



ART NOTES

Boxing with Greatness: Ushio Shinohara Takes Houston

BY CATHERINE D. ANSPON

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Ushio and Noriko Shinohara star in the 2013 Oscar-nominated documentary — to be screened at the Deborah Colton Gallery exhibition — "Cutie and the Boxer."

Art denizens will be able to meet *and* catch a solo for a rare, previously under-known talent whose star is now ascendant.

Cue **Ushio Shinohara**'s dual openings this Friday, May 1 (performance 6:30 pm) and again Saturday, May 2 (reception 6 to 9 pm). This re-emerging post-war, Tokyo-born Neo Dadaist, who also possesses punk rock overtones, melds performance, painting and sculpture into a concoction that is fresh, convincing and insouciant.

Not to be overshadowed by her husband, **Noriko Shinohara**'s delicate drawings laced with text lay bare a portrait of a marriage in unflinching detail often in contrast to the droll nature of her almost cartoon-fashioned characters.

The couple are paired in the perfectly titled "Love is a Roar-r-r!" Also presented at DCG is the Oscar-nominated doc, *Cutie and the Boxer*, a captivating take on the Shinoharas' often combustible marriage as well as their authentic careers.

The timing for the Houston show (which follows the artists' debut this March at **Kirk Hopper Fine Art**, Dallas) is synchronistic: Concurrently the **Walker Art Center**, Minneapolis, mounts an exhibition that is rewriting art history — "International Pop," with Ushio Shinohara as one of the headliners (through August 29). *Deborah Colton Gallery exhibition through June 27.*

LOVE IS A ROAR-R-R-R-!

NORIKO SHINOHARA | ARTIST

Being in love is hot! But when you are 83 and a. still alive; b. a nationally acclaimed artist; and c. still with your love for over 42 years – well, that's just something. This exhibition features the work of husband and wife artists **NORIKO AND USHIO SHINOHARA** whose often tumultuous marriage and lives are the subject of the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Cutie and the Boxer*. **DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY** is hosting the show. For the exhibit's opening at the end of last month, Colton set up a life-size wall right outside her gallery space where Ushio created one of his infamous boxing paintings live as he boxed, splashing paint onto the canvas creating an immediate artifact of his performance. Ushio's colorful paintings as well as sculptures are not only engaging but playful and eccentric. His work has been exhibited at prestigious museums all over the world including the Guggenheim and the Tate Modern. Art lovers would be remiss to not take advantage of seeing the work of a living legend while it's in town.

The back of the gallery is featuring Ushio's wife's work simultaneously. Noriko's work is also playful with her *Cutie and the Bullie* series that is based on her and Ushio's life together. The couple explode creativity.

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- Exhibit runs through June 27.



By Carla Valencia de Martinez | Photography by Daniel Driensky



