

Mr.: *Nobody Dies*
6 November 2008 – 21 February 2009
Opening reception at Lehmann Maupin
201 Chrystie Street, New York City
Thursday, 6 November, 6-8 PM

The Japanese artist Mr. will have his second exhibition with Lehmann Maupin and his first at the 201 Chrystie Street gallery. Premiering at Geisai #11 in Tokyo, here he will have the U.S. debut of his film, *Nobody Dies*, along with a new large-scale painting, works on paper and his first foray into photography.

Expanding upon his examination of the *Otaku* subculture in Japan, which emerged in the 1970s and mainly consists of obsessive males whose fetishes include cuteness or *kawaii*, Mr. uses adolescent Japanese girls he discovered on the streets of Tokyo as the subjects for his film. Inspired by the painting *It hurts when it hits bare skin*, the film follows these fictional characters, who are obsessed with a war-like survival game, as they transform from their peaceful everyday lives into Technicolor warriors outfitted in pink, yellow and green camouflage with matching guns.

Gotcha-Gotcha, a monumental painting also on view, reflects a pastime of Japanese misfits. Crowds gather in the Akihabara (Akiba) neighborhood around toy dispensers similar to those found in American supermarkets in hopes of winning coveted prizes. Never knowing exactly what item will emerge, they cheer "gotcha-gotcha", the sound that the machine makes as it is dispensing the toy. This neighborhood is the epicenter of *Otaku* devotees and Mr. continues to explore this subculture that is obsessed with technology, manga, sci-fi literature, anime and video games.



It hurts when it hits bare skin © 2007 Mr. /Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

Mr. lives and works in Saitama, just outside of Tokyo. He graduated from the Department of Fine Arts, Sokei Art School in Tokyo in 1996. Mr. was discovered by Takashi Murakami in 1995 and since then has been involved with Murakami's art studio and enterprise Kaikai Kiki. Recently, Mr.'s work was included in the acclaimed *Krazy: the Delirious World of Anime + Comics + Video Games + Art* at the Vancouver Art Gallery as well as the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon with fellow Kaikai Kiki artists Chiho Aoshima and Aya Takano. In 2005, he was included in the exhibition *Little Boy: The Arts of Japan's Exploding Subculture* at Japan Society in New York. Mr.'s work is represented in numerous public and private collections worldwide. A concurrent exhibition will also be on view at Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris 21 October 2008 through 10 January 2009.

The exhibition will be on view from 6 November 2008 through 21 February 2009. 201 Chrystie Street gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Sunday, noon – 6:00 p.m. On view at 540 W 26th Street is Tim Rollins and K.O.S. from 23 October – 20 December 2008.

For more information please visit www.LehmannMaupin.com, or contact the gallery at 212 255 2923 or Stephanie@LehmannMaupin.com.