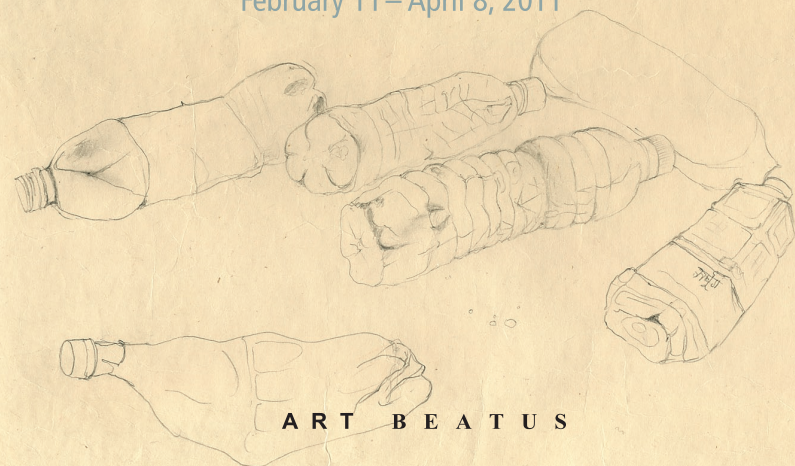


## ON THE EDGE OF WATER

Tomoyo Ihaya

February 11 – April 8, 2011



ART BEATUS

## ON THE EDGE OF WATER

Tomoyo Ihaya

By Ann Rosenberg

Mysterious artworks that demonstrate a human need for water that can never be slaked and a desire for food that can never be satisfied reflect aspects of Tomoyo Ihaya's profound insight into deep philosophical truths. This understanding has been nourished by extensive travels, art making workshops and the living conditions she has experienced in India, Thailand and Mexico. This understanding has been nourished by her extensive travels, art making workshops and living condition in many parts of the world including India, Thailand and Mexico.

The current show in Vancouver's Art Beatus Consultancy Ltd. called *On the Edge of Water* features new material based on field-sketches, digital prints and photo collages created during and after a 2009/10 Canada Council Project Grant and her self-supported journeys to many parts of South Asia. During this period, she traveled by train, bus and car stopping at familiar and unfamiliar places along the way to walk, meet with people and to attend holy festivals. One significant destination was Varanasi on the Ganges River where all devoted Hindus go



*Rivers Meet*, Mixed media on Japanese paper, 14.25 x 23.5", 2010

for ritual purification at least once while alive and to be cremated upon their deaths.

In this exhibit, four limited edition archival digital prints of photo-based images with collage additions expand her previous repertoire. In *Water Gathering*, for example, we are convinced that the site-workers' real quest for water is augmented by the helpful intervention of spiritual creatures with jugs the artist knew were there.

There are also many emotive mixed media works in her familiar style. In *Rivers Meet*, an apparition of a large weeping figure seated in a fire pit dominates the composition. Its human heart is formed of tears that rained down from the clouds. Small dogs wait patiently at its feet.

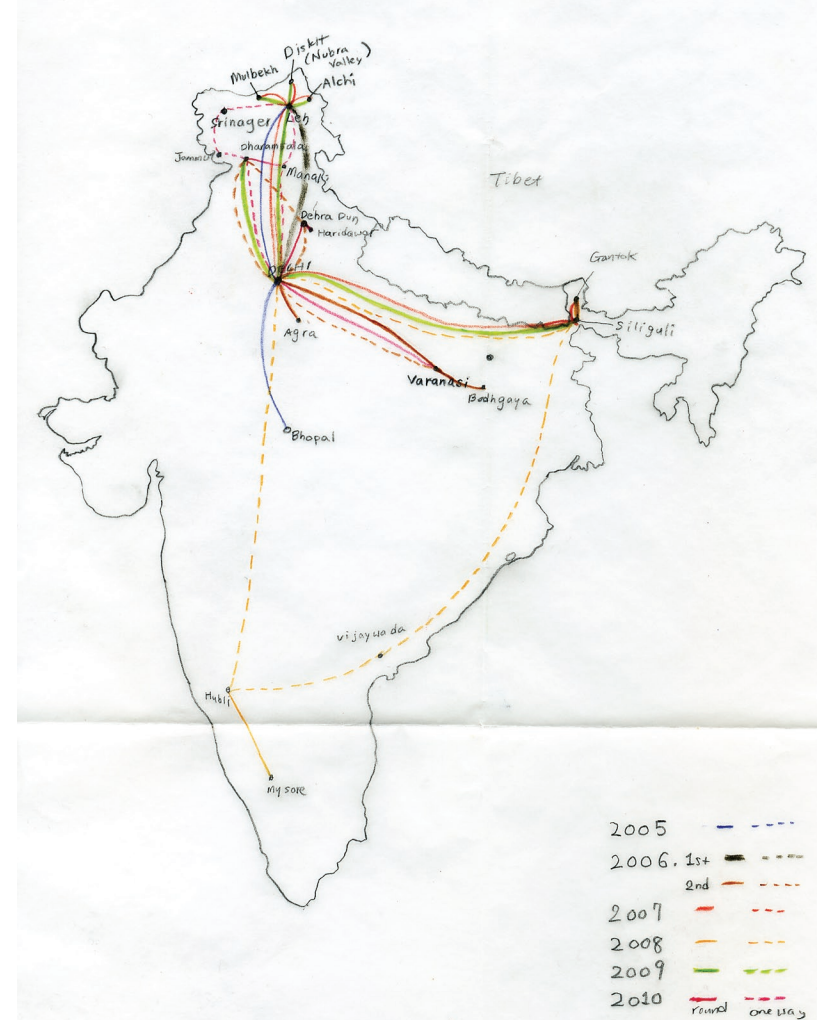


*Water Tanks*, Mixed media on Japanese paper, 15.75 x 19.25", 2010





Water Gathering, Mixed media on Inkjet print 17 x 22", 2010



## BIOGRAPHY

Before coming to Canada in 1994, Tomoyo Ihaya earned a BA from Rikkyo University in Japan and a BFA from Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. Her academic studies climaxed with the receipt of an MFA degree from the University of Alberta in 2002.

For the last sixteen years Ihaya has exhibited prolifically in local, national and international public and private galleries. Her displays feature mixed-media works that prove her mastery of etching, drawing, chine collé, watercolours and paper and/or felted sculpture.

She has received numerous grants from the Canada Council, BC Arts Council, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, VADA (Visual Artist Development Award) as well as several scholarships and printmaking honours.

Curiosity about other cultures and a strong belief that art and life should be intertwined has led to extensive travel and participation in several artist-in-residency programs in many parts of the globe.

The artist would like to acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.



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 Calling to arrange an appointment is recommended. Street/Underground Parking Available.

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