

JIRO OSUGA CAFÉ JIRO

Private View Wednesday 29 April 6-8pm



29 April – 23 May 2009

Opening times: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-2

Flowers

21 Cork St
London
W1S 3LZ

In an ambitious site-specific installation, Jiro Osuga has covered the walls of Flowers Cork Street with a life-sized mural cycle that transforms the gallery into an idiosyncratic café. On entering the space, the viewer steps into another world – a microcosm teeming with incidental incidents, peopled by an unlikely clientele that includes Shakespeare, Osama Bin Laden and the Grim Reaper. The walls of *Café Jiro* are decorated with an equally absurd assortment of objects: a stuffed unicorn, the Rosetta stone and doctored Japanese print, to name but a few. Playful spatial invention (and intervention) abounds; a window is painted looking outwards on one wall, and inwards on another.

The artist sees the café as a metaphor for the city, the world, and for life itself:

For Shakespeare, all the world was a stage, and Liza Minnelli sang about life being a Cabaret, but couldn't life, in fact, be a café? After all, we are born, we enter a café, we make and lose friends and lovers, think, work, dream, despair, intoxicate ourselves and finally leave after paying what is due.

Osuga encourages the viewer's eyes to wander across the 360 degree painting and allow their minds to drift as they might when seated in a real café.

Painted by the artist over a six-month period, the mural scheme - which is over three meters high and thirty meters long in total - is his largest work to date. *Café Jiro* is the fulfilment of a life-long ambition to create 'a painting that is a place: a complete world in and of itself'.

For further information, please contact Sandrine Janet at Flowers on 020 7439 7766 or email sandrine@flowerseast.com