

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**



# MADE IN JAPAN

**A PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTALLATION BY MARIKO MORI  
APRIL 11 TO APRIL 27 1996**

**OPENING RECEPTION APRIL 11, 6:00PM TO 8:00PM**

*Made in Japan*, an exhibition of new work by Mariko Mori, opens on April 11, 1996 at Deitch Projects. Mori will present four large scale photographic works in which she appears in various roles which fuse fantasy and reality. The artist sets up scenarios where she is costumed as a cyborg fantasy figure in settings typical of contemporary Japan. In her work, *In the Beginning of the End*, she appears as a space alien whose capsule has landed at the entrance to busy Shibuya station. In *Empty Dream*, she is a mermaid who poses on an artificial indoor beach, and in *Last Departure*, she is a sci-fi superhero reflected in the futuristic architecture of the new Kansai International Airport. In *Birth of a Star*, she hovers in a 3-D holographic panel, looking like an artificial human.

Mori is fascinated by the way contemporary Japanese society balances technology, fantasy, and humanity. With an affectionate perspective on her native country, she explores the way fantasy and reality overlap in contemporary Japanese consciousness. The outrageous interventions of her cyborg-costumed persona into typical scenes of Japanese urban life seem surprisingly natural. Most of the passers-by in *The Beginning of the End*, her tableau of Shibuya Station, see nothing out of the ordinary in the presence of a lime green

costumed space cadet levitating in a plastic capsule in the middle of one of Tokyo's busiest public passages.

Fantasy and reality merge in these images that characterize the contradictions of contemporary Tokyo. It is a world where cartoon characters step out of comic books to stalk the real streets and real people withdraw from their grim routine to lose themselves in cartoon fantasies. It was once assumed that the conflagration of fantasy and reality was a sign of mental illness. Now it may be a sign of healthy adjustment to contemporary life.

Drawing on her experience as a fashion model, her studies in fashion design, and her acute movie-director-like sense of scene, Mori has created photographic tableaux where fantasy comes to life and life becomes fantasy. Mori's art is part of the vanguard that is fusing performance with painting, sculpture, and photography.

Mori was born in Tokyo in 1967 and came to New York in 1992 after studying in London. She now divides her time between New York and Tokyo.

A video peephole installation by Mariko Mori, *Body Capsule in Shibuya*, can be seen at Postmaster's Gallery, 80 Greene Street, April 20 through May 18, 1996.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SARAH WATSON AT DEITCH PROJECTS  
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