

Artist Statement – Michiko Itatani

In this context of science and art, I am exhibiting four works: “Untitled” from ***Shadow of the Mind, Fragments of Change, Unordered Set, Writing - Moon/Flesh Studies***. I hope the very titles themselves reveal some of my humanistic concerns and interest: science, linguistics, layers of meanings and uncertainty.

In my youth, I wanted to pursue writing fiction. I strongly believe in fiction's ability to express the deepest truths. In these works, using a fictional and symbolic space, I condense experienced and imagined multi-layered events. I am examining the issues of territory: the human body and the cosmos, flesh and technology, the individual and the State, desire and choice, taboo and obsession. They are also about the human desire to reach out into the mental and physical space beyond our grasp. It is my fiction writing. It is incomplete, fragmented and under inquiry.

At the center of the concept, there is my realization that human knowledge is extremely limited. However, the effort we make toward understanding is up-lifting; it is serious and comical at the same time.

In this inquiry through art, I am trying to come to terms with the complex reality of the 21st Century. And my vision stays pathetically optimistic.