

Zsa Zsa presents I LOVE YOU HAPPY FACE, an exhibition of new work by Toronto artist PETE DAKO, premiering Saturday, March 4th, 2000 at 2 pm continuing to March 25th.

The exhibition will include new paintings of acrylic, enamel and phosphorescent paints on stretched square canvases and found circular surfaces.

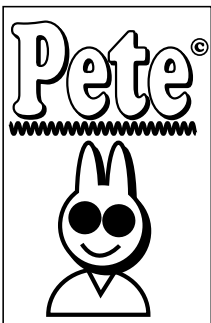
Where much of Dako's body of work has explored linear visual narratives, particularly through the form of comics, I LOVE YOU HAPPY FACE utilizes the perfect geometric forms of square and circle as vehicles to create nonlinear fictive landscapes. Each square painting, (such as those in the "Ghost series", executed in phosphorescent paint), can be hung one of four ways. The only correct way is however it happens to be hanging. Dako's new paintings have no "Up." They are, instead, all Up.

Each circular painting hangs around a central axis, permitting an endless version of itself. Old world spiritual traditions such as mandalas and healing circles are updated, upgraded and recycled in acrylic polymers on vinyl phonograph records. The healing circle as MAD magazine insert. Other circle paintings, rendered in spray paint, car paints and rust-proof enamel on metal saw blades and miscellaneous machine parts combine a folk art materiality with the high art aspirations of abstract and pattern painting and the low brow explorations of comix culture.

Dako's hard edged grafix, pop art colour and layered imagery evolve from the artist's own experience creating and publishing underground comics. Also prevalent in these works is the influence of Japanese manga, commercial illustration and design, graphism, graffiti, street tagging and iconic gaming and computer graphical-user-interfaces. Within the melange is a residue of television culture, advertising overload and a bombardment of other middle class urban influences.

Saturated and fused together, these influences mark an idiosyncratic vernacular language. Square or circle, they are Dako's Wheel O' Life.

Two publications will complement the exhibition. These completely graphic "Zines" Untitled® and Pete® will feature new, never-before-published work by the artist.



PETE DAKO is a graduate of the American College in Paris and the Ontario College of Art and has been exhibiting his work in solo and group exhibitions since 1978 in Canada, the United States and Europe. In 1983 Dako began publishing Casual Casual Magazine. In 1987, Dako curated the Casual Casual Cultural Exchange between Montreal, Toronto and Paris, a survey of the best independent and underground comic artists of the day. His work is housed in various private collections in Toronto, France, New York and Japan. Dako lives in Toronto with his son Max.

Untitled®

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