



## T O M O N I S H I N T A K U

### **Tell us a bit about yourself and your work**

After completing art school, I graduated from culinary school and became a certified chef. I now put the experience I have gained from both fields to use in creating works of art with food as their theme. My works feature unaltered foods that are actually prepared for consumption. I take photos of them as a reference. For example, for one of my most notable works, "Let's Eat, Everyone" Series, I would purchase an entire cake for each work, and then turn it into a composition. I don't reuse subject matter either, I only employ them once. I consider this act to be an important component in my works, as it functions as a record, while also serving as my answer to the questions of particularity and originality as they pertain to art.

### **What set you off as an artist?**

Tying food and art together, and also to have food recognized as an important theme in the arts. While there are other artists, such as Rirkrit Tiravanija, whose works utilize food, there is no one else whose works focus on the food in and of itself. I believe that is where the uncommon potential of my work lies.

### **Tell us about the themes you pursue in your work**

Using food to thoroughly discuss the problems occurring in the real world.

### **Whats your most essential tool?**

My camera. Using photos as a base for my paintings is indispensable.



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### **What art do you most identify with?**

The work of Andy Warhol. I think we are very similar in terms of coloring. While on the surface his bright pop art seems like it was made for broad appeal, this is actually a facade, with an emptiness and cynicism lying beneath. I generally employ bright coloring for similar reasons, creating a front for more serious themes. Expressing these themes in a somber manner is indicative of third-rate work. First-rate work is able to express serious themes with an extremely cheerful appearance.

### **Tell us how you organise, plan, and prioritise your work**

I am constantly thinking about how to combine my curiosity and interests with the times, and society at large. Inspiration strikes unexpectedly, and there is little planning involved. When working, I generally give preference to works for exhibitions that have already been determined.

### **How do you navigate the art world?**

No matter how turbulent the changing times are, I try not to lose my center. As long as I can preserve that, I feel like I should be able to consistently produce quality works.

### **Describe how your work challenges social issues**

Everyone has to eat, so there is no way that everyone can be indifferent towards food. I want to use that powerful hook to display all kinds of social issues as real world problems, rather than things that don't concern us.

### **What do you believe is the role artists should play in communities and society**

To continue to be something that society considers as frivolous or even unnecessary. I honestly think an artist needs to be seen as someone who has a few loose screws. The world definitely needs people like that.

### **Are there any upcoming exhibitions or projects in the works?**

After moving to Los Angeles, and becoming aware of the massive homeless population, I am working on a new series. For this series, I want to eventually collaborate with 99 homeless individuals. I plan to reveal it under the series of "ONE BITE CHALLENGE".