

Yutokutaishi Akiyama & Kotobuki Shiriagari Buriki no Hakobune

Yutokutaishi Akiyama: avant-garde pioneer and pacesetter

Kotobuki Shiriagari: popular cartoonist with a stream of topical output

Starting with his "Darico" events, Yutokutaishi Akiyama (b. 1935) has presented a series of "pop happening" performances since the 1960s. He is particularly well known for standing in the Tokyo gubernatorial elections of 1975 and '79, his election posters for which can be found in museum collections nationwide. Meanwhile he has also produced a series of pieces sculpted from tinfoil and modeled on figures from barons to Buddhas. Akiyama's output remains as prolific as ever and includes in recent years the publication of essays and unveiling of new works in tin.

After graduating from Tama Art University, Kotobuki Shiriagari (b. 1958) worked in package design, advertising and promotion for one of Japan's major brewing companies, making his debut as a cartoonist in 1985 with the manga *Ereki-na Haru* (Electric Spring). Earning a reputation as the creator of a new type of gag manga with a strong parody element, after striking out on his own in 1994 he released a series of comics portraying an absurd, eschatological world, and while continuing to pursue a highly original direction as a manga artist, in recent years he has widened his creative scope to encompass areas as diverse as essay-writing, video and art.

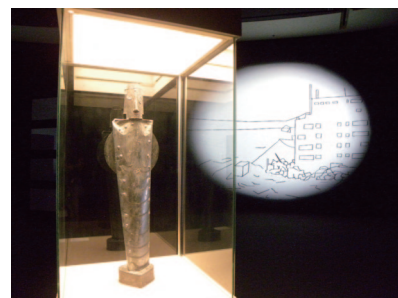
And now, a joint exhibition by two artists crossing paths for the first time! Could this collaboration transcending genres and generations give rise to a miracle?!

Buriki no Hakobune (Tin Ark) offers viewers the chance to savor in a single show the careers of Yutokutaishi Akiyama and Kotobuki Shiriagari: Akiyama's tinfoil sculptures and paintings plus his numerous happenings, ranging from the very earliest years of his career to the present day; and Shiriagari's ink drawing installations, plus his *Yurumation* videos and the *Kotobuki Shiriagari History Museum*.

In addition, the *Buriki no Hakobune* exhibit space, a joint effort by the pair, will combine old and new works to offer salvation and spiritual repose in ways unique to these two artists. Shiriagari will present several of his *Yurumation* pieces including a new work focusing on the huge tsunami that hit north-eastern Japan in March, while Akiyama's offerings will include *Meditation Object*, inspired by a hexagonal Rokkakudo arbor swept away by the tsunami, plus tinfoil sculptures on the themes of loss and prayer. Thus Akiyama and Shiriagari declare the approaches available to artists tackling the difficult circumstances confronting Japan after the disaster, and, it could be said, offer salvation of a sort as portrayed by two artists who have consistently employed humor and parody to engage with society.



Yutokutaishi Akiyama 《Meditation Object》 1999
Kotobuki Shiriagari 《Oyaji》 2011



Installation View at Hiroshima MOCA

- Duration: Saturday Oct 29- Monday Jan 9, 2012
- Opening hours: 10:00-17:00 (Last Admission 16:30)
- Closed: Monday (except Jan 2 , 9), Dec27- Jan 1, 4
- Admission charges: Adults 1,000 (800) yen, College Students 700 (600) yen, High School Students 500 (400) yen *Figures in brackets () are the charges for advance-purchase and groups of 30 or more persons.
- Organizers: The Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, The Chugoku Shimbun
- Sanctioned by: Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education, Hiroshima FM Broad Casting Co., Ltd., Onomichi FM Broad Casting Co., Ltd.



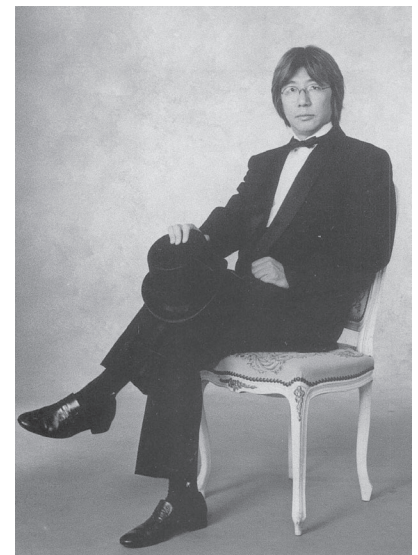
Yutokutaishi Akiyama
Courtesy of Yutokutaishi Akiyama

Yutokutaishi Akiyama

Born 1935 in Tokyo. Graduated from the sculpture department of Musashino Art University. After finding employment with a large electrical machinery manufacturer, Akiyama embarked on a completely different career, that of avant-garde artist. In the 1960s he began giving performances dubbed "*pop happenings*", and twice, in 1975 and '79, stood for the post of Tokyo governor, thus making pop art from politics. Akiyama's practice encompasses everything from tinplate sculptures to photography as a member of the "Leica Alliance" with Genpei Akasegawa and Yutaka Takanashi.

Kotobuki Shiriagari

Born 1958 in Shizuoka. Majored in graphic design at Tama Art University. Worked for a major brewery before taking the plunge into cartooning. Came under the spotlight for his novel parody-dominated take on the gag manga genre. Since the 1990s he has unveiled a succession of dreamlike and literary-style works. While continuing to plough his own unique furrow as a manga artist, in recent years Shiriagari has also diversified into video-making and art.



Kotobuki Shiriagari
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Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art

Curatorial Staffs: Takeshi Matsuoka (Curator)

PR Officers: Akiko Goto, Hanako Suzuki

1-1 Hijiyama Koen, Minami-ku, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima, 732-0815

Main Phone: 082-264-1121 Direct Phone: 082-264-1146 Fax: 082-264-1198

<http://www.hcmca.cf.city.hiroshima.jp/>

hcmca@hcmca.cf.city.hiroshima.jp