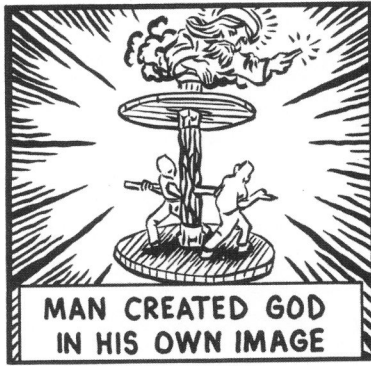
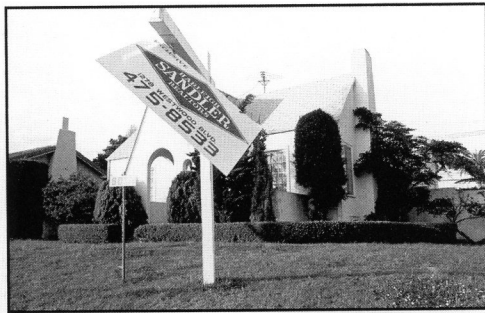


Two Skewed Views: Garret Izumi and Jason Shiga



From Shortwave Comics
©1992, Garret Izumi



WELCOME TO SURREAL ESTATE



THE FIRE WITHIN

Two of Nikkeidom's most original artists are relatively unknown outside a tiny circle of loyal fans. Realizing their work may never attract the numbers required for commercial success, they've chosen to self-publish, eschewing mass attention in favor of personal integrity.

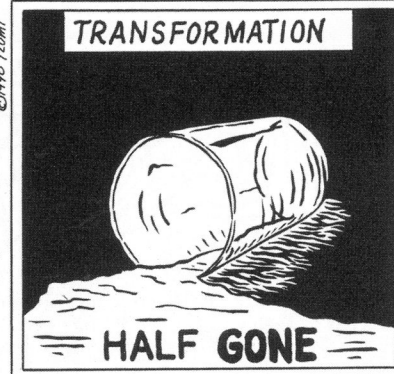
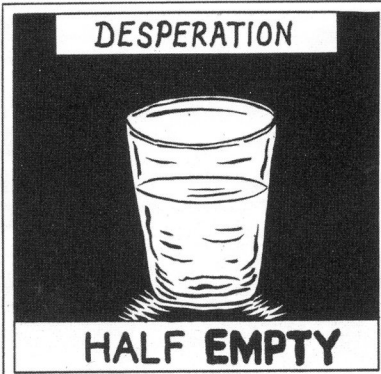
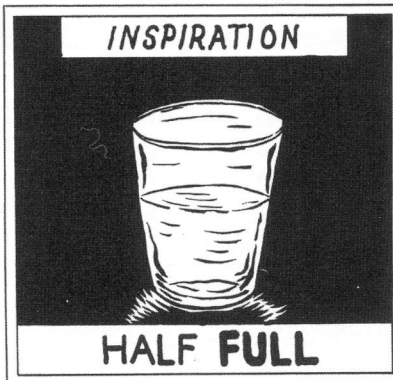
Garret Izumi's home-based Shortwave Productions produces beautiful reproductions of his cryptic, apocalyptic graphic commentary; his palm-size collections of photographs ("Surreal Estate" and "Call of the Sirens," a survey of Los Angeles' mostly-abandoned air raid sirens) are like Zen koans, challenging meditations on urban life. He says:

I remember growing up, my choices for a career lay somewhere between becoming either an artist or a baker like my Dad. To his credit, he wholeheartedly supported my appetite for radioactive empowered superheroes and post-atomic monster infected comics. I read and collected tons of comics. By college, my interests had drifted toward fine art, photography in particular. Discovering I could convey thoughts and ideas through photography was quite a revelation. The sequential nature of presenting photos was similar in many ways to comics.

Photography showed me how to look at things around me in a different way. Neighborhoods became magical places of shapes and shadows waiting to be photographed. Air raid sirens became a symbol of growing up with the threat of nuclear war.

After college, my interest returned to comics. I started submitting my work to weeklies across the country, inspired by such cartoonists as Lynda Barry and Matt Groening. Their humorous, skewed look at life was a breath of

*fresh air. Many rejection letters and a few words of encouragement later, I began collecting my work in book form as a way of presenting it. Self-publishing offered a way to not only integrate a craftsman's touch in the bookmaking process, but also a way to explore the possibilities in creating comics that continues to excite me today. —Garret Izumi **



For more information and to order books, contact:
Shortwave Production
111 Crosby Court #1
Walnut Creek, CA
94598
garreti@yahoo.com

From Shortwave Comics
©1992, Garret Izumi

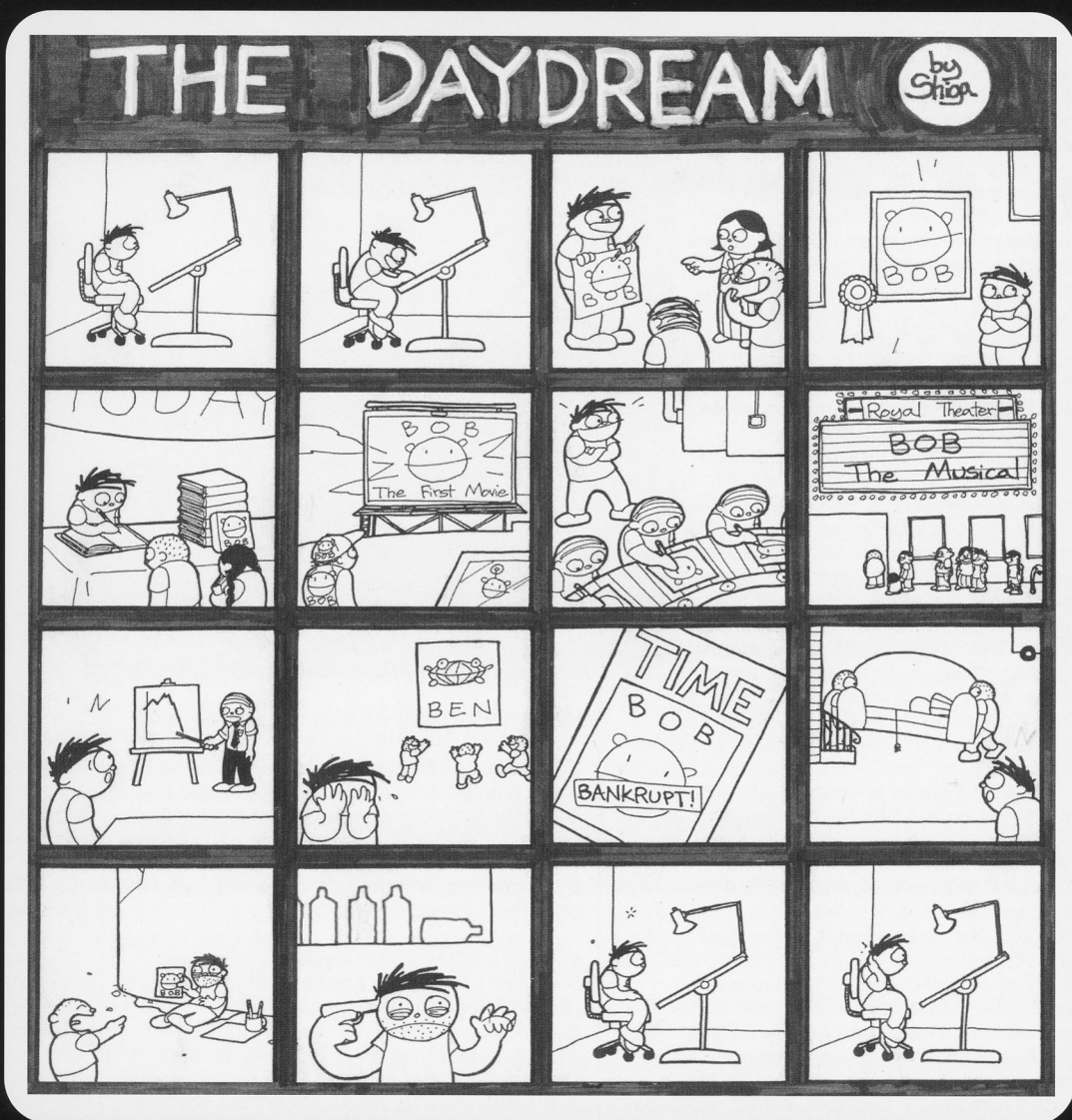
The world is unaware of Jason Shiga, and for this he has won much attention. He was unknown in 2000 when he began producing "Bus Stop," an off-the-edge strip for the San Francisco Examiner about a guy perpetually waiting at a bus stop—but not for a bus. A year later, SF Weekly named Shiga "Best Underrecognized Cartoonist" just as the Examiner changed hands and his strip traveled into limbo, moving to Asian Week before disappearing from the commercial print.

Next, also for Asian Week, Shiga created "Fleep," a cliff-hanger serial about a guy trying to escape from in a phone booth with the help of two pens, some coins, a paperback and 20 feet of unwaxed dental floss. The strip was cancelled, according to writer Shaenon Garrity in a profile for comixpedia.com, because "the Asian Week editors wanted a comic about the 'Asian-American experience' and were apparently a little baffled to receive a strip about a man (but an Asian-American man) trapped in a phone booth."

Mainstream media's loss is our gain. Shiga now self-publishes a number of intriguing comic books, including inventive, interactive stories inspired by the "Choose Your Own Adventure" books he read as a kid. One such work of "acrobatic origami," Garrity explains, is "The Last Supper," "printed on a single sheet of paper, which Shiga cuts and folds so that the comic can be read by unfolding it, panel by panel, in different

directions." Other titles include "The Adventures of Doorknob Bob;" a domestically violent version of "The Family Circus," and "Double Happiness," about a search for identity in the New Chinatown. That book won a Xeric Foundation award. Earlier this year, Shiga's truly underground status was confirmed when he was presented a Will Eisner Comic Industry Award for "Talent Deserving of Wider Recognition." *

Find books, comics and more about Jason Shiga at www.shigabooks.com



© Jason Shiga