

Kota Ezawa

The Curse of Dimensionality

January 5 - February 18, 2012

Opening reception and book release with the artist:
Thursday, January 5th, 2012, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

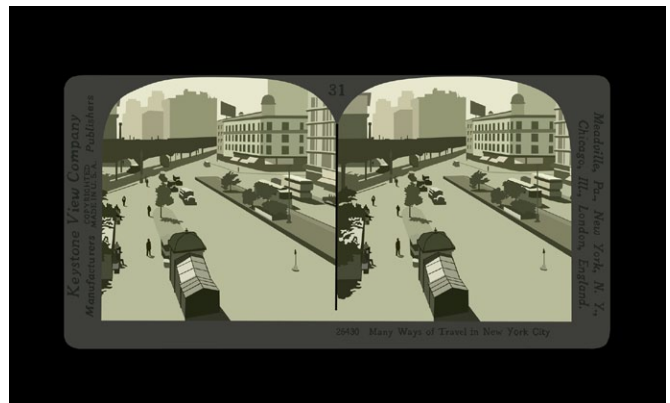
Exhibition to coincide with the release of *Paper Space*, a cut paper collage, pop-up book, edition of 40, produced by the San Francisco Center for the Book.

In works produced during the last three years, Kota Ezawa addresses dimensionality and perception using a variety of media including animation, lightboxes, paper cutouts and stereoscopic images. Physical and illusionary space, reality and fiction form a complex relationship in Ezawa's still and moving images that reference films, TV footage and photographs from the early twentieth century to present-day. The exhibition is divided into two areas, one containing light emitting works displayed as lightboxes and flat screen monitors – the other made up of light-absorbing surfaces such as framed works on paper and photographic prints. This is Ezawa's fourth solo exhibition at Haines Gallery.

The exhibition includes *City of Nature* (2011), an animation originally commissioned for Madison Square Park in New York. The work weaves together fleeting excerpts from 20 popular films – including "Days of Heaven", "Brokeback Mountain", "Twin Peaks" and "Fitzcarraldo" – in which nature alone is featured onscreen. Drawn manually using Ezawa's hallmark style of freehand, computer-assisted digital animation, these vignettes are edited together to form a new narrative in which nature, otherwise used as cut away or in-between shots, acts as the central character.

Nature and landscape are also featured in Ezawa's new lightboxes, stereoscopic images and paper cutout collages. Referencing NASA imagery and nature photography the lightbox images are drawn in a way that de-naturalizes their photographic reality, lending them a fictional aesthetic. In the stereoscopic images, a process new to the artist's practice, Ezawa re-presents scenes from *City of Nature* as virtual dioramas. When seen through a stereo viewer, the flatness that commonly characterizes Ezawa's work expands into a layered three-dimensional space. Landscapes and seascapes are the subject of the cut paper collages. The paper cutouts mirror the flat

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Detail of *Nature Scenes*, 2011, 9 mounted stereographic prints & plywood viewer; Viewer: 9 x 7.5 x 15 inches / 9 slides, each: 3.5 x 7 inches, Ed. of 5; Detail of *Woodstock*, 2012, Paper Cutout, Frame: 18.5 x 22.75 inches / Paper: 13.25 x 17.25 inches; Detail of *Stereogram*, 2011, Duratrans transparency & lightbox, Lightbox: 22 x 26 x 2 inches / Image: 20 x 24 inches, Ed. of 5

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color drawing style found in Ezawa's digitally produced works. In the exhibition the cutouts are arranged to form another mega landscape made up of diverse individual paper landscapes.

Paper cutouts also form the basis for *Paper Space* – a pop-up book consisting of paper cutout dioramas based on film and TV depictions of historic events that have been the subject of earlier works by Ezawa. Apart from providing a gaze at history, the book contemplates space—the space of a book, the space of a page, the book as space, flatness, and three-dimensionality. *Paper Space* was produced through the San Francisco Center for the Book, where the work is concurrently on view from December 16, 2011 through January 27, 2012.

Ezawa's work has been showcased in solo exhibitions at Hayward Gallery, London; Artpace, San Antonio; and Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford. He has been included in exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art, New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.; Minneapolis Institute of Art; Queensland Art Gallery, Australia; and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. He received a SECA Art Award from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2006, Eureka Fellowship in 2010 and was an artist-in-residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts last year. Ezawa's work is featured in the collections of Museum of Modern Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Art Institute of Chicago and other institutions.