

A visitor at Lane Community College examines Yuji Hiratsuka's exhibit of Japanese portraits.



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/EMERALD

University professor exhibits abstract portraits at LCC

The portraits, which deal with the Westernization of Japan, include hidden pictures, bursts of color

By Elisabeth Forsythe
Freelance Reporter

Yuji Hiratsuka, a University art professor, has produced a beautiful and exuberant series of simple and abstract portraits dealing with Japanese people's struggle with Westernization.

Each print is done in color intaglio and chine colle, and feature simplified people in various situations against wildly colorful backgrounds.

The people themselves are stark and bare. They are usually pictured in black western clothing, although some have Asian touches. Although the pictures are presumably of Asians, Hiratsuka has left out the traditional Asian features, leaving the faces blank except for eyebrows and bright red lips.

"In my work, I draw from the ancient and contempo-

rary to express the mismatched combinations and hodgepodge which is Japanese daily life. I always leave the face blank or flat and the profile very simple. The portraits are left ambiguous so that the viewer can add his or her interpretation," Hiratsuka said.

The results are powerful. The portraits reflect basic social situations, from love relationships in "Eternal Triangle" to conformity in "Triplets Posing" and social restrictions in "Chained and Stringed Trio" and "Judgment."

The simple black-clothed people stand out from abstract backgrounds, and color bursts forth like silly string.

For the careful observer, the longer one looks, the more there is to see, the longer one looks. There is often a hidden or obscured person in the center.

Another surprise is the metallic silver sunglasses in "Chained and Stringed Trio." In "Crab Dancers" there are actually crabs ringing the picture—and one person has six fingers. Faces and symbols hide in plain sight in these complex pieces.

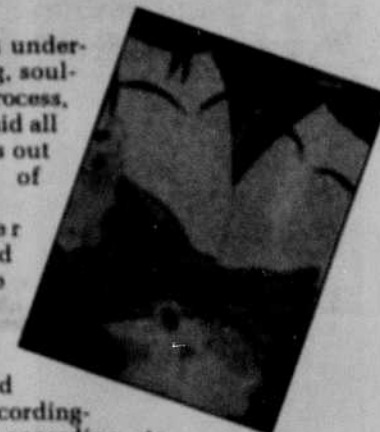
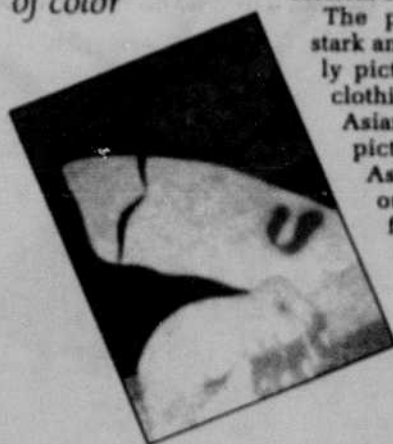
A written statement by Stephen Chovanec relates how Hiratsuka named his pieces.

Rather than undergoing a long, soul-searching process, he merely laid all of his prints out in front of Chovanec.

Together they figured out what the people were doing in each picture and named it accordingly. This, according to Chovanec, exemplified Hiratsuka's Zen sensibility of doing rather than thinking.

Hiratsuka's art exhibit at Lane Community College ends April 26.

The exhibit is at the LCC main campus at their Art Department Gallery until April 26. It is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 747-4501 ext. 2409.



Take a study break at Scandals!

Every Friday between 9-11:30 pm Food & beverages are on the House (call us for more details).

Karaoke

We also have Karaoke featuring Japanese, Chinese, Korean and English song titles every Friday and Saturday.

Comedy Night

Every Saturday from 9-11 pm with dancing afterwards.

Dancing

Dance the night away to Top 40s Music.



Scandals

2222 Centennial Blvd. • Eugene, Oregon
343-4734

EAST COAST FROM \$168*

LONDON	\$317*
TOKYO	\$309*
LIMA	\$428*
CASABLANCA	\$509*
SYDNEY	\$548*
NAIROBI	\$796*

*Taxes are extra and vary by country. See us for more details. Rates valid only for travel on or before 12/31/96. See us for details on booking and restrictions. Call for more information.

EUROPE BY TRAIN

FROM \$14/DAY

YOUTH/2 MONTHS

PLUS...WORK/STUDY &
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
HOSTEL MEMBERSHIPS
ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Council Travel

715 S.W. MONROE, SUITE 600
PORTLAND, OR 97205

(503) 228-1900

FAX: (503) 273-8450

NATIONAL RESERVATION CENTER (1-800-2-COUNCIL)

<http://www.clee.org/cts/ctshome.htm>

EURAILPASSES ISSUED ON-THE-SPOT!



RECYCLE