

YURI SHIMOJO

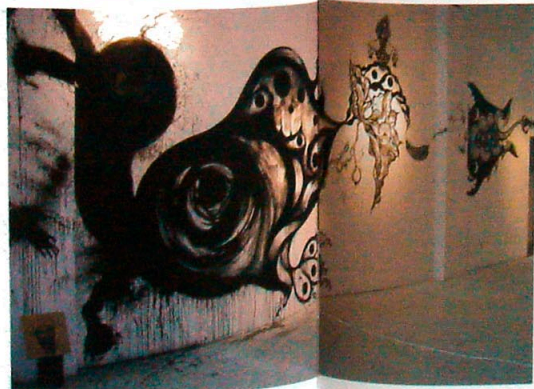
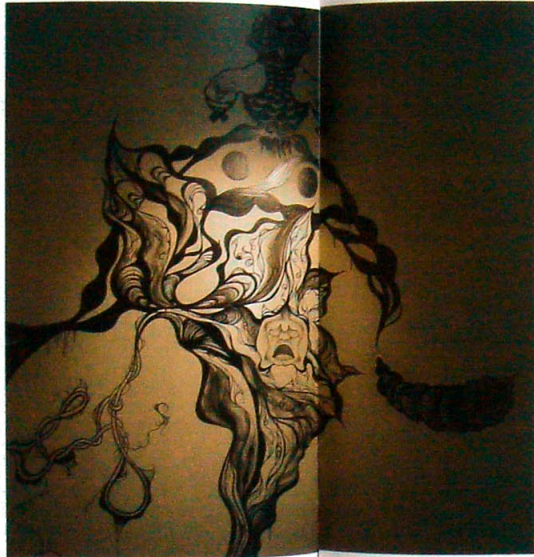
Whenever Yuri Shimojo is painting a mural, she tries to tell a story that is related to the place and at the same time personally inspires her - "so that the artwork extends beyond simple pretty designs and patterns." In her murals she strives to combine the freedom she enjoys as a fine artist and the communication skills she has developed as an illustrator. For her driftwood works, she undergoes an even more meditative process of imagination: "I don't initially think about what I want to create - I just collect what I can, then I live with the collected pieces of driftwood for 24 hours, to spend day and night with their natural form. Then suddenly I have revelations, and the driftwood starts to look like E.T. or a Lamborghini Countach."

Considering the strong feelings she has about places like shantytowns or children's wards in hospitals, she wants to create work that can "inject some positive light into environments that tend to be dark and gloomy." Correspondingly, her dream project would be to design a playground.



"Boyd"
Mural, Boyd Restaurant
West Village, New York, USA, 2005

"Given that it was a restaurant, I had to carefully choose the perfect colours to comfort the visitors. To make it a very personal space, I composed motifs from episodes of the chef's childhood memories in Thailand. I used water-based house paint and stencils."



"Better Tomorrow"
Artwork for the group exhibition
"Better Tomorrow Today"
Supreme Trading's Annex Gallery
Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, USA, 2004

"This is part of a sequenced mural. While the paintings as a whole deal with how to achieve a better tomorrow, my section represents emotional confusion that exists in today's society. I worked with charcoal, sumi ink and house paint."