

tada o[re]ba oru tote yuki no furi ni keru

just existing

I exist...

snow flitting down.

Kobayashi Issa (1763-1828)



The Japanese colour is not only elegant, smart and delicate, it also shows another quite clear aspect. First of all Japanese people have an intuitive and flat chromatic perception and apparently they don't see the colour in the daylight as Westerners do. Even the deep and bright colours or the delicate and light ones - more than the glares of the lights and the shadows - are decided on the basis of the meaning of the colour that a particular object has or on the perception of it. The aesthetic principles like *iki*, sensual charm, *shibui*, discreet poverty, *hannari* delicate lightness do not identify a specific chromatic tone, but they often testify the emotions of the soul.

TANAKA IKKO

MONDOFRAGILE (FRAGILEWORLD) is a dream which has become true. This book together with the itinerary exhibition and the web site shows it in a complete form. The project moves its first steps from the desire and the need to show the immense seductive power of the illustrators living and working in Japan. In the European West a lot is known of Manga and Anime, but very little - if nothing - of the contemporary modern illustration of the Levant, although very often these works are of a very high quality, even superior to our usual standards.

Maybe the distance and the linguistic difficulty are an obstacle for a bigger visibility outside the Far East.

MONDOFRAGILE is above all a homage to the visual Japanese culture. It is an unconditional love declaration to that millenary tradition and to its continuous ability to renew and widen the borders of the visual world. The selection criterion of the artists represented in the book is strictly emotive; we have chosen images and pictures able to struck our senses, those where the visual effect, the perception of the forms and the chromatic choice involve more the emotional sphere than the logic one. Beyond the technical ability or the experience of each of the artists, we have favoured the expressive richness and the creative personality for each of them; the classification in the book is also amply subjective.

More than a massive compilation of images MONDOFRAGILE represents an incredible fresco on the contemporary illustration turned on fashion. The 24 artists involved in the book are in constant balance between Japanese forms/images and aesthetic Euro-Western fascination. The chosen works witness the different forms of daily life, of intimate space and inspired gesture; they are images often recollecting a nostalgia of something simple. This "Simplicity of Intuition" typical of the Japanese culture, becomes an inspiration source for all those involved in the communication field, design or for those simply attracted by the figurative art.

Having a look to the - more than 400 - images of this book and dwelling upon the most evocative ones can be a satisfying experience towards the perception of a shared (fragile) world.

DELICATESSEN

