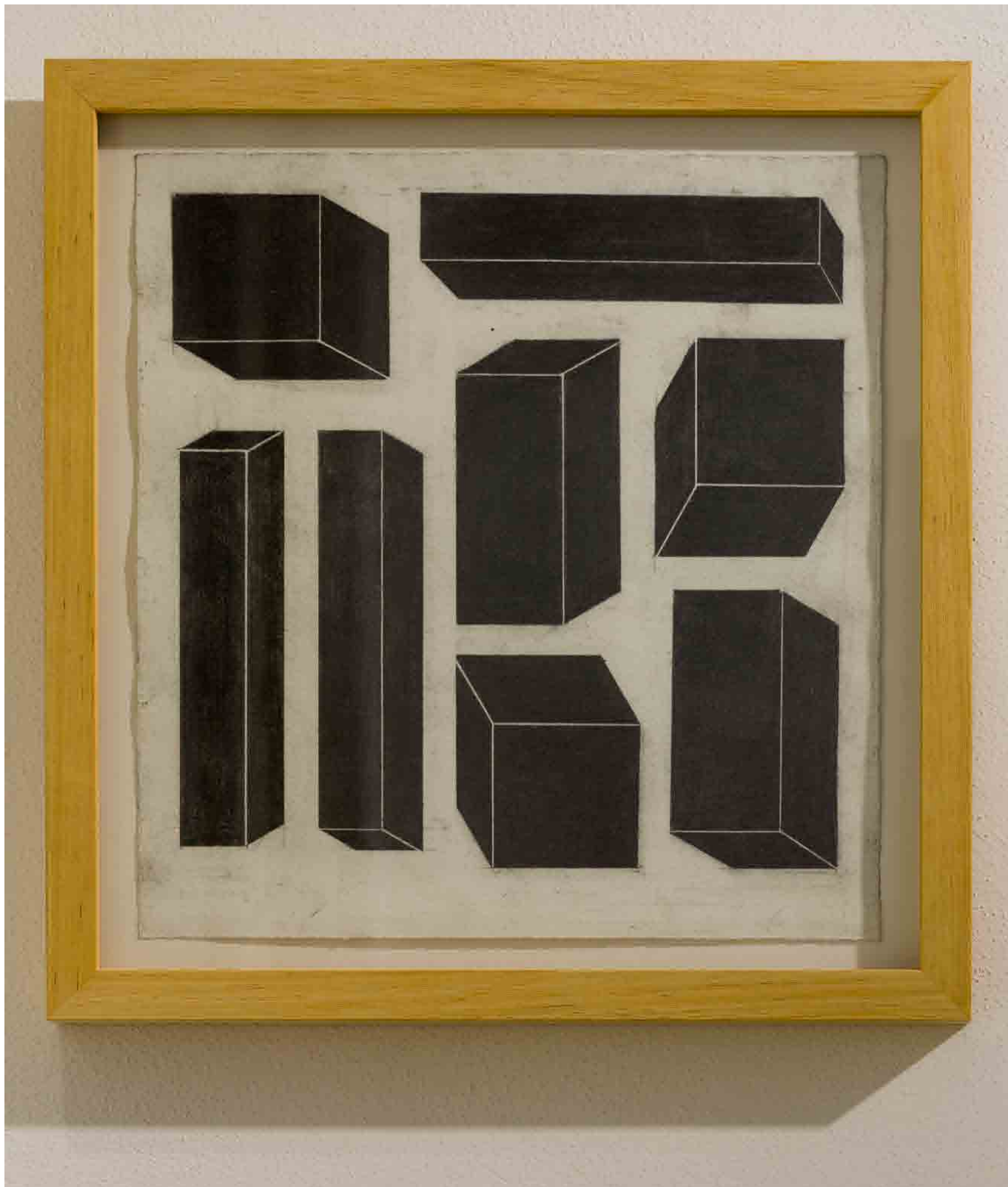


Senza titolo

2010

30 x 30 cm

Matita su carta
Pencil on paper



Senza titolo

2010

30 x 30 cm

Matita su carta
Pencil on paper



Senza titolo

2003

100 x 70 cm

Matita su carta
Pencil on paper

BIOGRAFIA

Akira Arita nasce ad Osaka (Giappone) nel 1947 e si trasferisce negli USA nel 1966 dove frequenta a Providence la scuola di design di Rhode Island. Ottiene la laurea in belle arti nel 1970 e decide poi di approfondire ulteriormente gli studi per altri 6 anni. Nel 1981 Arita inizia a dedicare tutto il suo tempo alla pittura e alla fine si trasferisce a New York, città dove attualmente lavora e vive. Dalla sua prima personale alla Staempfli Gallery in New York nel 1982, Arita ha esposto in musei e gallerie statunitensi e giapponesi. Ha ricevuto nel 1985 in America il National Endowment for the Arts award e nel 1991 in Giappone il Japan Art Grand Prix.

BIOGRAPHY

Akira Arita, born in Osaka, Japan in 1947, moved to the United States in 1966 to attend the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1970 and later spent six years on the faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design. In 1981 Arita began to devote his entire time to painting and eventually moved to New York City, where he currently lives and works. Since his first solo show at the Staempfli Gallery in New York in 1982, Arita has exhibited in museums and galleries in the United States and Japan. He is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts award in the U.S.A (1985) and The Japan Art Grand Prix (1991).

COLLEZIONI PUBBLICHE E PRIVATE / PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

ARCO Los Angeles, CA, USA

Ashiya City Museum of Art & History Ashiya, Hyogo, Japan

The Arkansas Art Center Little Rock, AK, USA

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, MA, USA

The Brooklyn Museum Brooklyn, NY, USA

Continental Grain New York, NY, USA

Dow Jones & Co., Inc. South Brunswick, NJ, USA

The Hakone Open-Air Museum Hakone, Kanagawa, Japan

Henri Charpentier Co., Ltd. Ashiya, Hyogo, Japan

H.J. Heinz Company Pittsburg, PA, USA

Kahitsukan-Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art Kyoto, Japan

Kawaguchi Museum of Contemporary Art Saitama, Japan

Mobil Oil Corporation New York, NY, USA

Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute Pittsburg, PA, USA

Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design Providence, RI, USA

Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA, USA

Nomura Display Co., Ltd. Tokyo, Japan

PPG Industries, Inc. Pittsburg, PA, USA

Skidmore College Saratoga Springs, NY, USA

Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina Greensboro, NC, USA

MOSTRE PERSONALI

1985 National Endowment for the Arts (USA)

1991 Japanese Grand Prix for the Arts (Nihon Geijutsu Taisho)

MOSTRE PERSONALI / SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2014/2015

Dipinti e Disegni, Marignana Arte, Venezia

2002

Fuji Television Gallery Tokyo, Japan

2001

ICAR Foundation Paris, France

1998

Fuji Television Gallery Tokyo, Japan

1996

Kahitsukan-Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art Kyoto, Japan

1993

Fuji Television Gallery Tokyo, Japan

Ashiya City Museum of Art & History Ashiya, Hyogo, Japan

1992

PS Gallery Tokyo, Japan

1991

Tokyo Station Gallery Tokyo, Japan

1983

Staempfli Gallery New York, NY, USA

1982

Staempfli Gallery New York, NY, USA

Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute Pittsburg, PA, USA

BIBLIOGRAFIA / BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Kramer Hilton American Drawing of the 70's at The Brooklyn Museum" The New York Times, November 28
- Staempfli, George W "The Art of Drawing I" exhibition brochure, Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY and Arkansas Art Center Little Rock, AR
- Wolff Theodore "Drawing is Back in Style", Christian Science Monitor June 15
- Raynor Vivien "The Art of Drawing" The New York Times, June 26
- Staempfli George W Akira Arita" exhibition brochure, Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY
- Baro, Gene Akira Arita Drawing" exhibition brochure, Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA
- Kramer Hilton A January Guide to Gallery Hopping Uptown" The New York Times, January 15
- Cohen, Ronny H "Drawing the Meticulous Realist Way" Drawing Magazine, March-April, p. 121
- Staempfli George W Akira Arita" exhibition brochure, Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY
- Plaus, Phyllis "Representational Drawing Today, A Heritage Renewed" exhibition catalogue, University Art Museum, Santa Barbara, CA
- Fishman, Ruth B. and Harry Naar "Graphite/A Collector's Choice" exhibition catalogue, The Art Gallery, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD
- Wolff Theodore Art from the Ordinary" Christian Science Monitor June 28
- Wolff Theodore "The Challenges of Assessing New Art" Christian Science Monitor December 12
- Staempfli, George W "The Art of Drawing Iii" exhibition brochure, Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY and Arkansas Art Center Little Rock, AR
- Raynor Vivien "Drawing by 77 from 1900 to the Present" The New York Times, August 1
- Derham Anthony and Alexandra Munroe, Toshio Hara, Patterson Sims "Contemporary Japanese Art in America" exhibition catalogue, Japan Society Gallery, New York, NY
- Carpenter Elizabeth "Realism Today American Drawings from the Rita Rich Collection" exhibition catalogue, National Academy of Design, New York, NY
- Brenson, Michael "3 Japanese Artists in Search of a World Language" The New York Times, May 24, Sec. 2, p. 19
- Cotter Holland Arita, Nakagawa and Sugimoto at Japan Society" Art in America, November p178-179
- Kimmelman, Michael Art; Realism Today' at the National Academy" The New York Times, January 8, p. 27
- Akira Arita: New York Works 1984-1990" exhibition catalogue, Tokyo Station Gallery, Tokyo Asahi Shinbun, Tokyo edition, March 1 p.7 Geijutsu Shincho, Aprii, p.85
- Asahi Shinbun, Hokkaido edition, Aprii 27 Nakasaki, Takashi Taiyo The Sun, May, p. 106
- Geijutsu Shincho, July, p.126-131 Togo, Noriko Nikkei Art, July, p.67 72 \par}
- Akira Arita" exhibition catalogue, PS Gallery, Tokyo Geijutsu Shincho, June, p.87
- Takami, Akihiko Bijutsu T echo, July, p. 195-196
- Matsuba, Kazukiyo Akira Arita, Painter" Creation, no. 14, p.30-45
- Yanase, Kaoru "Professionals' Styles" Bijutsu Techo, vol.44, no.659, Autumn, p.22-29
- Motoe, Kunio and Makoto Ohoka Akira Arita Recent Works" exhibition catalogue, Fuji Television Gallery, Tokyo and Ashiya City Museum of Art & History, Ashiya, Japan Nihon Keizai Shinbun, Aprii 9, p. 11
- Asahi Shinbun, national edition, Aprii 13, p.6
- Sankei Shinbun, Aprii 25, p. 12

Lowitz, Leza Akira Arita at Fuji Television" Art in America, September p.121&127

"Symbol of Essence: Akira Arita; Artist Interview" Bijutsu Techo, September p.122-130

Arita, Akira and Yoshitomo Kajikawa Akira Arita" exhibition catalogue, Kahitsukan-Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art, Kyoto, 1997 Geijutsu Shincho, January, p.86-87

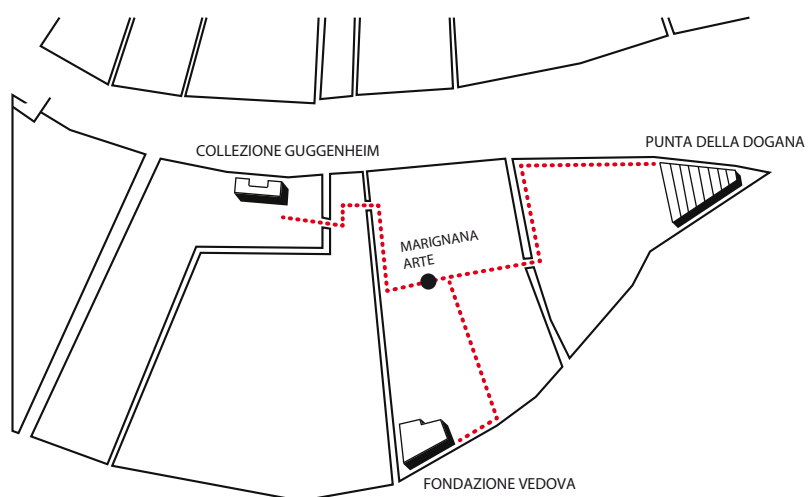
Arita, Akira and Kiyoshi Seike Akira Arita: Recent Paintings" exhibition catalogue, Fuji Television Gallery, Tokyo

CONTATTI

Marignana Arte
Dorsoduro, 141
30123
Venezia (Italia)

+39 041 52 27 360
info@marignanaarte.it

www.marignanaarte.it



EDITING E PROGETTO GRAFICO

PSegno e Marignana Arte

FOTOGRAFIE

Enrico Fiorese

TESTI

Giorgio Mastinu

TRADUZIONI

Susan Wise