

M'ONMA

Born: 1951, Hokkaido

M'onma has been working and evolving as an artist for over forty years. His early work consists of rough sketches and still-lives, focusing on traditional techniques.

His methods didn't change until he was in his forties. M'onma doesn't speak much about his process, but it would seem that letting go of his own intellectual control of his visual narrative is a very important part of it. He says he has always drawn; he has always made some kind of art, but one day he sat to draw his usual subject: a still-life, when he felt an entity take over his hand while he fell into a hypnogogic state. He didn't fight it and didn't return to his old way of making art. He did, however, feel it was a divine force. It was also a form of self-healing. He was living and recording those waking trancelike dreams.

After that instance, M'onma left behind the conceptual drawings that he was used to producing. He was suddenly fueled by an intense desire to explore the nature of this power, and to see where it directed him. As he learned to work with this divine force flowing through him, he had an epiphany that he was being lifted away from much of the doubt and ambiguity he had previously experienced. At this point in his artistic career, he has fully embraced this shift in his aesthetic, and now follows it with complete focus and commitment.

Solo Exhibitions:

2023: *M'onma: Night Colors*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2016: *Both Here and There*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2014: *Lucid Dreaming*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

Group Exhibitions:

2022: *Summer Improv: Bibi's Choice*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2021: *PHOENIX! New Artists, New Works, New Cavin-Morris Gallery*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2019: *Body Lines*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

Outsider Art Fair NY, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2018: *Lo spavento della terra*, Clima Gallery, Milan, Italy

Art Brut du Japon, un autre regard, Collection de l'art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland

Duende: Artists Translating Spirits, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

Outsider Art Fair NY, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

Outsider Art Fair Paris, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery Paris, France

- 2017: *On Love and Barley: Art from Japan*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Graphite Vision, Schick Gallery, Saratoga Springs, NY
 Outsider Art Fair NY, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 Outsider Art Fair Paris, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery Paris, France
The Hidden Art, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
resist, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016: *Maverick*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Takashi Murakami: The 500 Arhats, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
 Outsider Art Fair, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
M'ONMA: TRANCE PILGRIMAGE, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
World Made by Hand, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015: *Japan Art Brut*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
dRAW, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL
In Dreams Begin Responsibilities: 30 Years at Cavin-Morris Gallery, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 Outsider Art Fair NY, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York City, NY
 NYC Metro Show, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York City, NY
- 2014: Outsider Art Fair Paris, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, Paris, France
Freshet: Old Loves, New Directions, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 Outsider Art Fair NY, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York City, NY
- 2013: NYC Metro Show, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York City, NY
 Outsider Art Fair NY, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York City, NY
Restless II: Mix, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York City, NY
 Outsider Art Fair Paris, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, Paris, France
- 2012: *Restless*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York City, NY

Publications:

L'art brut by Collectif Martine Lusardy, Michel Thévoz. Paris, Citadelles & Mazenod Editions, 2018. Page 444, 524, 526, 527

Bibliography:

"When the Spirits Guide the Hand," *Hyperallergic*, June 2, 2018

Takashi Murakami: The 500 Arhats, Exhibition Catalogue, 2016

"Visionary Japanese Artist M'onma Creates Drawings in a Trance," *Huffington Post*, August 24, 2015

M'onma: Trance Pilgrimage, Cavin-Morris Gallery, Online Catalogue, 2016

Lucid Dreaming: New Drawings by M'onma, Cavin-Morris Gallery, Online Catalogue, 2014

Art Brut du Japon Catalog, un autre regard, Collection de l'art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland, 2008