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– NEWS –



## – GAJIN FUJITA: WARRIORS, GHOSTS AND ANCIENT GODS OF THE PACIFIC –

By ARTAND, California

‘Warriors, Ghosts and Ancient Gods of the Pacific’ – a solo presentation of works by Japanese American artist Gajin Fujita at California’s L.A. Louver – bridges the cultural gap between contemporary urban street art and the enduring aesthetics of traditional Japanese ukiyo-e or ‘floating world’ woodblock prints.

The LA-based artist, formerly known as Hyde, is one of few who have made the ascension to high-end galleries from the field of street art. In his work, Fujita continues to employ techniques indicative of the LA graffiti crew K2S (Kill to Succeed) of which he is a member, such as graffiti tags, spray paint, stencils and markers, yet he also surprises his audience with the delicate application of gold leaf and highly refined traditionalist imagery.

In ‘Warriors, Ghosts and Ancient Gods of the Pacific’, Fujita delivers thirteen large paintings produced over the last four years. The works feature bold and violent imagery that express the real world allegiances of criminal gangs, the spatial street battles of graffiti crews and the honour narratives reinforced in traditional Japanese woodblock prints. With this layered approach, the artist implies that the imagined drama and excitement of an ‘exotic’ land, like the East, is closer to home. As Justin Paton suggests in *ARTAND Australia* (vol. 52, no. 1, 2014), ‘With its gold leaf and graffiti, its palm trees and Hokusai waves, its hip-hop samurai and Hollywood geishas, Fujita’s Los Angeles is a landscape where everything is displaced and thus equally at home.’

### **Warriors, Ghosts and Ancient Gods of the Pacific**

L.A. Louver, Venice, California, 27 May 2015 – 2 July 2015

[Read more about Gajin Fujita in the ARTAND Australia Archive](#)

[Watch video documentation of Fujita's art making process](#)