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Grainy views are a good thing

A village in Japan uses rice paddies as canvases for art

Japan's Inakadate village—population: 8,000—has harnessed its agricultural know-how and ingenuity since 1993 to transform rice paddies into massive images inspired by Japanese heritage. The *tanbo* art draws roughly 1,300 volunteers each year to help plant and shape the stunning large-scale works, which are best viewed beginning this month. The designs have included goddess of mercy Kannon and protective deity Fudō Myō-ō (pictured here), and are created by a local art teacher using a computer drafting system. At harvest nothing goes to waste. Toru Suzuki of Inakadate's tourism department says volunteers "use the rice taken from the paddy art to treat themselves to rice balls and pork miso soup."



TOP: ©JTA/©INTO (2); BOTTOM: ©VIK MUNIZ/GALERIE XIPPS, PARIS; RICE ART WORDS: JESSICA RITZ



Besides peanut butter and jelly, Muniz has used chocolate syrup, sugar and spaghetti

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It's OK to paint with your food

Brazilian artist Vik Muniz doesn't only use PB&J for sandwiches

IS THAT THE MONA LISA OR leftovers? The new exhibition "Vik Muniz: Photography and the Rebirth of Wonder" (starting July 13) at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia, begs that very question. "From afar, his photographs look like a certain thing, and when you get closer, they start to break apart," explains curator Seth Feman. Brazilian

artist Vik Muniz creates sculptures out of foodstuffs to create recognizable images when photographed. "These are tricky materials," Feman says. "He should be thought of as a compositional artist as much as he is a photographer. You don't really get lessons in chocolate syrup painting." —JESS SWANSON chrysler.org