

Stretch your imagination

American artist Jeff Koons' inflatable art and works by other renowned artists are on show

deepika shetty

American artist and sculptor Jeff Koons' quirky sculptures often fetch more than US\$10 million (S\$14 million) in the international art market.

Art lovers in Singapore now have a chance to see what the fuss over his inflatable art is all about.

The Singapore Tyler Print Institute's annual summer exhibition, titled 200 Artworks 25 Years: Artists' Editions For Parkett, includes works of several international contemporary art stars such as Koons.

The American's 1997 work, Inflatable Balloon Flower (Yellow), was an edition work created for Parkett, an influential contemporary art journal based in Switzerland. For the past 25 years, the journal has commissioned limited-edition

works from some of the most important artists of the era.

Artists are free to pick their formats and materials, the wide range of which is evident in this show featuring prints, newspapers, photographs, drawings, videos, sculptures and even styrofoam.

Ms Emi Eu, 41, director of the print institute, says: "This show is like a small museum and a large library for contemporary art. It allows visitors to explore and discover a lesser-known and a more intimate side of many big names of international art."

Highlights of the exhibition include works by the late American pop artist Andy Warhol, Mumbai-born British sculptor Anish Kapoor and British artist Damien Hirst.

Turner Prize-winning Kapoor, who is known for his gigantic sculptures, creates a relatively small and impressive work using a stocking which is creatively encased in perspex. The stretched stocking appears like a funnel contraption in red.

Hirst uses a plexiglass container often found in laboratories, a table-tennis ball and a hairdryer to complete a work whose name cannot be more apt. When the hair-dryer is activated, the ball bounces up.



The work, created in 1994, is aptly called What Goes Up Must Come Down.

The fun side of art comes through in Olaf Breuning's delightful 2004 styrofoam creation, Lemon Pig, where a lemon-like hiking viking is meant to brave the onslaught of the new millennium with his full-body armour of apples, mushrooms and strawberries.

Parkett publisher Dieter von Graffenried says: "Parkett's core mission has been the direct collaboration with compelling and inspiring artists. It is a privilege to have been working with so many important artists of our time and to now see their work exhibited in Singapore."

The institute's master paper-maker Richard Hungerford calls the show an encyclopaedia of contemporary art.

He says: "The sheer diversity of the work and the styles is amazing. I am confident it will enrich a younger generation of visual artists who have the rare opportunity to see such a phenomenal show. I learn something new every time I walk through the gallery."

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Blowing things up: Singapore Tyler Print Institute's director Emi Eu (above, foreground) and Ms Beatrice Fassler, in charge of Parkett's editions and advertising, with Jeff Koons' 1997 Inflatable Balloon Flower (Yellow). See red with Turner Prize-winning Anish Kapoor's work (left) where a stocking is encased in perspex. ST PHOTOS: AZIZ HUSSIN

view it

200 ARTWORKS 25 YEARS: ARTISTS' EDITIONS FOR PARKETT

Where: Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 41 Robertson Quay
When: Today to July 17, 10am to 6pm, closed on Sundays and public holidays, viewing on Monday by appointment only
Admission: Free
Info: Call 6336-3663 or go to www.stpi.com.sg

Swiss-born, New York-based artist Olaf Breuning's Lemon Pig is made of styrofoam apples, mushrooms and strawberries.

