

3A Gallery Presents

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Satoru Eguchi, Franck Lesbros, Aislinn McNamara, Mieko Meguro, and Michael Smith
December 18th - January 15, 2022

3A Gallery, 629 East 6th Street #1, New York, NY 10009

In March 2012 when Dan Graham and I visited Cologne, Germany, it was almost Dan's 70's birthday. We went to a cafe with his friends where we saw a newspaper announcing the birthdays of Nagisa Ohshima*, Dan Graham, and Gerd Baltus. We were all so delighted. Nagisa Ohshima and Dan Graham have the same birthday on March 31st, and Gerd Baltus' is on March 29th. Nagisa Ohshima and Gerd Baltus were born 10 years before Dan.



*Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence** is a movie directed by Nagisa Ohshima in 1983. The film is based on *Seed and Sower* by Sir Laurens van der Post. I love the film because it shows different countries of culture and language sharing similar desperate situations. Here the subject is homosexuality on the battlefield.

In Japan, homosexuality and tattooing were not taboo in the past. And, about taboo, nobody talked about it, but everyone knew. Japan was a closed country from 1639 to 1854. However, once the country opened to the world in 1854, it discovered that the country's normal was not what the world expected. People went on not talking about homosexuality and tattoos became a symbol for Yakuza (gangsters). These two cultures are still evolving.

After *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence*, Nagisa Ohshima continued to focus on homosexuality in movies such as *Gohatto*

(*Taboo*). I have no idea why he was interested in this subject.

There was a remarkable essayist Masako Shirasu* (1910-1998). Her essay *A Beauty of Androgynous** contained fascinating information; it describes a person of both sexes. I hope someone translates her book into English. She wrote, "Simone de Beauvoir said 'one is not born, but rather becomes a woman'. However, before a man becomes a man, there is a mysterious and fascinating period that does not seem to belong to this world".

I hope my translation is good enough for the reader to understand what she meant.

I wonder if the Ohshima movie's message in *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence* (1983), and Ohshima's later movie *Gohatto* (1999) were related to Masako Shirasu's view of Japan's culture and sexuality. Her book was published in 1997 after her death in 1998. So, she talked about taboo and then left this world.

David Bowie* did a great job acting in *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence*. Ryuichi Sakamoto's* makeup on his face was furious on the battlefield, but in the movie, it works. And Sakamoto's music for the film was amazing.

Dan Graham likes Christmas. He talks constantly about Christmas and listens to Christmas songs almost every day. He has a passion for making the greatest hits CDs, and all the CDs have Christmas songs.

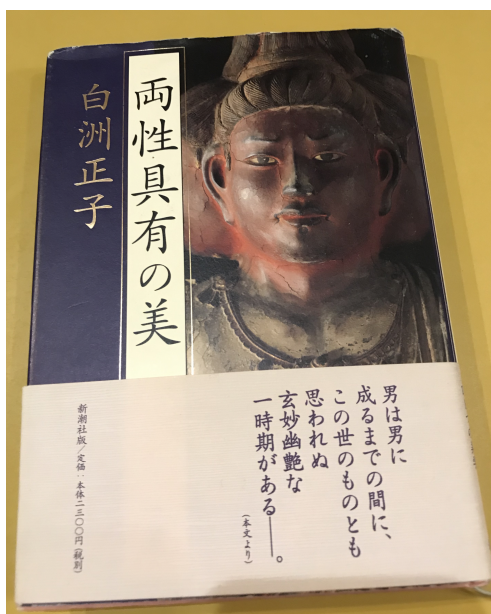
Now, 3A Gallery is ready to present a Christmas show that honors the Christmas lovers Dan Graham and Nagisa Ohshima along with the artists Satoru Eguchi, Franck Lesbros, Aislinn McNamara, Mieko Meguro and Michael Smith.

I hope all of us are all happy and comfortable with our sexuality. Bravo rainbow!!

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!***Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merry_Christmas,_Mr._Lawrence

Sir Laurens van der Post** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurens_van_der_PostNagisa Ohshima** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagisa_Ōshima

***Masako Shirasu** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masako_Shirasu



*The book of Masako Shirasu, ***A beauty of Androgynous***

***David Bowie**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Bowie

***Ryuichi Sakamoto**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryuichi_Sakamoto

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