



Exhibition Announcement

November 30, 2007

Shinobu Akimoto: Better Living and Other Projects
January 18 – March 20, 2008
Embassy of Canada Prince Takamado Gallery

The Embassy of Canada presents an exhibition of work by Shinobu Akimoto, the Toronto and Japan based visual artist.

Since the mid 1990's, the witty conceptual work of Shinobu Akimoto has questioned whether 'art'-making is simply part of the experience of living, or is somehow a distinct, even rarefied human activity. She is best known for installations rightly called "projects," such as her *IKEA Living Project Series* (1990-2001), where she pragmatically replicated mass-produced furniture and lifestyle accessories by hand, or *BACKYARD* (2000-02), a video installation with looped footage of flora and fauna in her parents' backyard, "overlapping the mundane existence of both the subject matter and the maker of the video."

In this first survey exhibition in Japan, the central work is the installation, *Better Living* (2004-2005). It consists mainly of images of a bird, a cat, and a rabbit photographed while "shopping" in a miniature garden centre, china shop, and furniture store. The small scale suits both the proportions of the animals and showcases Akimoto's hand-made facsimiles of impractical tiny ceramic ware, potted plants, or wooden furniture found in Japanese "dollar" stores. *Photo-Litho Project, Some Go to School, and The House Rabbit Society Project Series* will also be shown.

The conceptual approach reflected in Akimoto's work is characteristic of contemporary Canadian art and is the driving force behind the Canadian art scene.

Shinobu Akimoto has exhibited widely in Canada, Germany, and Japan.

This exhibition is organised and circulated by the Art Gallery of Windsor; curated by Cassandra Getty.

DETAILS

DATE: **January 18 – March 20, 2008**
Weekdays 9:00 to 17:30, Wednesdays 9:00 to 20:00
*closed February 11

PLACE: **Embassy of Canada Prince Takamado Gallery**
(7-3-38 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo)

ADMISSION: **Free**

CONTACT: **Embassy of Canada, Public Affairs Section (Tel: 03-5412-6305)**

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