

LCJ: What does an average day in your life look like?

AT: I read, meditate, think, and take care of my dog and cat. Sometimes I take traditional Japanese dance, shamisen (traditional Japanese guitar), and yoga lessons. These lessons and such are for my personal desire, as they explore the secrets of the universe which is deeply connected with my artistic inspirations.

LCJ: Has quarantine changed the way you use art as a form of self expression? What have you learned about yourself during self-isolation and what are you most looking forward to post-pandemic?

AT: I don't use art as a form of self expression; my work is like interim presentations of my space research. But quarantine has made me focus on my work more; I learned what I really want is to think about the universe, paint, and draw during this period of time. I'm looking forward to visiting other countries, and people to come visit me from abroad again.

LCJ: Lastly, a lot of the time, your art features naked figures but in a surreal, beautiful, and magical sense. And as a Korean American, I understand that there is a shameful connotation that surrounds being in touch with your sensuality and further embracing womanhood in Asian culture. How do you come to creating these visions with such beauty and no indignity?

AT: I can't understand what's shameful about nakedness. I heard that a long time ago, like in the 18th century in the West, that piano feet had to be covered by a dust-preventing cloth, just because piano feet were thought

to be odious. But I think the person who thought such a thing was odious themselves. Nakedness itself is natural and beautiful. And often, my nakedness means the concept of the free spirit.

Previous: I know that just a kiss will take me far away, 2006, Acrylic on canvas ©2006 Aya Takano/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Courtesy Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris & Miami

Nodhi & Meg, on Earth, year 2036, 2002, Acrylic on canvas ©2002 Aya Takano/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Courtesy NADiff, Tokyo



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