

## Bidou Yamaguchi

### MASK

Leonardo Da Vinci's painting of Mona Lisa and the mask of a young woman known as Ko-omote from the traditional Japanese Noh Theater were both created at about the same time. Both are famous artworks that have fascinated people with their subtle and charming smiles. On one hand, people appreciate an Italian Renaissance painting of a beguiling woman. On the other hand, people find mysterious beauty in a Muromachi period mask of a young maiden. Both are starting points for discovering the beauty of Eastern and Western art. The Noh mask maker and sculptor Yamaguchi Bidou reinterprets Western-style paintings of beautiful women through traditional techniques used to make Noh masks. Combining both traditions, he creates masks "persona" that are a completely new fusion of Eastern and Western cultures.

レオナルド・ダヴィンチの「モナリサ」と日本の伝統文化、能楽の代表的な女面「小面（こおもて）」はほぼ同時代に生み出されました。共に永遠の微笑みを表現し、現在もおお多くの人々の心を魅了する名品です。片やイタリア、美しい顔、美しい姿を求めるルネサンス期の西洋絵画と、片や日本、幽玄の美を追求し極めた室町時代の能楽に西洋と東洋の美の原点を見ます。能面師であり彫刻家でもある山口昶堂が、西洋絵画の美人画を能面の伝統的な技法によってお面として現代に蘇らせます。今までに無い西洋と東洋の文化の融合による全く新しいマスク【ベルソナ】を発表します。

*Bidou Yamaguchi*



Zou-Onna

21.0×13.5×7.0cm  
japanese cypress, seashell, natural pigment, japanese lacquer  
1998



Yase-Otoko

23.5×15.2×8.3cm  
japanese cypress, seashell, natural pigment, japanese lacquer  
2001



Maria Teresa

19.0×12.4×7.8cm  
japanese cypress, seashell, natural pigment, japanese lacquer  
2006



Venus

21.6×13.3×7.7cm  
japanese cypress, japanese lacquer, acrylic  
2004



Mona Lisa

21.2×14.6×8.0cm  
japanese cypress, seashell, natural pigment, japanese lacquer  
2003



Kiss

21.0×13.6×7.9cm  
japanese cypress, seashell, natural pigment, japanese lacquer  
2006



Girl with a Pearl Earring

20.0×16.9×11.5cm  
japanese cypress, seashell, natural pigment, japanese lacquer  
2005

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### AsiaAlive

Master Noh Mask Carver from Japan

Show and Demonstrations; Noh masks and New masks

June 1 – June 30, 2006

Thursday through Sunday / Noon – 4:00 pm

### MASK

Yamaguchi's masks will premier at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco where visitors are invited to experience Yamaguchi's unique vision through a selection of his superbly crafted and compelling masks.

ASIAN ART MUSEUM  
CHONG-MOON LEE CENTER  
FOR ASIAN ART AND CULTURE

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Samsung Hall **ASIAN ART MUSEUM**  
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