

THE NUDE DRAWN AND PAINTED

NORIO AZUMA (1928-2004)

November 2 - 30, 2005

at

Medialia ... Rack and Hamper Gallery, Space II
335 W. 38th St., 4th fl, New York NY 10018-2916
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Hours: Wednesday to Saturday
12:00 to 5:00 and by appointment

Opening reception: Saturday, November 5, 3-6 pm

**For more information and visuals, please visit our website:
www.medialiangallery.com**

Norio Azuma was born in Mie-Ken, Japan. He graduated Kanazawa Art College in 1952, and continued his studies at Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles, CA, 1955 - 1957, and The Art Students League, New York, 1957 - 1959.

Before Azuma came to the USA in 1955, his figurative work was selected and exhibited in *Nitten*, one of the most respected national competitions in Japan. He moved to New York in early 1957, and his interest turned to silkscreen printed on canvas. He was a pioneer in this technique. Until this time silkscreen was predominantly used for utilitarian purposes. Azuma was one of the artists who introduced silkscreen into fine art. His screen prints are collected by major international museums, and his work is in numerous public collections. This exhibition focuses on his nude series from the mid 1970's.

Austin Patrone wrote in the brochure for this exhibition :

... As he sketched, the models would maintain a pose only for a few minutes. It is amazing how refined many of his drawings are despite the speed in which they were done. He had developed his own drawing technique to capture the models' poses. He used a brush, dipped in oil paint which was thinned with turpentine, to quickly wash in the position of the pose and to suggest its general outlines. This wash, which was always a reddish, beige, or brownish flesh tone, added feeling and vitality to the sketches. After applying the wash, he used a soft pencil to complete the drawing. The pencil lines were drawn over the wash, without exactly following the wash outlines ...

Four examples of Azuma's serigraphs are included in this exhibition.

Mashiko Nakashima
Director
Medialia ... Rack and Hamper Gallery

Space I : **THE NUDE • CLAY • METAL • STONE**
An exhibition by international artists

The gallery was established in 1992, and specializes in small, affordable works by international artists, including: book art, medallic sculpture, small sculpture, transformable sculpture, wearable sculpture, and wall hangings. Work of gallery artists is exhibited on a continual basis, along with special one-person and group exhibitions by international artists.