

COSMOPOLITAN

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ART STARS
Mika Tajima

By Jessica Dawson



The bachelor wishes he had a Jacuzzi this cool. Jokes aside, Mika Tajima's multimedia exhibitions turn a wary eye on our work and leisure environments. Using sound and light as well as painting, sculpture, and furniture — a vintage ergonomic kneeling chair (designed to fix desk slouch), a hot tub painted in a rich rainbow ombré — the artist explores our cubicle culture and the day spa needs it breeds. Mika, who is also a musician, is adept at translating the nonmaterial world into the physical one: See fabric paintings woven on digital looms — a mash-up of the old industrial economy with our tech-obsessed climate. It's the kind of work that's gained her critical attention and solo shows at major institutions including the Aspen Art Museum and Miami Beach's Bass Museum of Art. Mika also plays well with others, often collaborating with other art stars. She created the artists' collective New Humans explicitly for that purpose. Check out NewHumansNYC.com for upcoming projects.