

**For Immediate Release:**

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**The Sitka Center Hosts Open Studio Event with Corvallis Artist Yuji Hiratsuka**

*Corvallis, OR* - On May 4th the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology will host its first "Sitka ala Road" event at the Corvallis studio of artist Yuji Hiratsuka. Located on the Oregon coast just outside Lincoln City, the Sitka Center works to expand the relationships between art, nature and humanity. The "Sitka ala Road" program was added this year, says Development Manager Rebecca Welti, as a way to not only share more about the Sitka Center with people across the region – "because there is nothing on earth like it; you can't just talk about it" – but also to give its participants a rare glimpse into the private working life of an artist. "You learn a lot about an artist from seeing their spaces," she contends.

Yuji Hiratsuka came to the United States from Japan in 1985. He has been an Associate Professor at the Department of Art at Oregon State University in Corvallis since 1992, as well as a long-time Sitka Center instructor and supporter. Hiratsuka's art draws on both traditional Japanese and more modern, Western styles and processes. "I am interested in expressing human conditions such as mood, feeling, and thought through ambiguous and whimsical figures," he explains.

Hiratsuka says that open studios benefit for both the artist and the visitor. Visitors get to see his "works in progress, studio setting, and tools and equipment I use for my art / printmaking." And for Hiratsuka? "My studio has been very messy. It would be a good excuse to clean up for the Sitka Center guests!"

The event will take place from 6-8pm in Hiratsuka's studio at 1215 NW Kline Place, Corvallis, OR 97330, and is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Future Sitka ala Road events will take place in Eugene, Medford and Bend, with artists Tallmadge Doyle, Judy Morris, and writer Ellen Waterston. For more information about these events and all other Sitka Center programs, visit their website at [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org) or call their office at 541.994.5485.

*Committed to expanding the relationships between art, nature and humanity, the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is renowned for its workshop and residency programs, and its support of the local community. Exploration of the coastal environment has remained a key component to the Center's vitality. Located on Cascade Head, with views of the Pacific Ocean, Sitka offers a place where artists of all abilities and backgrounds come to inspire, create, and, ultimately, transform themselves. Head to [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org). or call 541.994.5485 to learn more.*