



inbetween world

yokai



manga about japanese folklore
and the "inbetween world"
integrating ukiyo-e and sumi-e

cover: the soul escaping by the mouth
- personal researches

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Hanadaka-Tengu, mountains yōkai
- personal researches

SYNOPSIS

In medieval Japan of the Edo* period (in 1850s), people, any age, any environment and sex, begin suddenly to see yōkais*. How to explain this phenomenon? Is there a link between these characters ?



Rokuro Kubi, yōkai geisha
- drawing from the 24H
comic of Angouleme

FORM

Yōkai: inbetween worlds, it's at first a type of contents and an exploration of the Japanese techniques regarding visual art, concentrated on the following three techniques: manga, ukiyo-e* and sumi-e*.

manga

Yōkai: inbetween worlds is based on the writing of a comic strip in the Japanese specific format, the manga:

- small size (± 5" x 7")
- black and white (and nuances of grey)
- large number of pages: 200-300
- history cut in chapters, facilitating a possible prepublication
- occidental or Japanese sense of reading (inverted) - to define

This choice allows to explore the codes of the Japanese comic strip, but also to publish at a lower cost, thanks to the black and the white and in the slightest size.

+👤 Participants

- Seika university (advices, review...)
- Manga Museum (event - researches)
- Art and design University (advices, review, characters choice...)

ukiyo-e

The project also explores the Japanese prints, the sheet stemming from the printing of woodblock engraving. This mode of communication was very used during the period of Edo, handling often funnily delicate subjects (criticisms disguised of the shogunate), completely folk or sexual.

These prints will become integrated into the manga at the same time in reproduction of pages, and as original art for the cover (the covers of mangas are always sheets added).

A print as a tribute to Shigeru Mizuki (died at the end of 2015) is planned.

During special event managements, live printings explain the technique, while current engravings (wooden blocks) are exposed, with the tools of engraving.

+👤 Participants

› Kyōto

- Kitamura Shoichi - professional carver - japanese, renowned, traditional, workshop - met in 2015 in Kyōto
- Studio Takezasado - professional carver
- Richard Steiner - professional carver - met in 2015 in Kyōto

- Seika university (where studied Kitamura Shoichi) - contact 2015
- › Tōkyō
 - Motoharu Asaka - professional carver - contact 2015
 - Mi-lab - learning - contact 2015
 - David Bull - professional carver - contact 2015

sumi-e

It is not here a question to learn and to reproduce sumi-e in the purest Japanese style, but to concentrate on the study of two styles:

- the style of Hokusai: if he is more known for its prints (The big wave), he is before all a painter - his line will be studied, through its sketches of available studies in Manga.
- the zen buddhist painters will be studied for their learned use of the black and the dilutions of grey, which replace in this manga traditional grey halftone.

Many more painters left paintings of the Japanese folklore, by which I would also be inspired.

+👤 Participants

- Professional or expert painter in sumi-e
- Museums (Hokusai one to Obuse)
- Libraries

CONTENT

japanese folklore

The creatures of the Japanese folklore are uncountable. The mangaka Shigeru Mizuki, even published a dictionary of yōkai. The sudden yōkai and their reappearance is the superficial subject of the project and ukiyo-e will be portraits of yōkai.



Dorotabo, mud yōkai in rice paddies
- drawing from the 24H comic of Angouleme

death and inbetween worlds

Yōkai: inbetween worlds approaches the death in second part, through human spirits stuck in the inbetween worlds. As yōkai, they allow, in turn, to make the link between real world and invisible world.

Sometimes connections are made with living humans during prayers etc.

religion(s)

We often say that the Japanese is born shinto, gets married christian and dies buddhist. This Japanese plurality and tolerance provide diverse and varied conceptions of the death and thus of the inbetween worlds, which will be evoked.

GLOSSARY

Edo : subdivision traditional of the history of Japan which begins in 1600, and ends in 1868 with the restoration Meiji. It is dominated by the shogunate Tokugawa the capital of which Edo (old name of Tokyo) is the capital

shinto : sets of faiths from the ancient history of Japan, sometimes recognized as religion. It mixes polytheistic and animistic elements. It is about the oldest religion of Japan and particularly connected to its mythology

sumi-e : movement of the japanese paint native of China and dominating at the time of Muromachi. This current is characterized by the use of the washing in the black ink, the ascendancy of the landscape as the subject and the closeness with the philosophy of the zen buddhism

ukiyo-e : japanese artistic movement of the period of Edo (1603-1868) including not only an original popular and narrative painting, but also and especially the Japanese prints from engraved woodblocks

yōkai : supernatural creature of the japanese folklore

yurei : spirit, ghost, strange apparition...

Are yōkai real ?

When one's die in Japan, does soul escape by the mouth ?

Can we see it ? Can it be reincarnated ? When ?

How Japanese people see the death ?

Does a violent death as a suicide involve to stay in the inbetween world ?

Can we communicate with living people ?

What invisible link unites all the characters ?

Hanadaka-Tengu, mountains yōkai
- personal researches



petit effronté!
ferme-là!

tu te crois malin! ?
tu crois tout savoir et tout comprendre...

男女性
変化



IT'S
IN THIS
SPOTLESS FOREST OF
WHITE THAT I SAW HER
FOR THE FIRST TIME...
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT
SUCH MONSTERS
EXIST !!!!!



Onibaba, mountains yōkai
- personal researches

When the invisible becomes visible, it's a whole world of creatures which opens to us, as well as a new way of seeing life and death!

If you are fascinated by the invisible, dive into *Yōkai: inbetween worlds*: you will never pray in the same way!

In medieval Japan of the Edo* period (in 1850s), people, any age, any environment and sex, begin suddenly to see yōkais*. How to explain this phenomenon? Is there a link between these characters ?

*yōkai : creature from the japanese traditional folklore

Yōkai : inbetween worlds is also a trip through japanese traditional and modern graphic styles, such as the ukiyo-e (print), the manga (japanese BD) and the sumi-e (painting in the India ink).

After ten years of veterinary practice, Stéphane Bouillet creates remedact, his box of utopian images, mixing photo, graphic design, prints and comics. He made a speciality to work on esoteric worlds.