

Island Theatre Megi by Yoichiro Yoda

Since the winter of 1994, I have been making paintings of the old and now lost theatres of 42nd Street between 7th & 8th Avenues in New York City.

I have documented in my paintings and video, the beautiful, haunting interiors as well as the horrific and senseless destruction of the theatres.

In 2015, I was invited to participate in the Setouchi Triennale 2016 in Kagawa, Japan. My project was to use an old warehouse and transform it into a movie theatre based on several lost 42nd Street Theatres.

The project is called Island Theatre Megi, and the theatre opened on March 20, 2016. Visitors can experience the old 42nd Street theatre atmosphere with my murals and paintings on the walls, sit on 1950's vintage theatre seats (from the Historic Hemet Theatre) and watch my video documentary, "Last Days of 42nd Street" as well as silent film shorts.

It has been my dream to create my own movie theatre since my college days at Tyler School of Art.

I would like to thank the Setouchi Triennale and everyone who worked so hard to make my dream a reality.