

Powell Street Festival Society presents

Commercial na Art! Ocean Fresh!

EXHIBITION: August 1-August 15, 2008

Helen Pitt Gallery

102-148 Alexander Street

Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5 pm

OPENING: August 1, 2008 @ 8 pm

Artists from Japan will be in attendance

ARTIST'S TALK: August 2, 2008 @ 2 pm

Artist Erika Kobayashi with Curator Aya Takada

More information: 604 683 8240 or www.powellstreetfestival.com

Commercial na Art! Ocean Fresh! is a group exhibition presenting works by five emerging Japanese artists from different creative genres: photography, illustration, video, sculpture, painting, and comics.

Their work exemplifies a Japanese art scene that explores the relationship between the public and art. The exhibition presents familiar visual components that draw upon Japanese youth culture and investigates their relationship to contemporary artist networks. Young Japanese people are interested in accessibility in youth culture and subculture.

The exhibit is curated by Aya Takada, the Artistic Director of birdo flugas project and birdo space in Shiogama, Japan. Birdo flugas is an experimental space that challenges the common sense, conventions and hierarchies of the art world. Workshops, special projects and lectures regularly complement our diverse and interdisciplinary exhibitions program.

Participating artists include: Chikara Matsumoto (animator), Itaru Hiramata (photographer), Yusuke Gunji (painter), Erika Kobayashi (comic artist), and Toru Morooka (illustrator) a.k.a. more rock art all!

Commercial na Art! Ocean Fresh! is an exhibition produced specifically for Vancouver and is a collaboration between birdo flugas and the Powell Street Festival, with generous exhibition support from the Helen Pitt Gallery Artist Run Centre. This exhibition is part of the **32nd Annual Powell Street Festival**, held in Oppenheimer Park and the Firehall Arts Centre on August 2nd and 3rd, 2008. More information at www.powellstreetfestival.com.

Media contact: Sabrina @ Diane Kadota Arts Management @ 604.488.4474 or psfmedia@dkam.ca

The Powell Street Festival Society gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts, Department of Canadian Heritage, Province of BC through British Columbia Arts Council and Direct Access to Charitable Gaming, City of Vancouver Office of Cultural Affairs, and Japan Airlines.