

# explosions on the orient

words: sarah jayne fell







Marumiyān's work is a combination of hand-drawn images (using a pen-tablet), photographs and digital manipulation, put together in Photoshop. He says he's drawn inspiration from Japanese cartoonist, Taiyō Matsumoto, and Spanish surrealist, Joan Miró. His work also reflects the style of sixties Art Nouveau posters by artists like Alfons Mucha, modernised by a more sophisticated understanding of light and shadow invoked by the subsequent revolution in photography. Marumiyān also says he is profoundly inspired by music, which he is unable to work without, and listens to anything from electronica to rock, and jazz to hip-hop while creating his explosions of colour and energy. He speaks of his work as "an expression of his imaginational world", placing importance on "showing his colour". "I'd like to present my world," he says, "the world of my imagination, to people whenever possible". So, here we present, the world of Marumiyān.

The graphic art of Marumiyari is a visual extension of Ryosuke Mori's fantastic imagination imbued by a childhood spent in the countryside of Japan, family visits to art galleries, and hours occupied by doodling on backs of flyers and any scrap paper he could get his hands on. Mori went on to study graphic arts and design at university in the starkly other-worldly Fukuoka, the oldest city in Japan that has also been named one of the ten most dynamic cities in the world. The breakthrough in his work shows something in the young Mori's mind must have exploded as his two disparate worlds collided. Creating images harking back to traditional Japanese culture that erupt with intricate natural elements fused with darker urban symbolism and coloured by the vibrancy of Fukuoka's energy, his art invokes a fantastical new world he's been transplanted to. Serene, beauty-spotted women adorned with flamingos and leopards, skulls and jewels, with flowers and feathers erupting from their beings, gaze into the distance to a faraway place. Art Nouveau juxtaposes with Japanese Manga, the old world clashes with the new, the man-made merges with nature. Saturated colour flows throughout, creating a dazzling sense of harmony in a pastiche of diametric opposition.

Mori is now working under the name 'Marumiyān' as both a freelance commercial designer and a fine artist, and the ambitious twenty-something-year-old has been commanding attention all over Asia with his disarming work. He's exhibited in Japan, Taiwan, Sweden and Poland to date, done commercial work on CD album art for over forty international musicians, and been featured in multiple Japanese magazines. This is his first-ever showcase in a non-Asian publication.

