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Ion Studio presents
Art on denim kimono, painting & calligraphy by
MINAKO YOSHINO

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INFINITE DREAMSCAPE INSPIRED BY JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY

Opening reception:
March 17th 2011, 7:00pm - 9:30pm
with special guests SINSKE (marimba) and Makia Matsumura (keyboard)

on view : March 15th - May 7th 2011 @ Ion Studio, 41 Wooster St (Broome and Grand), New York, NY 10013

Asahi Wotaiwa Studios M

New York based Japanese painter, sculptor, poet and kimono designer *Minako Yoshino* will show new paintings and calligraphy inspired by Japanese mythology in the exhibition *Infinite Dreamscape* at Ion Studio in Soho, NYC from March 15th to May 7th, 2011.

As soon as one walks into the space, one sees the infinite dreamscape of Yoshino's vision. In the elegant and sophisticated lines and pure white of her calligraphy one can feel the spirit of each Japanese character even if they are unfamiliar. Each of the lines has life, vibrating with magic and energy. "I have always been looking for the true lines of real beauty, which are so powerful because they are so simple. You can't hide any mistake, so it's a very honest line and at the same time a very brave line," Yoshino said.

The most breathtaking and remarkable works at this show are her *Phoenix and Dragon* paintings on organic denim kimonos, which Yoshino designed, cut, and constructed by hand. The dragon in Japanese mythology is not an evil creature, but rather a god of water, such as a river or sea. But only in Spring, in a beautiful cherry blossom moonlight, can he fly up into the heavens. On the other hand, the phoenix dies and is reborn every 600 years. Some people say she lives forever but the story is actually about reincarnation. Accompanying the painting of the phoenix on the kimono is a poem by Yoshino.

The denim Yoshino sourced for the kimonos are from Okayama, Japan, an area that is world famous for its pristine quality denim fabric and ancient indigo dying techniques. "Traditionally, in my country, the same kimono is often passed down from mother to daughter for many generations. A culture and tradition surrounding the kimono has developed. We care for them very well and they stay in our lives for a long time. I am so against anything disposable. Strangely, denim fits into this culture. Because it was produced originally as a work fabric, it was designed very tough. It was made to last, like the kimono. I would like to propose a light denim kimono for your daily casual life, and some hard denim kimono as an artwork like sculpture or painting." Yoshino is trying to deliver the Japanese spirit thru her denim kimono.

At the opening reception on March 17th, there will be a special performance by two musicians who have been collaborative partners of Yoshino's. SINSKE, a prominent marimba player based in Tokyo, is flying in just for this evening to perform a program inspired by the exhibition's Japanese mythology concept. He will be joined by Makia Matsumura, a New York-based composer and pianist. Please come enjoy this one-of-a-kind collaboration while sipping ASAHI Beer, official sponsor of the evening. The reception starts at 7PM; the performance is scheduled at 8PM.

Opening reception: March 17th 2011, 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Special live performance by SINSKE (marimba) and Makia Matsumura (keyboard)
: March 17th 2011, 8pm - 8:30pm
@ ION STUDIO, 41 Wooster St (Broome and Grand), New York, NY 10013

Minako Yoshino official website <http://www.minakoyoshino.com>
Special guest artist links: SINSKE <http://www.sinske.jp>
and Makia Matsumura <http://unpianistique.com>
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