

**FOR PRESS RELEASE**

A.STYLE  
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**“She who dies with the most shoes wins”  
Solo Exhibition by Sai Hashizume**

2<sup>nd</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Address: 12 Tai Ping Shan Street, Sheung Wan

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 11am-7pm | Sunday 12pm-6pm | Monday Closed

A.STYLE proudly presents

**“She who dies with the most shoes wins”  
Solo Exhibition by Sai Hashizume**



Red Shoes Diary (Berlin #1)  
Oil on wood panel  
60 x 80cm  
2008

## ABOUT THE SERIES

“After Image” (“Nachbild” in German), which means “spectrums,” is one of the terms Goethe used in his Theory of Colors. During the four and a half years I spent in Europe, I had seen a number of spectrums that stood before me like ghosts without any tangible forms.

In the world of fine arts, there is a prevalent tendency to admire the glory of the past. However, such glory is merely spectrums and attachment to the past glory is nothing but an “obsession.” In this 21<sup>st</sup> century when the world can be connected seamlessly with the speed of light, such obsession strongly suggests obsolete images. As an artist, I question this outmoded conservatism and decided to make it a theme for my creation for a while. As for the motives and technique, I deliberately mimicked those of the traditional western paintings.

I started a personal project entitled “Red Shoes Diary” in 2008, two years after I moved to Europe. It was because I thought the way I worked in Europe as an artist strangely resembled the story of the famous Andersen fable “The red shoes”. The heroin Karen and I are so much alike. I came all the way to Europe just because I became captivated with arts and became an artist. I could not stop painting despite all the obstacles I faced and the wounds I got in the foreign land. It is also because I was convinced that it would be the perfect concept to go with my pictorial motifs, mature women’s feet and shoes.

The series is, however, a contemporary fable, and not meant to entirely follow the old enlightenment fairy tale. While Karen committed a sin and angered the God, I did not do anything wrong. It is not that I cannot take the shoes off, but I choose not to take them off. I have chosen to wear the red shoes. The shoes would take us to the place where we have not seen. The shoes would look good on us, the beautiful, smart, and brave women. The shoes are for all the women who survive in today’s world.

The ancient regime in which Andersen lived is long gone, and today we are free regardless of however we are born or sexually oriented. Adding to that, as I am an outsider to begin with, I am fortunate to be exempted from the restriction the old world Europe imposes, and I can have whatever attitude.



Beasty Girl  
Oil on woodboard  
27.8 x 17.5cm  
2010



die süße Tasche  
41 x 53.2 x 2.5cm  
Oil on wood panel  
2009



Beasty Girls (Rabbit)  
Pencil on paper  
29.7 x 21cm  
2009



Beasty Girls (Micky)  
Pencil on paper  
29.7 x 21cm  
2009



Red Shoes Diary (Berlin #3) drawing (Framed)  
Avalon paper, pencil, water color  
45.5 x 53cm  
2011

## ABOUT THE ARTIST



1980 Born in Tokyo, Japan  
2003 B.F.A., Oil Painting, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music  
2006 M.F.A., Oil Painting, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music  
2006-07 School of Art and Design Berlin Weissensee, Guest student  
2008 Lived and worked in Berlin, Germany  
2009-10 Lived and worked in Paris, France.  
Lives and works in Tokyo

### **Solo Exhibition**

2004 Gallery ES, Tokyo  
2005 "Behind the Skirt," Gallery Honjoh, Tokyo  
2011 "After Image of the Red Shoes," imura art gallery, Tokyo  
2012 "sometimes we can't choose where we die," imura art gallery, Kyoto  
2013 "lost virginity," G-tokyo 2013 / imura art gallery booth, Tokyo Midtown Hall, Tokyo  
2014 "Beautiful Stranger," POLA MUSEUM ANNEX, Tokyo

### **Group Exhibition**

2000 "Perspective to the Man," Shimotakaido gallery art soko, Tokyo  
2004 "Shell Art Award Exhibition," Daikanyama Hillside Forum, Tokyo  
2005 αM Project "Secret girls~up & down," artspace Kimura ASK?, Tokyo  
2006 "The Vision of Contemporary Art 2006," The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo  
2007 "Sovereign European Art Prize," Club Row, London, UK  
"Speculum Mundi," Galerie Davide Gallo, Berlin  
2008 "Arte Fiera Art First 2008," Bologna, Italy  
2009 The 1st Tokorozawa Biennial of Contemporary Art, "Siding Rail Road 2009," Saitama  
2012 "POLA MUSEUM ANNEX Exhibition 2012," POLA MUSEUM ANNEX, Tokyo  
2013 "Small is Beautiful XXXI -Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow & Blue?," Flowers Gallery, London

“Mindfulness! Takahashi Collection,” Kirishima Open-Air Museum, Kagoshima, Sapporo  
Art Museum, Hokkaido  
“Yamato Dynamics,” MIZUMA GALLERY, Gillman Barracks, Singapore  
“DOMANI: The Art of Tomorrow 2013 Exhibition,” The National Art Center, Tokyo  
2014 “Group show,” ART FAIR TOKYO 2014 G-plus / imura art gallery booth, Tokyo  
International Forum, Tokyo  
“Takamatsu Contemporary Art Annual Vol.04 Regarding the Reality,” Takamatsu City  
Museum of Art, Kagawa  
“Nostalgia and Fantasy: Imagination and its origins in contemporary art,” National  
Museum of Art, Osaka  
“Images of Memory / Memories of Image,” BankART Studio NYK, Kanagawa  
2015 “Group show,” ART FAIR TOKYO 2015 / imura art gallery booth, Tokyo  
International Forum, Tokyo

### **Scholarship & Grant / Residence**

2004 The 19th Holbein Scholarship  
2006 Artist in Residence Krems, TOP 24 (Krems, Austria)  
Fellowship, Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artist  
(Monchengladbach, Germany)  
2007 Fellowship, Pola Art Foundation (Berlin)  
2009 Grant from Yoshino Gypsum Art Foundation (Paris)  
2014 Grant from Contemporary Art Foundation

### **Award**

2003 Mr. O Memorial Prize  
2004 Shell Art Award 2004, Special Prize from the Jury  
2013 Koji Kinutani Prize

### **Commission Work**

2012 POLA MUSEUM ANNEX, Tokyo  
2014 POLA RED B.A

### **Public Collection**

TAKAHASHI COLLECTION  
C-Collection  
The National Museum of Art, Osaka

## ABOUT A.STYLE GALLERY

Besides a hub for living and lifestyle, A. STYLE is now providing a space for all forms of art from both regional and international artists. We are keen to explore new aspect of art through regular exhibitions in our shop at Tai Ping Shan Street, an upcoming art and cultural area in downtown Hong Kong.



## ABOUT A.STYLE

In A.Style we believe that the aspect of art can be easily transformed into part of a lifestyle. We showcase products that inspire and encourage customers to bring art, style and quality into their home.

We collect trendy designs all over the world, focusing on emerging British designers for home products that are stylish and unique alongside with masterful craftsmanship.

A.Style will be your destination to find the right pieces of furniture and home accessories with a personal touch.

Our product selection ranges from vintage-inspired furniture to quirky and playful home accessories. No matter you want to transform your current living space or impress guests with distinct art works, A.Style is full of inspiration for you.

For more about A.Style, please visit our website at: <http://www.astyle.com.hk>

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