



# Upcycled Art

One man's trash is Tomita Natsumi's treasure for her *All My Newborns* exhibition at **IPRECIATION**



**Clockwise  
From Top Left**  
*Swallow 4*;  
*Lovebirds*; *Daniel*  
the monkey;  
*Tsubasa Fujita* the  
young woman;  
*Becky*  
the hare



The bric-a-brac bird's metallic beak mystically chirps an almost inaudible siren song, beckoning passers-by to tarry and enter the wide, whitewashed space showcasing *All My Newborns*, a solo exhibition by up-and-coming Japanese artist Tomita Natsumi. A peek through the floor-to-ceiling glass façade reveals a zoo of animal sculptures and full-sized human likenesses, all refashioned from recycled materials lovingly collected from Tokyo's streets, Tomita's hometown.

"Every object had purpose and meaning before they were tossed away," Tomita explains of her materials. "Taking these things that I collect, I connect them and create new life." The potpourri of characters in her exhibit mirror the motley materials used in each sculpture. Each articulates a different character and expression to reflect their individuality. The sculptures "are my children," Tomita says. "I have given them each a name."

Take *Tsubasa Fujita*, a young woman constructed from popular fashion magazines and the businessman *Tadao Suzuki*, made from business magazines – they're human sculptures composed of abandoned print publications. Tomita's whimsical wildlife friends span the spectrum from the monkey *Daniel* to the hare *Becky*, among other species – all fashioned from odd scraps of discarded materials.

The caged *Lovebirds* chirrup softly to encourage visitors to the eco-art exhibit. Don't just look at us, they seem to encourage, but experience us: touch us, move us and become aware of us even after you leave, scattered along the streets. ■

**All My Newborns:** a solo exhibition of the latest works by Tomita Natsumi will be held from November 22–December 15. The artist will be present on November 22 from 5:30pm–7:30pm. **Venue:** iPreciation, Shop LG1–3, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central **Times:** Mon–Fri 10am–7pm, Sat 11am–3pm, Sun and public holidays by appointment only