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Yuji Hiratsuka received his B.S. in Art Education from Tokyo Gakugei University, his M.A. in Printmaking from New Mexico State University, and his M.F.A. in Printmaking from Indiana University.____

Research Interest_

Most of my work is created using the intaglio printmaking process. This involves etching, drypoint, softground and roulette on a copper plate. I use a four-color printing process (black, yellow, red and blue in order) on a thin Japanese Kozo (Mulberry) paper. As in the French use of the technique of "Chine Collé", I apply glue to the back of the completed work and pass it through the press with a heavier rag paper beneath.____

Although my artwork is mainly considered representational, I deal with more metaphorical aspects rather than realistic physical evidence. The human bodies which are often simplified, exaggerated, and /or distorted along with other elements-- fruit, vegetables, furniture, animals, etc.--have been my most recent focus. I am interested in expressing human conditions such as mood, feeling and thought through ambiguous and whimsical figures. Moreover, my figure images bear a slight resemblance to traditional Japanese Ukiyo-e prints, which are frequently flat, bright and decorative.____

Teaching_

One of the most intangible assets of a good teacher is that the teacher should have the ability to inspire his or her students. Although modern technology has changed to understand the face of art, it has not changed the necessity of the student to be able to understand what it is that he or she wants to create; nor has it changed what the teacher needs to communicate. No matter what medium in which the artist is working or what tool the artist has at his or her disposal, the process of translating our artistic conception from an image or an idea to a physical reality remains perhaps the most vital component of the artistic endeavor. My perception of the importance of this relationship is also the reason why I believe that active investigation and discussion of how other great artists of the past were able to translate their ideas into reality, including the discussion of the teacher's own work, should play an important role in the instruction of art students.

In sum, I believe that an excellent art teacher is both a model to his or her students and a person who is a fellow traveler on a road to ever different and more creative expressions of his or her ideas.