



# HAJIME

# SORAMYUN

SPACE TRAVELERS  
7.26 - 9.16, 2023

## **About the Artist**

Born in 1947 in Ehime Prefecture, Japan, Hajime Sorayama currently lives and works in Tokyo. With the publication of his acclaimed anthology of works, *Sexy Robot*, in 1983, Sorayama's talent and creativity have garnered international recognition. His collaboration with Sony on the conceptual design of their first AI companion robot dog, 'AIBO,' in 1999, earned him the 2000 German Red Dot awards and the esteemed Grand Prize of Best Design award in Japan. This design is now in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Smithsonian Institution. Sorayama's artistic prowess extends beyond the realm of robotics. His captivating artwork adorned the cover of Aerosmith's 2001 album, 'Just Push Play.' Additionally, he collaborated with fashion designer Kim Jones on the DIOR Men collection and created a center-stage design piece for the Weeknd's European tour.

In recent years, Sorayama's works have been showcased in exhibitions worldwide, including "Unorthodox" at The Jewish Museum in New York (2015), "Desire" curated by Larry Gagosian and Jeffrey Deitch at the Moore Building in Miami (2016), "The Universe and Art" at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo and the Art Science Museum in Singapore (2016-2017), "Cool Japan" at the Tropen Museum in Amsterdam (2018), "Tokyo Pop Underground" presented by Jeffrey Deitch in New York and Los Angeles (2019-2020), and "Sorayama x Giger" at UCCA Lab in Beijing (2022-2023). Sorayama is scheduled to present a solo exhibition this summer at the Museum of Sex, in Miami, USA.

The relationship between AI and humans has become a subject of fervent debate, evoking a diverse range of emotions from admiration and yearning to concerns and apprehension. While humans extensively utilize AI and admire its intelligence, there exists a simultaneous fear of potential obsolescence. As early as 1927, Fritz Lang's groundbreaking film "Metropolis" broached this subject and initiated conversation. Building upon this foundation, Hajime Sorayama captivated a wider audience in the 1970s, envisioning a future where mechanized life forms transcended mere inanimate entities, capturing audiences with figures of a graceful lady or well-known celebrities. His depictions of robots exuded an uncanny vitality and emotional depth, seemingly yearning for genuine connection.

In 1988, Sorayama manifested his understanding of this intricate bond between robots and humans through two compelling paintings (Untitled, 1988; Untitled, 1988). One symbolized a cordial alliance, while the other encapsulated the idea of redemption for robots by a human hand. While AI and robots possess remarkable intelligence, computational power, and strength, their inherent vulnerability arises from their creation by humanity. Sorayama personified a complex range of human desires, artfully concealing them beneath indomitable metallic exteriors. It is noteworthy that his mechanical creations were never depicted as violent or menacing. Instead, his inspiration drew from extinct dinosaurs, endangered marine life, and "pin-up" girls from male-oriented magazines such as Penthouse Magazine and Playboy TV.

Sorayama's artistic endeavours extend far beyond the confines of fine art. His collaboration with Sony on the emotionally intelligent companion robot dog, AIBO, stands as a testament to his visionary contributions. AIBO not only received esteemed accolades such as the Grand Prize of Best Design award and the 2000 German Red Dot awards but has also been included in the permanent collections of major institutions including the MOMA (the Museum of Modern Art, New York) and Smithsonian Institute (Washington, DC). As Sorayama had envisioned, AIBO offers support and solace to marginalized groups, including children with autism, isolated seniors, and individuals with psychological disorders. In this manner, Sorayama's machine life creations embody a form of salvation for humanity.

The exhibition *Hajime Sorayama: Space Travelers* included a curated selection of Sorayama's iconic paintings and illustrations dating back to 1978, as well as his large-size "Sexy Robot" sculptures and immersive installation "Space Travelers". This exhibition serves as a poignant reminder of the human exploitation of both living and non-living entities, and the vulnerability beneath the seemingly invincible metal skin, superior strength and intelligence. Sorayama's thought-provoking depictions serve as a catalyst for introspection and a call for empathy.



Untitled

2021  
Acrylic paint, digital print on canvas  
H 199 x W 141.4 cm



Untitled

2022  
Acrylic paint, digital print on canvas  
H 278.8 x W 197 cm (Diptych)



Untitled

1982  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 36.4 x W 51.5 cm



Sexy Robot\_lifesize\_model\_A

2020  
Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene  
resin, aluminum, silver chrome  
spray, LED light  
H 115 x W 50 x D 74 cm



Untitled

2022  
Acrylic paint, digital print on canvas  
H 278.8 x W 197 cm (Diptych)



Untitled

2022  
Acrylic paint, digital print on canvas  
H 278.8 x W 197 cm (Diptych)



Sexy Robot Floating Bronze

2022  
Bronze, acrylic resin, brass,  
steel, LED light  
H 245 x W 145 x L145 cm



Untitled

1988  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 36.4 x W 51.5 cm



Untitled

1988  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 36.4 x W 51.5 cm



Untitled\_Sexy Robot Floating\_Type II

2022  
UV curable resin, plexiglass, silver plating, LED light, stainless steel, steel  
H 270 x W 103 x D 108 cm



Untitled\_Sexy Robot\_Space traveler

2022  
Fiber reinforced plastic, UV curable resin, plexiglass, silver chrome spray, LED light, stainless steel, steel  
H 250 x W 122 x D 127 cm



Untitled

2022

Acrylic paint, digital print on canvas  
H 197 x W 418 cm



T-rex Silver

2019

Aluminum, silver chrome  
spray, stainless steel  
H 50 x W 130 x D 25 cm

***Continue to the second floor...***



Untitled

1986  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 36.4 x W 51.5 cm



Untitled

2018  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 51.5 x W 72.8 cm



Untitled

1986  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 36.4 x W 51.5 cm



Untitled

1986  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 36.4 x W 51.5 cm



Sorayama x Dior Sexy Robot walking

2019

Fiber reinforced plastics, silver  
plating, LED light  
H 285 x W 65 x D 75 cm



Untitled

2023

Acrylic, digital print on canvas  
H 139.4 x W 197 cm



T-rex Gold

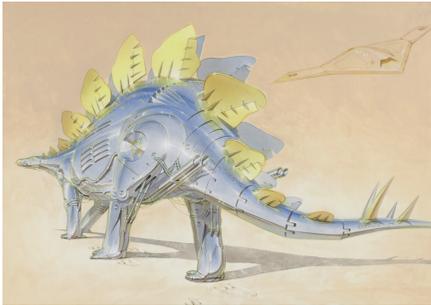
2019

Bronze, stainless steel  
H 50 x W 130 x D 25 cm



Untitled

1978  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 51.5 x W 72.8 cm



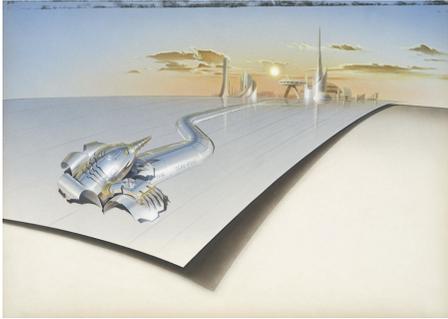
Untitled

2018  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 51.5 x W 72.8 cm



Untitled

2018  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 51.5 x W 72.8 cm



Untitled

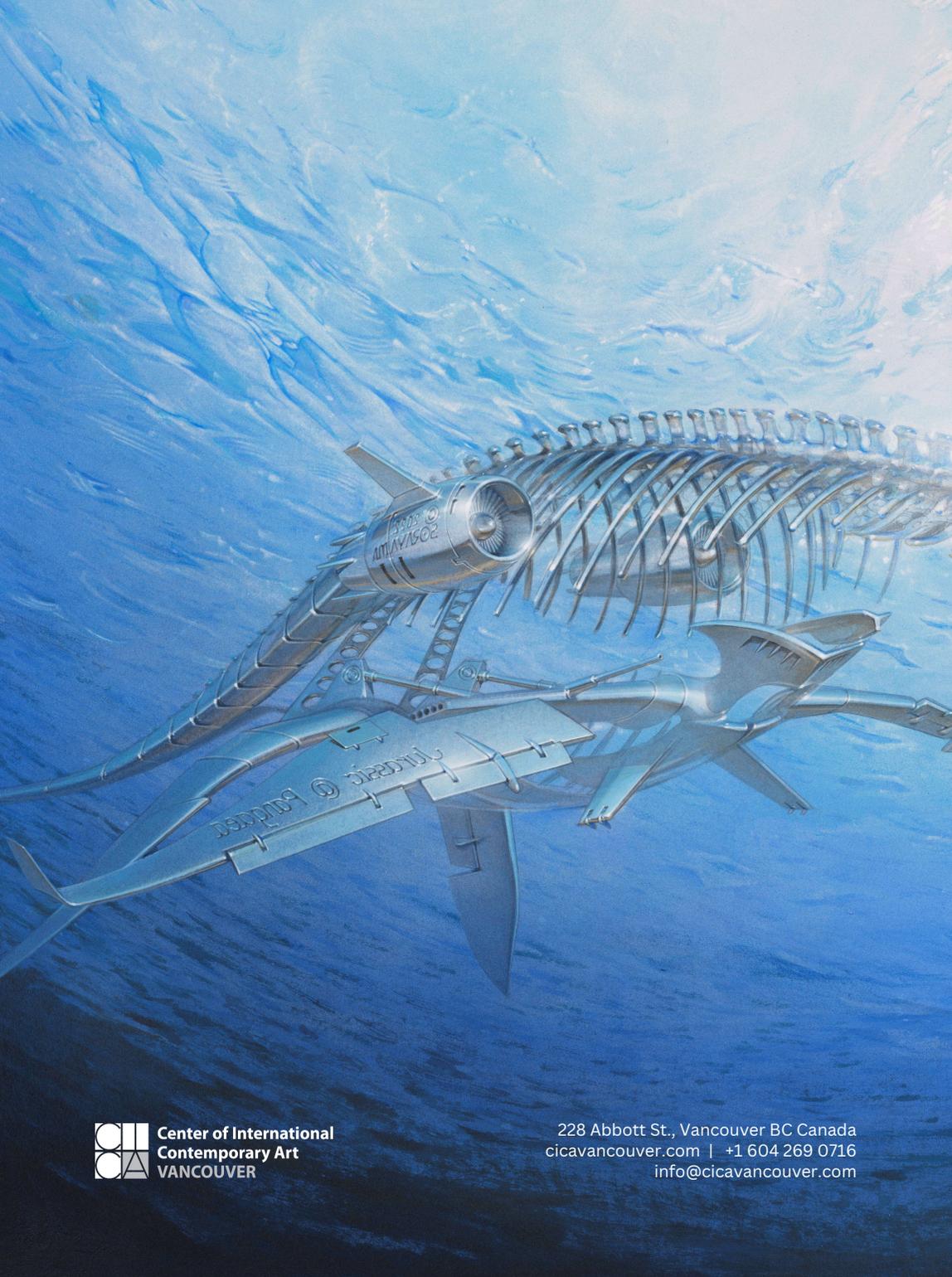
1992  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 36.4 x W 51.5 cm



Untitled

1982  
Acrylic on illustration board  
H 51.5 x W 36.4 cm

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228 Abbott St., Vancouver BC Canada  
cicavancouver.com | +1 604 269 0716  
info@cicavancouver.com