Masaki Hirokawa

Graphic Artist

Masaki Hirokawa is a distinguished Japanese graphic artist known for his innovative photo collages that explore spirituality and human existence. With a history of worldwide exhibitions and multiple prestigious international design awards, he regularly contributes his works to leading art yearbooks and specialized magazines, sharing his visionary perspective with a global audience.

Biography

Born in 1981 in Toyama, Japan, Masaki Hirokawa is a versatile graphic designer and developer. Beginning his career in web design and programming at the age of 16, he moved to Tokyo in 1999 to specialize in web and desktop publishing design. By 2002, his expertise expanded to include system engineering and advanced programming. In 2005, Hirokawa embraced a freelance career, undertaking a variety of projects encompassing web design, graphic design, and interactive media. His exceptional talent earned him the Grand Prize in the Web Screensaver Category at the MTV SO-ZO Competition in 2006.

From 2008 onwards, Hirokawa authored several reference books and contributed articles to graphic design magazines, further expanding his professional repertoire. In 2011, he ventured into video game development, utilizing his technical and artistic skills. By 2013, he successfully entered the smartphone app market, with one of his apps achieving over 20 million downloads and maintaining a global user base of over 3 million active users.

Rediscovering his passion for graphic design in 2019, Hirokawa began exhibiting his work internationally, from Italy to the United Kingdom and beyond. His artistic prowess was recognized in 2022 when he was named "ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2021" by the ITSLIQUID Group. Currently, he continues to integrate his graphic design expertise with his flourishing app business, constantly innovating and captivating a global audience.

Career

1997: Began self-study in web design and programming.

1999: Commenced professional career as a web designer/DTP operator.

2002: Developed mission-critical systems as a programmer/system engineer.

2005: Transitioned to freelance work, engaging in web design, programming, graphics, and interactive movies.

2006/08: Presented artworks and interactive movies at the J-Passion Vol.1 exhibition at the PH Gallery in New York.

2006/11: Awarded for Excellence in the Web Screensaver Category at the MTV SO-ZO Competition.

2008/06/06: Contributed artwork and commentary for "Photoshop Making Studio" in the July 2008 issue of the monthly magazine MdN.

2008/06/14: Displayed Another Japan opening movie at Japan Graphic Designers Association's JAGDA in OSAKA 2008.

2008/12/06: Contributed artwork and commentary for "Lessons in Artistic Expression and Professional Methods for Publicizing and Creating Learned from Featured Creators" in the January 2009 issue of MdN.

2009/06/25: Contributed artworks to "on View From JP." in the August 2009 issue of the monthly magazine MySpace From JP.

2009/08/11: Exhibited artworks at the Larotica II exhibition at GALLERY ART POINT in Ginza, Japan. 2009/08/25: Contributed artworks and commentary for "GADGET FOR DIGITAL NATIVE" in the

October 2009 issue of MySpace From JP.

2010/01/30: Contributed artwork and commentary to the MdN mook "Photoshop Mitsuboshi Technique Encyclopedia".

2010/11/01: Contributed artwork and commentary to the MdN Mook "Collages and Illustrations created with Photoshop and Illustrator".

2013/12/27: Contributed to the article "Current Thoughts of iPhone Developers" in the February 2014 issue of the monthly magazine MacPeople.

2014/05/29: Contributed to the article "Developers of Popular & Noteworthy" in the July 2014 issue of the monthly magazine MacPeople.

2016/01/22: Two iPhone apps were featured in "100 Smartphone Apps to Adjust Your Autonomic Nerves", by Gijutsu-Hyohron Co., Ltd.

2019/04/05: The iPhone app "Relaxing Healing" was featured in the May 2019 issue of "Otona no Oshare Techo" (Fashion Notebook for Women), published by Takarajimasha, Inc.

2019/06/28: The iPhone app "Relaxing Healing" was featured in the July 2019 issue of "HOT

PEPPER Beauty", published by Recruit Holdings Co., Ltd.

2021-2023: Contributed artworks and interviews for 365 Art+ Magazine.

2021/12: Contributed artwork for 365 Art+ Magazine Case 9. Faith (Cover).

2021/12/16: Artwork showcased in SACRIFICE 2021 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy.

2022/01/27: Artwork showcased in THE BODY LANGUAGE 2022 exhibition held by ITSLIQUID Group in Venice, Italy.

2022/01/28: Artwork showcased in the exhibition "I THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND ME," held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy, and the Canary Islands, Spain.

2022/01/31: Received the ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2021 award by ITSLIQUID Group.

2022/03/04: Artwork showcased in the CANVAS INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR 2022 exhibition held by ITSLIQUID Group in Venice, Italy.

2022/03/27: Awarded an Honorable Mention at the ITSLIQUID International Contest - 11th Edition presented by ITSLIQUID Group.

2022/03/28: Artwork showcased in the NEW FREEDOM THINK 2022 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy.

2022/04/03: Artwork showcased in the Avant Garde Exhibition held by Virtual Artists in London, UK.

2022/04/09: Artwork showcased in the VIFAF 2022 - Virtual International Fine Art Fair exhibition held by the World Of Crete in Crete, Greece.

2022/05/06: Awarded the Iron Award in the Graphics Design Category at the A'Design Award & Competition, an international art competition.

2022/05/20: Artwork showcased in the ROME INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR 2022 exhibition held by ITSLIQUID Group in Rome, Italy.

2022/05/20: Artwork showcased in the RenovArt | 100 Artists for the Future exhibition held by ApuliaAste in Matera, Italy.

2022/05/28: Artwork showcased in the LIQUID ARSENAL 2022 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy.

2022/06/24: Artwork showcased in the International Contemporary Art Fair Monaco 2022 held by the VAN GOGH Art Gallery in the Principality of Monaco.

2022/06/25: Received the BEST COVER ARTIST AWARD at the 365 Art+ 6 Stars AWARDS hosted by 365 Art+ Magazine.

2022/07/07: Artwork showcased in the RenovArt | 100 Artists for the Future exhibition (July Edition) held by ApuliaAste in Matera, Italy.

2022/07/15: Artwork showcased in the CONTEMPORARY VENICE 2022 exhibition held by ITSLIQUID Group in Venice, Italy.

2022/07/28: Artwork showcased in the ORIZZONTI TRASVERSALI 2022 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy.

2022/08/21: Artworks featured in ART ANTHOLOGY V: MADRID EDITION, the art anthology presented in the National Museum and National Library of Spain and other institutions.

2022/09/01: Artwork showcased in the International Digital Art Exhibition held by the VAN GOGH Art Gallery in Madrid, Spain.

2022/09/28: Artwork showcased in the PRETTY PERV 2022 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy and the Canary Islands, Spain.

2022/09/29: Awarded an Honorable Mention at the ITSLIQUID International Contest - 12th Edition presented by ITSLIQUID Group.

2022/10/05: Artwork showcased in the LONDON CONTEMPORARY 2022 exhibition held by ITSLIQUID Group in London, UK.

2022/10/28: Artwork showcased in the GUARDIANS OF DREAMS 2022 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy.

2022/11/03: Artwork showcased in the RenovArt | 100 Artists for the Future exhibition (November Edition) held by ApuliaAste in Matera, Italy.

2022/11/04: Artwork showcased in the WE CONTEMPORARY CATALOG & ART SHOW held by MUSA International in Rome, Italy.

2022/11/28: Artwork showcased in the ADRENOCROMO FOR DINNER 2022 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy, and the Canary Islands, Spain.

2022/12/28: Artwork showcased in the BRAIN CAKE 2022 exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Casa Milà, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Barcelona, Spain.

2023/01/27: Artwork showcased in the Paris 2023 International Contemporary Art Fair held by VAN GOGH Art Gallery in Paris, France.

2023/02/01: Artwork showcased in the artbook secretariat gallery in Ebisu, Tokyo.

2023/02/16: Contributed Artwork to PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE VISUAL CULTURE, an international art anthology published by MUSA International.

2023/03/01: Artwork showcased in the RenovArt | Flowing Identities exhibition held by ApuliaAste in Matera, Italy.

2023/04/01: Artwork showcased in the FROM THE DISTANCE Digital Contemporary Art Exhibition held by VAN GOGH Art Gallery in Madrid, Spain.

2023/04/12: Artwork showcased in the RenovArt | Flowing Identities exhibition held by ApuliaAste at Spazio Opera Gallery in Matera, Italy.

2023/05/05: Awarded the Golden Design Award in the Photography and Photo Manipulation Design Award Category at the A'Design Award & Competition, an international art competition.

2023/05/08: Artwork showcased in the RenovArt | Panta Rhei exhibition held by ApuliaAste, in

cooperation with the MaterAcqua Association, at Lega Navale Italiana Sezione Matera - Magna Grecia, Italy.

2023/06/01: Artwork showcased in the RenovArt | Shapes of Nature exhibition held by ApuliaAste at Spazio Opera Gallery in Matera, Italy.

2023/06/05: Artwork showcased in the ENIGMI exhibition held by Arte Borgo Gallery in Rome, Italy. 2023/06/15: Artwork showcased in the CENSORED exhibition held by M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY in Milan, Italy.

2023/07/01: Contributed Artwork to World Art Guide 2023, an international art yearbook published by Bellamonti Art.

2023/07/05: Artwork showcased in the ENIGMI exhibition held by Arte Borgo Gallery in Rome, Italy. 2023/07/18: Artwork showcased in the International Good Design exhibition held by A'Design Award at Sala Bianca, Rome, Italy.

2023/07/21: Awarded the International Art Prize Michelangelo "The Genius of Italy", presented by Fondazione Effetto Arte.

2023/09/21: Awarded the International Career Art Award 2023, presented by Fondazione Effetto Arte.

2023/09/25: Awarded the Harmony for Humanity: The Global Consciousness Art Prize, presented by Contemporary Art Collectors.

2024/02/14: Artwork showcased in the LA ART SHOW - Los Angeles Art Market held by Fondazione Effetto Arte in Los Angeles, USA.

2024/03/01: Awarded the Global Art Virtuoso: Elite Artistic Career Achievement Award, presented by Contemporary Art Collectors.

2024/05/03: Contributed artwork to the inaugural issue of the global art magazine, "The Luxury Collection of Contemporary Artistry," published by Contemporary Art Collectors.

2024/06/14: Awarded the International Prize Phoenix for the Arts, presented by Fondazione Effetto Arte.

2024/07: Contributed artwork to "The Best Contemporary Masters 2024," published by Fondazione Effetto Arte.

2024/08: Contributed artwork to "People Creating the 21st Century - Lavinia de Rothschild, Fine Art Edition," published by 365 Art+ Business Magazine.

2024/09: Featured in Rothschild Fine Art.

2024/10: Donated artwork to the animal protection organization Animal Freedom.

Awards

International Prize Phoenix for the Arts Winner Presented by: <u>Fondazione Effetto Arte</u>

<u>Global Art Virtuoso: Elite Artistic Career Achievement Award Winner</u> Presented by: <u>Contemporary Art Collectors</u>

Harmony for Humanity: The Global Consciousness Art Prize Winner Presented by: <u>Contemporary Art Collectors</u>

Career Art Award 2023 Winner Presented by: Fondazione Effetto Arte

International Art Prize Michelangelo "The Genius of Italy" Winner Presented by: <u>Fondazione Effetto Arte</u>

<u>A'Design Award & Competition</u> Photography and Photo Manipulation Design Award Category, 2022 - 2023 <u>Golden Design Award Winner</u>

ITSLIQUID International Contest - 12th Edition Presented by: ITSLIQUID Group Awarded an Honorable Mention

<u>365 Art+ 6 Stars AWARDS</u> Presented by: <u>365 Art+ Magazine</u> BEST COVER ARTIST AWARD Winner

<u>A'Design Award & Competition</u> Graphics, Illustration and Visual Communication Design Category, 2021 - 2022 <u>Iron Award Winner</u> ITSLIQUID International Contest - 11th Edition Presented by: ITSLIQUID Group Awarded an Honorable Mention

Awarded <u>ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2021</u> Presented by: <u>ITSLIQUID Group</u>

MTV SO-ZO Competition supported by AMD 2006 Web Screensaver Category Award for Excellence

Awards (bulleted/newest first):

2024, International Prize Phoenix for the Arts, Presented by Fondazione Effetto Arte, Italy

2024, <u>Global Art Virtuoso: Elite Artistic Career Achievement Award</u>, Presented by <u>Contemporary Art</u> <u>Collectors</u> (International Organization)

2023, <u>Harmony for Humanity: The Global Consciousness Art Prize</u>, Presented by <u>Contemporary Art</u> <u>Collectors</u> (International Organization)

2023, Career Art Award 2023, Presented by Fondazione Effetto Arte, Italy

2023, <u>International Prize Michelangelo "The Genius of Italy"</u>, Presented by <u>Fondazione Effetto Arte</u>, Italy

2023, <u>Golden Design Award</u>, <u>A'Design Award & Competition</u>, Photography and Photo Manipulation Design Category, Italy

2022, <u>Honorable Mention</u>, <u>ITSLIQUID International Contest - 12th Edition</u>, Presented by <u>ITSLIQUID</u> <u>Group</u>, Italy

2022, <u>BEST COVER ARTIST AWARD</u>, 365 Art+ 6 Stars AWARDS, Presented by <u>365 Art+ Magazine</u>, USA 2022, <u>Iron Award</u>, <u>A'Design Award & Competition</u>, Graphics, Illustration and Visual Communication Design Category, Italy

2022, <u>Honorable Mention</u>, <u>ITSLIQUID International Contest - 11th Edition</u>, Presented by ITSLIQUID Group, Italy

2022, ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2021, Presented by ITSLIQUID Group, Italy

2006, Excellence Award, Web Screensaver Section, <u>MTV SO-ZO Competition</u>, Presented by <u>AMD</u>, Japan

Exhibitions (bulleted/newest first):

- 2024, LA ART SHOW Los Angeles Art Market, Fondazione Effetto Arte, Los Angeles/USA
- 2023, International Good Design exhibition, A'Design Award, Rome/Italy
- 2023, ENIGMI, Arte Borgo Gallery, Rome/Italy
- 2023, RenovArt | Shapes of Nature, ApuliaAste, Matera/Italy
- 2023, CENSORED, M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, Milan/Italy
- 2023, RenovArt | Panta Rhei, ApuliaAste, Matera/Italy
- 2023, RenovArt | Flowing Identities exhibition at Spazio Opera Gallery, ApuliaAste, Matera/Italy
- 2023, <u>FROM THE DISTANCE</u> Digital Contemporary Art Exhibition, <u>VAN GOGH Art Gallery</u>, Madrid/Spain
- 2023, RenovArt | Flowing Identities, ApuliaAste, Matera/Italy
- 2023, artbook secretariat gallery, Toberu Inc., Ebisu/Tokyo
- 2023, Paris 2023 International Contemporary Art Fair, VAN GOGH Art Gallery, Paris/France
- 2022, BRAIN CAKE 2022, M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, Casa Milà Barcelona/Spain
- 2022, <u>ADRENOCROMO FOR DINNER 2022</u>, <u>M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY</u>, Milan/Italy & Canary Islands/Spain
- 2022, WE CONTEMPORARY CATALOG & ART SHOW, MUSA International, Rome/Italy
- 2022, RenovArt | 100 Artists for the Future exhibition (November Edition), ApuliaAste, Matera/Italy
- 2022, GUARDIANS OF DREAMS 2022, M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, Milan/Italy
- 2022, LONDON CONTEMPORARY 2022, ITSLIQUID Group, London/UK
- 2022, PRETTY PERV 2022, M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, Milan/Italy & Canary Islands/Spain
- 2022, International Digital Art Exhibition, VAN GOGH Art Gallery, Madrid/Spain
- 2022, ORIZZONTI TRASVERSALI 2022, M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, Milan/Italy
- 2022, CONTEMPORARY VENICE 2022, ITSLIQUID Group, Venice/Italy
- 2022, RenovArt | 100 Artists for the Future exhibition (July Edition), ApuliaAste, Matera/Italy
- 2022, <u>International Contemporary Art Fair Monaco 2022</u>, <u>VAN GOGH Art Gallery</u>, Principality of Monaco
- 2022, LIQUID ARSENAL 2022, M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, Milan/Italy
- 2022, RenovArt | 100 Artists for the Future, ApuliaAste, Matera/Italy
- 2022, ROME INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR 2022, ITSLIQUID Group, Rome/Italy
- 2022, VIFAF 2022 Virtual International Fine Art Fair Exhibition, World Of Crete, Crete/Greece
- 2022, Avant Garde Exhibition, Virtual Artists, London/UK
- 2022, NFT NEW FREEDOM THINK 2022, M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY, Milan/Italy
- 2022, CANVAS INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR 2022, ITSLIQUID Group, Venice/Italy

2022, <u>I THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND ME</u>, <u>M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY</u>, Milan/Italy & Canary Islands/Spain

2022, THE BODY LANGUAGE 2022, ITSLIQUID Group, Venice/Italy

- 2021, <u>SACRIFICE 2021</u>, <u>M.A.D.S. ART GALLERY</u>, Milan/Italy
- 2009, Larotica II exhibition, GALLERY ART POINT, Ginza/Japan

Magazine/Books (bulleted/newest first):

2024, People Creating the 21st Century - Lavinia de Rothschild, Fine Art Edition, 365 Art+ Business Magazine

2024, The Best Contemporary Masters 2024, Fondazione Effetto Arte

- 2024, The Luxury Collection of Contemporary Artistry, Contemporary Art Collectors
- 2023, WORLD ART GUIDE 2023, Bellamonti Art
- 2023, PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE VISUAL CULTURE, MUSA International
- 2022, WE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ART CATALOG, MUSA International
- 2022, ART ANTHOLOGY V: MADRID EDITION, Guto Ajayu Culture
- 2021-2022, 365 Art+ Magazine, 365 Art+ Magazine
- 2010/11/01, Collages and Illustrations created with Photoshop and Illustrator, MdN (ISBN:

978-4-8443-6154-1)

- 2010/01/30, Photoshop Mitsuboshi Technique Encyclopedia, MdN (ISBN: 978-4-8443-6097-1)
- 2009/08/25, GADGET FOR DIGITAL NATIVE, MySpace From JP
- 2009/06/25, on View From JP., MySpace From JP

2008/12/06, Lessons in Artistic Expression and Professional Methods for Publicizing and Creating Learned from Featured Creators, MdN

2008/06/06, Photoshop Making Studio, MdN

Influences:

Since 1997, my interest in the internet sparked my journey into web design, connecting me with a diverse network of professionals. This period was foundational, enriching my knowledge across design, programming, and art, leading me to engage in interactive movie production, game development, and app creation. My transition to graphic art in 2019 was marked by a profound experience in Tokyo, where a mysterious phenomenon reignited my deep-seated aspiration for art, driving me into an intense creative pursuit.

Artists I Admire:

Leonor Fini's liberated life and the structural beauty in Hans Bellmer's work deeply inspire me, introduced by Ryūichi Shibata. Most significantly, a mentor I met online taught me the universality of art as a natural form of communication, an ethos that deeply influences my work.

Future Aspirations and Vision:

My art is an exploration of surplus dimensions, blending my divine orientation with a fascination for physics and spirituality. I aim to reconcile the sacred with the secular, and through my work, restore harmony between humanity and nature. By weaving symbols of nature, human philosophy, and scientific theories, my art serves as a conduit between the inner sanctity and the outer complex reality, aspiring to connect viewers with deeper universal truths.

Contact

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Social Networks

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