

RIKKI KASSO

Born 1979, New York City, USA
American multidisciplinary artist
Based in the United States

EDUCATION

Self-taught artist.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021

Hamptons Fine Art Fair, Southampton, New York, USA

2019

On the Beach, Retrospect Galleries, Byron Bay, Australia

2016

Tokyo Undressed Selections, Walls Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2015

Silent Sirens, Deelen Art, Rotterdam, Netherlands

2010

Sensai, Oakwood Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

2005

Laugh in the Dark, Rocket Gallery, Omotesando, Tokyo, Japan

2003

Love Internatural, Rocket Gallery, Omotesando, Tokyo, Japan

The 2003 Rocket Gallery presentation followed Kasso's relocation from New York to Tokyo at the invitation of VOGUE JAPAN and presented a retrospective of works dating from 1999–2002.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016

Time Travels, Collins Square, Melbourne, Australia

PUBLIC ART & COMMISSIONS

2009–2010

The Future Starts Now

Mejiro Institute of Education and Child Development / Wada Minoru Gakuen, Mejiro, Tokyo, Japan

Permanent public artwork comprising approximately 3,000 stainless-steel letters and punched aluminium panels, measuring approximately 20 × 30 metres. The work transforms a photographic image into a large-scale architectural composition incorporating typography, ASCII language, technology and natural light.

SELECTED PROJECTS & COLLABORATIONS

TROVE, Tokyo

Art Direction / Photography / Design

Collaboration with Japanese fashion label TROVE.

TOPMAN, Japan

Hello! Good Buy!

Exhibition / Fashion / Painting / Photography / Event

Campaign presented through TOPMAN Japan stores.

RESTIR, Tokyo

Exhibition / Fashion / Painting / Photography / Event

Presentation of large-scale Sumi paintings, photographic works and fashion collaborations during Tokyo Fashion Week. The presentation also included a pre-release of Tokyo, Kasso's 280-page photographic book.

USLU AIRLINES, Sydney

Art Direction / Concept / Interior Design / Custom Painting

VOGUE KOREA × MTV USA

In Fine Fashion, 2012–2013.

Rikki Kasso × Noble Project

International artist and designer collaboration.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tokyo Undressed

Kasso's long-term photographic project documenting Tokyo's nightlife, urban culture, sexuality and subcultural environments.

The project resulted in the publication of:

Rikki Kasso — Tokyo

2010

280-page photography book

The book is held in the library collection of the International Center of Photography, New York.

Kasso has also stated that Tokyo Undressed received Photographer of the Year recognition in the United Kingdom's Erotic Awards.

PAINTING & DRAWING

Kasso works extensively with traditional Japanese Sumi ink, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media on paper, canvas and wood.

Selected series include:

- Works on Wood, 2014–2017
- California Dreaming, 2021–2022
- Sandscapes, 2021–2022
- Recent Sumi ink works on paper and canvas

His practice combines Western painterly approaches with the precision and expressive movement associated with Japanese brush and Sumi techniques.

VIDEO & FILM

Kasso has worked across video, film and moving image as part of his multidisciplinary practice.

Selected project:

Somewhere in the Middle
Film project

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Wada Minoru Gakuen / Mejiro Institute of Education and Child Development
Tokyo, Japan

Sazaby Collection
Japan

These permanent collections are listed in published artist records.

AWARDS

Photographer of the Year — Erotic Awards, UK
Award received for the Tokyo Undressed photographic series.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Rikki Kasso — Tokyo
2010
280 pages

The publication documents Kasso's Tokyo Undressed photographic series and is catalogued by the International Center of Photography Library.

SELECTED EDITORIAL / COMMERCIAL COLLABORATIONS

- VOGUE JAPAN
- VOGUE KOREA
- MTV
- GQ Italia
- TOPMAN
- RESTIR
- TROVE
- USLU AIRLINES
- Noble Project

Kasso's practice has included photography, illustration, fashion, art direction, branding, design and creative direction alongside his independent art practice.

COLLECTIONS / MARKET PRESENCE

Kasso's works have been exhibited and circulated in Japan, Australia, the Netherlands, the United States and other international markets. His paintings and photographic works have been represented by galleries including Retrospect Galleries and have appeared in international art platforms and fairs.

SELECTED MEDIA

- Rikki Kasso: On Creativity, 2019
- International Center of Photography Library
- Artsy artist profile
- Retrospect Galleries
- Singulart

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Rikki Kasso is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist whose practice moves between photography, painting, drawing, video, installation, public art and creative direction.

His work is particularly concerned with isolation, sexuality, nature, the human condition, urban experience and the transformation of everyday imagery. His experience of living and working between New York, Tokyo and Australia has been central to the development of his visual language.