

## Press Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The **Ingres Museum** of Montauban, France has recently acquired Koya Abe's *After the Grand Odalisque*, a digitally constructed photographic work from the artist's *Digital Art Chapter 5: Analogies* series. The work was included in the museum's acclaimed *Ingres et les Modernes* exhibition in 2009. Abe's *Grand Odalisque* strikingly incorporates the image of a Hiroshige *ukiyo-e* (Japanese wood-block print) as a tattoo upon Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres' celebrated *La Grande Odalisque* of 1814. The Ingres' masterwork is held in the collection of the Louvre and was also on display in Montauban especially for the *Ingres et les Modernes* exhibition alongside the later works it had influenced.



Abe, an artist who works primarily in digital photographic media, has had a longtime interest in Ingres. Upon the acquisition of his work by the museum, Abe reflected that in a way “Ingres represents a pinnacle of realism in Western art” and this is what led to his interest in the 19th century master from a photographic perspective. In terms of his own work Abe also says that his interest in Ingres, in juxtaposition with Japanese masters like Hiroshige, serves as a means to “examine the underlying power balances and cultural dynamics of art.” Abe's own work will now permanently reside in birthplace of Ingres, a circumstance that he allows is both gratifying and humbling.

A self-titled companion book for the *Ingres et les Modernes* exhibitions is available from Symogy Editions. The volume includes reproductions of other works by Koya Abe.

### MEDIA

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**Above:** *After the Grand Odalisque*, from the series, *Digital Art Chapter 5: Analogies*.  
Digital image, chromagenic print  
2008, Koya Abe

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19 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville  
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### Additional Resource Information:

*La Grande Odalisque*, Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, 1814 (collection of the Louvre Museum, Paris).  
*Peacock and Peonies*, Utagawa Hiroshige, *ukiyo-e*, circa 1840.