

USC Pacific Asia Museum

Dreams of a Sleeping World

A Solo Exhibition by Oscar Oiwa Featuring A Site-Specific Immersive 360° Dreamscape Mural

On view January 10 – April 26, 2020

USC Pacific Asia Museum
46 N Los Robles Ave
Pasadena, CA 91101



Oscar Oiwa, *Dreams of a Sleeping World*, rendering, 2019

USC Pacific Asia Museum is pleased to announce *Dreams of a Sleeping World*, a solo exhibition featuring an immersive mural and landscape paintings by New York-based artist Oscar Oiwa. The expansive site-specific mural, *Dreams of a Sleeping World*, commissioned by the Museum, is described by the artist as a 360° dreamscape. Created over two weeks in December, the mural will be completely hand-drawn by Oiwa, his assistant, and four USC Roski

School of Fine Art MFA students using approximately 120 Sharpie permanent markers. The intricate drawing will be rendered in black ink on the interior of a custom white nylon dome that spans nearly 800 square feet. "Oiwa's dreamscape will transform our auditorium into a transcendental space where visitors can contemplate the chaos of the exterior world and all its intricacies and find peace on the inside," said USC PAM Curator Dr. Rebecca Hall. Visitors stepping into the dome will be surrounded by otherworldly imagery of swirling cloud and earth forms. Just outside the installation will be a suite of colorful and surreal landscape paintings by Oiwa. Known for his large-scale paintings, his cityscapes and forest-scapes often defy the laws of physics with animals and specters swimming through the skies. Oiwa's work uses fantasy to address the transformation of the environment, each image acts as an allegory of existential threats to the world.

Oscar Oiwa is a Japanese artist born in 1965 in São Paulo, Brazil. Now an American citizen, Oiwa lives and works in New York City. Oiwa graduated from the School of Architecture and Urbanism in São Paulo in 1989 and was influenced by comics and illustration from an early age. He is known for his giant canvases and large frescoes. Oiwa has exhibited internationally and his work is included in renowned private and public collections. Important solo exhibitions since 1990 include the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; the Mori Museum of Art, Tokyo; Museu Nacional de Belas Artes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ and the House of Culture of Japan in Paris. His work has been included in group exhibitions at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan; Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea; Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan; Hyōgo Prefectural Museum of Art, Hyogo, Japan; Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, Germany; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan; Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, Japan; Mystetskyi Arsenal National Art and Culture Museum Complex, Kiev, Ukraine; Phoenix Museum of Art, Phoenix, AZ; Shoto Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan; Takamatsu Art Museum, Takamatsu, Japan; Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan; Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, MA; and WhiteBox, New York, NY. Oiwa received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 1997 and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in 2001.

ABOUT USC PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM

USC Pacific Asia Museum's mission is to further intercultural understanding through the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Established in 1971, the museum is one of few U.S. institutions dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands serving the city of Los Angeles and the Greater Southern California region. The museum's historic building has served as a center for art, culture and learning in Pasadena since its construction in 1924 by pioneering collector and entrepreneur Grace Nicholson (1877-1948) as her residence and galleries. In its brief history, the museum has organized and presented a number of groundbreaking exhibitions, including the first North American exhibitions of contemporary Chinese art and the first exhibition of Aboriginal art in the United States. Exhibitions originated by the museum have traveled across the country and to Japan. The museum is also committed to scholarship and has produced more than 50 exhibition catalogues.

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