



Yumiko Kayukawa **Be My Baby**

Female Artists at Work for Play

photos Shadi Muklashy and Nucleus

Los Angeles has no shortage of places to go and things to see. A few weeks ago it was brought to our attention of a gallery show that showcased over 40 female artists at a large gallery and pop culture shop in Alhambra, California. Add a female DJ, free drinks, bra and panty shaped cookies, 10% off all store items for ladies, two stories of eye candy, free admission and you have an event enticing enough to drag out a crowd that packs tightly into 3,500 square feet of space. The gallery itself is quite large and impressive. Unassuming from the outside, walking into Nucleus, you would first see the store

portion. Full of unique t-shirts, toys, and books. "It has a slight home spun feel that has a character all its own." says Catia Chien from The Girl Show. After browsing around a bit, you eventually come towards the back entrance way that separates the gallery and the store. The space is well separated and the contrast from the abundant variety of merchandise to the capacious and minimal room prepares you for the art viewing experience ahead.

We found that many of the artists in the show were in attendance as well as several other industry professionals, many of them from the animation and illustration community, local and abroad.

A show of all female artists is not an uncommon thing. However, there is something attractive about this show as a whole that is different from others like it. Besides the fact these images are created with a feminine touch, these works force the viewers attention like stolen glances at some distant beauty to figure out

its attraction, only to find yourself staring repeatedly. The work was diverse to say the least, their styles ranging from playful, innocent, and sensual. Fittingly, it reflects the many unique visions of not just "females artists" but obviously artists in their own right creating the default theme for the show, "the female in contemporary art and illustration."

The show seems to attempt at revealing some elusive insight. It is as if trying to find a common thread between different facets of femininity among these amazing artists. Whatever the case, the Curator's intention does not seem so much to be one of social commentary, but a good display of what happens when a group of talented female artists are given the opportunity to showcase their work.

From paint to sculpture and even plush, this show was enjoyable because of its atmosphere. One gets a sense of a light-hearted gathering of female artists at work for play.

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 @gallerynucleus.com



Mari Araki
Einstein's Hairpiece



Anna Chambers
Lucy Owl

