

*A0 (841x1189) - The Harajuku mosaic*

*Many small pieces form an A0. From a good distance the full message of the work emerges: the life of Harajuku lends itself to another reading - the kanji "Harajuku".*

My own ways of appreciation of Harajuku push me towards experiments in a variety of media. CiteXture is only series of works which, in different techniques, present my reflection about the city. CiteXture was based on an understanding that the cities are textual compositions (Barthes 1965), that they can be understood as composed of multiplicity of individual "words" and "phrases", structured by the syntax of an unique language. My language. And/or (in this instance) – Harajuku language.

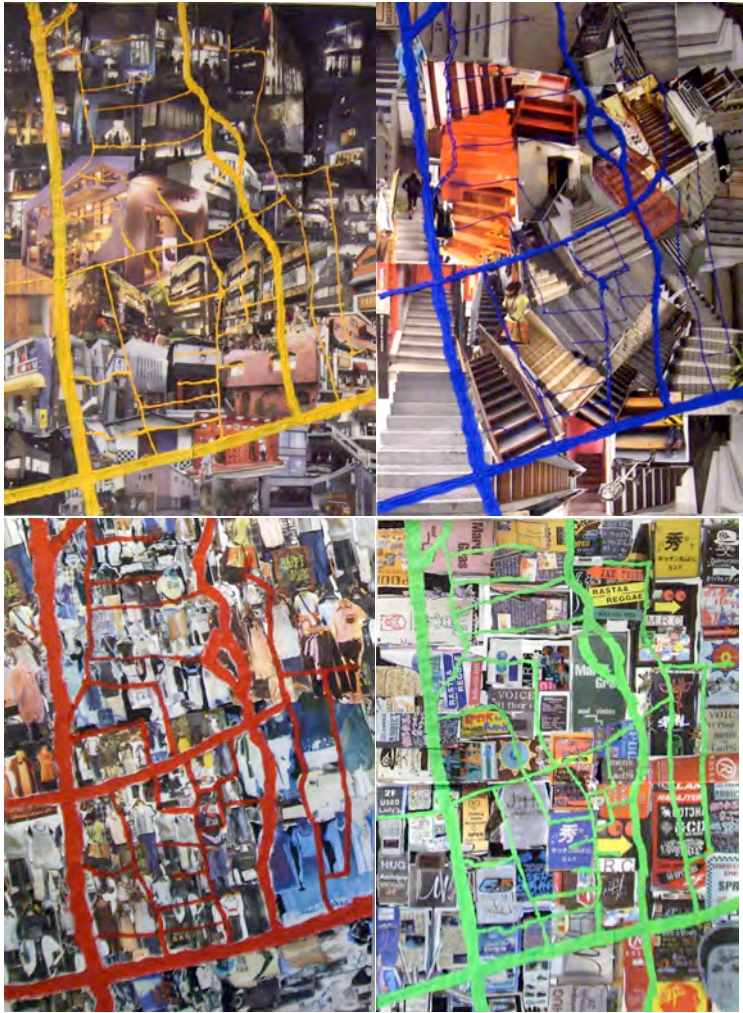
And, *un bon croquis vaut mieux qu'un long discours* ("a good sketch is better than a long speech", as Napoleon used to say or, proverbially, "a picture is worth a thousand words").

The artwork presented in my exhibition at *Design Festa Gallery* accompanied one phase of my research of Urahara. It paralleled traditional aspects of my investigation and, on occasions, it also fed into that other side of my work. Art satisfies my need for subjective reflection and communication in an universal language of pictures and sketches. It helps me express, both myself and **Harajuku**, in a fuller sense. And, as **Harajuku** is very much about image and image making, these drawings and collages seek to express that place as in a series of images.

My exhibition was presented through an ubiquitous architectural and urban design theme - that of "scale". The scales in which I explores **Harajuku** were translated into standard paper formats - ISO216, better known as the "A series" (1:  $\sqrt{2}$  ratio). Each work covered an area of 1m<sup>2</sup>, which corresponds to the A0. Paper sizes, which ranged from A0 to A8, were used to present the scales which best capture various aspects of life in Harajuku:







*A2 (420x594) - The Urahara collage*

The City is a collage (Rowe and Koetter 1984). In this work, the focus is on Urahara, the heart of Harajuku. An A2 is used to collage different elements of that vibrant area, all layered onto the map. The overall picture comments on the character of Urahara, as a quality in itself and as a part of Harajuku



*A4 (210x297) - The Human scale*

A4 is considered to be the most suitable for everyday life. It is used universally - for note-taking, writing, printing, photocopying. Here A4 presents the people of Harajuku. Unlike spaces, the people and their activities are beyond scales. These drawings capture the stories lived and told in Harajuku. All together, they weave a complex text(ure) of Harajuku.





#### *A6 (105x148) - The Pocket scale*

*A6 is a postcard size. It is used for papers which we want to put in our pockets. This part of my work is comprised of a series of sketches, proposed souvenirs from Urahara. The visitors are invited to buy them, as the souvenirs, as the mementos of this place, as an invitation to remember the event.*



#### *A8 (52x74) - The 'post-it' notes*

*They offer a blank surface, and another invitation to you - this time that is an invitation to participate. Please take part in citeXture by answering my brief questions and providing your feedback. Your insights will lead me towards better understanding of Harajuku.*