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ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM PRESENTS *YOSHIHIRO SUDA: IN FOCUS*

October 6, 2009–February 7, 2010



Yoshihiro Suda, *Azalea*, 2005, painted on wood, installation view at PKM Gallery, Seoul.

Asia Society Museum presents the first solo New York museum exhibition of Yoshihiro Suda (b. 1969, Japan), as part of an ongoing series of exhibitions in which contemporary Asian and Asian American artists are invited to create a new work inspired by the Society's Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Collection of traditional Asian art. For *Yoshihiro Suda: In Focus* (October 6, 2009–February 7, 2010), the artist has conceived an installation in which his new work will be shown alongside objects selected from the Rockefeller Collection.

Suda is known for his exquisitely realistic sculptures of plants and flowers created in the tradition of Japanese wood carving. For this exhibition, the artist will create a new sculpture of a white magnolia blossom based on a flower he found in Central Park. For the installation at Asia Society, Suda has chosen to show his new work alongside seven works from the Rockefeller Collection, all of which are in shades of white. The *In Focus* exhibition series strives to highlight innovation in contemporary art while presenting Asia Society's traditional collection in unique ways.

About the Artist

Yoshihiro Suda was born in Yamanashi Prefecture, located at the foot of Mt. Fuji, southwest of Tokyo. He credits his artistic inspiration to this special environment of rich natural beauty. Suda first studied graphic art at Tokyo's Tama Art University, but quickly found himself at home in the Japanese wood carving tradition and eventually mastered the technique. Since then he has been creating ultra-realistic wood sculptures, focusing on the natural motifs of plants and flowers.

Suda's intimately scaled carvings recall the art of *netsuke*, the small decorative toggles often made of wood, ivory, or other precious materials popular during the Edo period in Japan (17th–19th century). According to exhibition curator Miwako Tezuka, Associate Curator, Asia Society Museum, "This Japanese penchant for appreciating details and small objects is a crucial aspect of Yoshihiro Suda's work; a sense of intimacy emanates from his creations."

Suda's practice is also firmly rooted in the contemporary artistic concept of installation. An important part of his work is the strategic placement of his small sculptures in unexpected places, for example on the floor or ceiling. In this vein, a previously created work by Suda will be installed outside the gallery space for visitors to discover. The deliberate placement of his minutely detailed carvings in unexpected spaces are intended to heighten viewers' sensitivity to their surroundings and transform the way they perceive both the artworks and their immediate environments.

Asia Society and Contemporary Asian Art

Asia Society is a leader in identifying and fostering the latest contemporary Asian and Asian American artists, and engaging new audiences with their work. In the early 1990s, the Society was one of the first American museums to establish an ongoing program of exhibitions devoted to contemporary Asian art and artists. In addition to group shows, Asia Society was the first U.S. museum to give solo shows to now widely recognized Asian artists Cai Guo-Qiang, Yuken Teruya, Dinh Q. Lê, Montien Boonma, and Zhang Huan, and was among the first museums to show the works of other Asian artists such as Chen Chieh-jen, Subodh Gupta, and Bak Ikeda. In 2007, Asia Society launched its new acquisition program concentrating on contemporary Asian and Asian American art.

Asia Society and Museum

725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street), New York City.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Closed on Mondays and major holidays. General admission is \$10, seniors \$7, students \$5 and free for members and persons under 16. Free admission Friday evenings, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Fridays after 6:00 p.m. from Independence Day to Labor Day.

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