

MARIKO MORI

21 May - 14 September 2008

Japanese, New York based artist Mariko Mori is perhaps best known for her self-portraiture focusing on the imagination and fantasy. Her early work, with kitsch humour and moralism, explores clichés of eastern spirituality and the move towards a global culture. Mori's investigation into the "ways that hope and belief, regret and neglect are interwoven" examines the notion that there is no single way to look at an idea.

Mori's work has since focussed on Native cultures, nature and the idea of a universal consciousness. Mori argues that we must be in touch with our own culture to understand others. She sees the increasing importance of modern technology and its use as a substitute for local belief. Mori has a confidence in the potential power of technology to make our lives better. Drawing parallels with ancient civilisations, she sees the advance of technology as a tool for evolution and believes that it can put us back in touch with nature. In recent years, Mori's work has become more abstract with increasing focus on research into philosophy and the mystery of the Universe. Based on the theory that the Universe is constantly experiencing its own life and death, with past and future merged for eternity beyond the material world. Mori reaches for a shared consciousness beyond borders.

The exhibition at BALTIC has two rooms. The first contains recent works on paper from the Light Being, Primal Particles and Parallel Brane series'. The work is influenced by Mori's research into the origins of the Universe, including Edgar Allen Poe's Primal Particle theory from Eureka: A Prose Poem and scientific developments in Brane cosmology. Mori's investigations into the existence of an invisible world have informed the delicate contemplative drawings and paintings. The second room contains the installation Miracle. Typically, Mori has used newly developing technologies to produce the eight images on glass that offer a window onto the cosmos. Mori ultimately aims to awaken our deeper consciousness and to make us aware of different realities. She asks us to think about being in a present that coincides with the past and the future.

Images - Front page and below right: Mariko Mori, Miracle (detail) Below left: Installation view: Aros Museum 2008. Courtesy of artist and Ikkan and Michiko Sanada Collection.

















