



JEANNE JAKLE

Anchors may get 'Night Shift' gig

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Expect to see a WOAI-TV anchor or two — Randy Beamer, Evy Ramos, Delaine Mathieu? — delivering emergency-related news bulletins on the second season of NBC's "The Night Shift."

Hey, you might even spy a cameo of a San Antonio Spur on the S.A.-set medical drama when it returns for 14 new episodes next year.

"Maybe we could have Tim Duncan walk by with a sprained ankle," the series' executive producer, Jeff Judah, suggested at NBC's all-star party for the Television Critics Association on Sunday night.

"We're still shooting in Albuquerque," Judah told me. But for season two, he added, he wants to try for a bigger San Antonio presence.

"We'll get the local NBC affiliate anchors for TV news bulletins," he said. "And I would prefer using the real San Antonio paper in scenes to add authenticity."

Other plans: "We'll maybe make it more military — open up the VA and immigration issues. We'd also love to bring in some wounded warrior stories."

He hopes to capture more S.A. exteriors for next year's second round as well: "Even if we could just shoot some stuff and green-screen it in."

As for using WOAI's anchors, he said "they'd only need to send us the video. We'll tell them to say five lines or so, then I'll watch it with Skype and see if it's OK."

One thing that was crystal clear on party night: Everyone involved with the frisky hospital drama was in a celebratory mood after the network granted the show a second-

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Jeanne Jakle / San Antonio Express-News

"The Night Shift" castmates Robert Bailey Jr. and Jeanne Goossen toast the Spurs.

Visual puns play etiquette games

Miss Manners book inspires Japanese artist

By Steve Bennett
STAFF WRITER

As a girl growing up in Japan, Hiromi Tsuji Stringer liked to read. But when she moved to the United States a few years ago, she quickly ran out of books.

"The library had a few books in Japanese, but I read them all," said Stringer, 37, who is showing recent collaged drawings in an exhibition craftily titled "As a Matter of Fact . . . Graphiti for Civilized Tranquility" at REM Gallery through

Aug. 23.

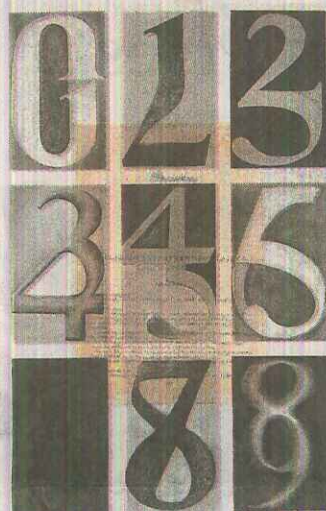
Then she went to Half-Price Books and found a book she'd treasured in her younger days: "Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior."

"I read it when I was in high school, in Japanese, so I read it again in English," Stringer said.

Stringer saw a parallel between the communication gap that exists between people in different countries — and even within the same country — and the questions about appropriate behavior that people submitted to Miss Manners for her advice. Linguistic gaffes can be as embarrassing as behavioral lapses.

"I've had so many sort of weird moments," Stringer said. "But I've survived. Still, Eng-

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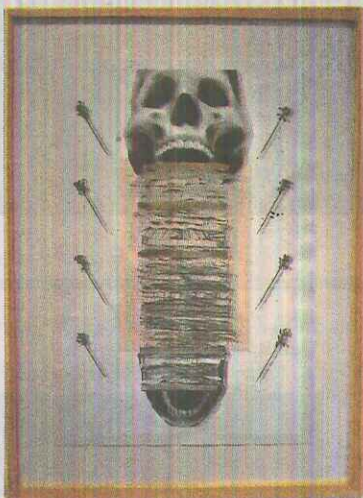


Photos courtesy REM Gallery

Hiromi Tsuji Stringer plays with English usage in "Ish O'Clock."



"Introduction of the Rule of Thumb for Green Peas" draws from a question to Miss Manners.



Stringer says her "Multistory Sandwich" is about miscommunication, or lack of communication.

Steve Bennett / San Antonio Express-News

Stringer, wearing traditional Japanese dress, is exhibiting more than 20 of her graphite drawings at REM Gallery.



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lish confuses me a lot."

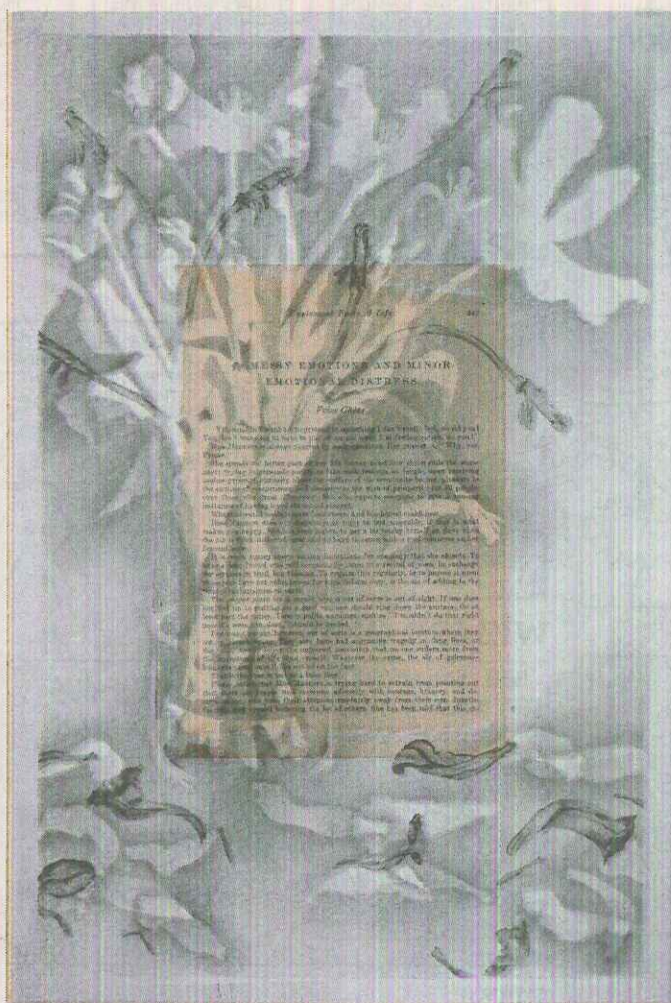
Those moments led to the series of drawings that incorporate pages from Miss Manners' book with images that comment on, or illustrate, the question and its response.

"This body of work is kind of like visual puns," said Stringer, her Texan husband, Doug, nearby in case there were any translation issues. "I believe there are degrees of miscommunication creating a niche for the absurd, the humorous and the surreal."

For example, a work with a drawing of a rabbit and a carrot with a telephone cord wrapped around it called "Bad Connection" responds to a question from a woman whose friend called her up and then proceeded to crunch on a carrot during the conversation. Imagine what Miss Manners thought about that.

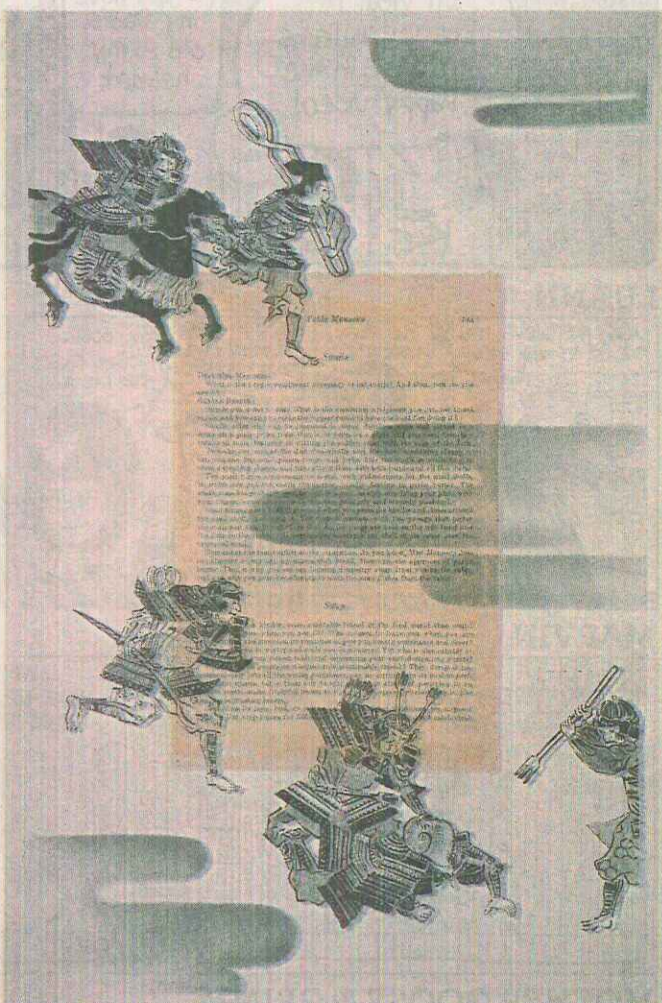
"Hiromi's work is always well researched, so when her work makes us giggle it's because she has figured out how to distill information and emotions into a visual narrative that reveals hidden truths about human behavior," said artist Jayne Lawrence, an art faculty member at the University of Texas at San Antonio. "What I have always appreciated and admired about Hiromi is that she never says, 'I can't'; she instead asks, 'How can I?'"

A clever and perceptive artist, Stringer was born in Kyoto and earned a science degree from Tottori University. For the next decade, she worked as an assistant to a ceramics artist, Katsushi Takeda, in Shiga, Ja-



An etiquette question posed to Miss Manners inspired "False Cheer" by Hiromi Tsuji Stringer.

Stringer's sense of humor is on display in "Snails (The Biggest Fuss)."



Photos courtesy REM Gallery

pan.

In the United States, she studied fine arts and art history at UTSA, earning a bachelor of fine arts degree in 2013. She only took up drawing about 10 years ago, but her skills are precise. She has shown her ceramics, sculpture and drawings in several juried and invitation shows.

"As a student, Hiromi was always ahead of the curve," artist Meredith Dean, recently retired from the art department at UTSA and one of Stringer's for-

mer teachers, wrote in an email from Italy. "Her skills, talent and dexterity were balanced and enhanced by her own ideas. Her assignments became an extension of her quest for aesthetic answers and she produced outstanding solutions. Hiromi's work is personal, graceful and infused with her cultural background, heritage and experiences."

"As a Matter of Fact" also features two witty installation pieces: "Courtesy of the Artist" is a table set with half a dozen

pairs of reading glasses, which the artist encourages viewers to make use of to "read" the pieces; and "The Most Advanced Civilization: Correct Way of Seeing Arts" is a pseudo-letter under glass on a pedestal querying Miss Manners about the difficulty of understanding contemporary art — "especially works in Hiromi's show" — to which comes the reply: "Regarding the uses of the arts, using the drawings to hide stains on your wall is the wrong idea."

Dana Read, owner of REM Gallery, is certainly not using Stringer's work to hide stains on the walls. She said she's been waiting a couple of years to give the artist a solo exhibition.

"She has such strong drawings skills, and I find her interpretation of her struggles with English and what she calls 'the socio-linguistic gaps in fine art' refreshing and unique," Read said.

shennett@express-news.net

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season order. It was cool hearing actress Jeananne Goossen, who flashed long legs in a satiny-blue shorts jumpsuit, talk about her desire to soak up more of the real San Antonio.

"I know a lot of our team is gunning to go to San Antonio," said Goossen, who plays surgical resident Krista. "I'm thinking about taking the car on a road trip. I'm dying to go to Texas, and San Antonio is high on my list."

A little later, when I grabbed her and cute co-star Robert Bailey Jr., who plays fellow resident Paul, for a photo, the two lifted their glasses in a toast to our victorious Spurs.

All this ebullience came on the heels of NBC entertainment chairman Robert Greenblatt raving about the summer ratings performance of "Night Shift" during the day's executive press session. "Our new medical, 'Night Shift,' which we renewed about a week ago, has found a loyal audience very quickly."

Greenblatt said its premiere was "one of the best scripted summer launches in a long time, better than several in-season drama premieres this year. And get this: 'Night Shift' had NBC's strongest summer drama launch in 14 years."

Goodman for a laugh

As I write this, I'm sitting in one of the umpteen interview sessions presented by the

cable and broadcast networks for new fall shows.

After a while the voices all begin to sound the same, and I can feel my head drooping and my energy waning.

That's why I'm so grateful for the rarity when an actor or actress says something that not only gets me to snap to attention but laugh my head off.

Such was the case when John Goodman appeared for a Q&A about "Alpha House," the Garry Trudeau-penned political comedy on Amazon Prime that will debut its second season this fall.

It happened when a TV critic wanted to know if there was any difference for actors when they go to the set to shoot one of these In-

ternet shows for Netflix, Hulu or Amazon. Is there anything that's lesser or greater about working on an Amazon series, say, than one on a conventional broadcast or cable network?

First came the straight answer — from "Alpha" co-star Clark Johnson,

who said shooting the show is "exactly what we're used to . . . pretty much the same kind of groove."

And Goodman? "I got shanked in the cafeteria," he growled. "We share a stage with 'Orange Is the New Black.'" As if that weren't

enough of a giggle, Goodman added: "That rarely happened on 'Roseanne.'"

Jeanne Jakle's column appears Wednesdays and Sundays in mySA, and she blogs at Jakle's Jacuzzi on mySA.com. Email her at jjakle@express-news.net.



John Goodman kept everybody entertained talking about "Alpha House" during his TCA panel.

Richard Shotwell / Associated Press

"This is one of those series you can't help but be obsessed with."

—RICHELLE MEAD,

International #1

bestselling author of the Vampire Academy and Bloodlines series

