

Satoru Nihei

Satoru Nihei is a graphic designer born and raised in Fukushima, Japan and practicing in the United States. Nihei's work explores the personal and emotional life experiences through typographic form and design. In his work Nihei addresses emotional human presence in an expressive, contemplative, whimsical and often a playful manner. The work evokes a keen sense of human psyche, tapping into the unknown uncertainty of life.

Currently Nihei is the 2017–2018 Thirst Artist in Residence (3st AiR) in Chicago. He is working in collaboration with Rick Valicenti and the Thirst studio members.

Nihei's design work has been published internationally, in The Tokyo Type Directors Club Design Annual, METROPOLIS, Graphic Design: The New Basics authored by Ellen Lupton and Jennifer Cole Phillips and among others.

In 2010 Nihei's work and interview were published in Font Family: Get Familiar with Fonts along with Stefan Sagmeister and Rick Valicenti.

In 2017 Nihei's recent daily poster project earned recognition from the Society of Typographic Arts Chicago. Additionally Nihei's essay on Darkness, Doubt, and Design was published on Design Observer. Nihei's work is included in national and international collections and exhibitions. Three of Nihei's posters were selected for the final exhibition of the Golden Bee 12 / Moscow Global Biennale of Graphic Design. Most recently, Stefan Sagmeister acquired an AO edition of the LEAP poster for his extensive personal design/art collection.

Despite the fact that Nihei was a high school dropout, he received his AA in painting from Mushashino Art University, a BFA in graphic design from Maine College of Art, and his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2011.

Recognitions

Thirst Artist in Residence, 2017–2018
The Society of Typographic Arts Chicago (STA 100), 2017
Graphic Matters, 2017
Jazz in the Ruins, 2017
Golden Bee 12 / Moscow Global Biennale of Graphic Design, 2016
Detroit Jazz Festival Poster Competition, 2011
Tokyo Type Directors Club, 2006
AIGA 50 Books/50 Covers of 2004

Exhibitions

TYPEFORCE 9, 2018
My Love for Me, 2017
Graphic Matters, 2017
Typojanchi, 2017
TYPEFORCE 8, 2017
Golden Bee 12 / Moscow Global Biennale of Graphic Design, 2016
Way too beyond: Big Sats' Top 30, 2016
Project Passion, 2016
No Object is an Island: New Dialogues with the Cranbrook Collection, 2011–2012

Lectures & Workshops

Cranbrook Academy of Art, 2018
Leeward Community College, 2017
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), 2017
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), 2016
Lawrence Tech University, 2015
Alfred University, 2010

Publications

Design Observer, 2017
Papercraft 2: Design and Art With Paper, 2011
Playful Type 2, 2010
Font Family: Get Familiar with Fonts!, 2010
Graphic Design: The New Basics, 2008
Eye, Summer 2007
METROPOLIS, 2006
Tokyo Type Directors Club Design Annual, 2006
AIGA 50 Books/50 Covers, 2004