

## **“Drawings for Means” That Produce Purpose**

by Susumu Takashima

Most human activity, especially work, have purpose and means. We first decide on a purpose and then think of the means for attaining that purpose. In what I do, however, the original purposes shift and mutate, and often times I am either delighted or disappointed by unforeseen results. I believe that this is because means contain multiple latent sweet spots\* and the sensations they cause, like organisms, produce other purposes that may lead to unforeseen directions. I also believe that purposes produced by means and not the original purposes contain matters that should be reconsidered, and that they hold possibilities that could lead to new discoveries.

My works are all drawings for tools and mediums that express means for drawing lines, with titles such as “Drawing for Brush, Acrylic Paint and Paper,” “Drawing for Pencil Sharpener, Colored Pencils and Canvas” and “Drawing for Metal Point and Paper.”

Lines that are made with brushes dipped in paint are widest at the beginning and gradually become narrower while becoming faint. Meanwhile, lines made with colored pencils and metal point are drawn with tools that are sharpened before being used; these lines are narrowest at the beginning and gradually become wider. I create my works by repeating and emphasizing lines that change in width, and by doing so, I am expressing that tools, which are means, can become purposes produced from means.

What my works emphasize is that the tools I use are writing tools that create lines that change in thickness. This is a latent sweet spot that I discovered that veers away from the tools’ original purpose, which is writing. I believe that all tools have in them latent sweet spots; if these can be discovered they can lead to new forms of expression that expand expression. Also, new tools are continually being created through industrial production; this could indirectly lead to the expression of the age in which a tool was developed. For these reasons I believe “art for tools and mediums” harbors myriad possibilities.

Purposes created by means have the potential to warp the original purpose. Because of this, means need careful attention. Perhaps it is in means that beauty is needed.

The theme of my work is creating “drawings for means” that produce purpose.

\* “Sweet spot” is a term originally used to describe the best spot on a tennis racket to hit the ball. All tools have at least one overt sweet spot that is aligned with purpose.