Japanese Pop Artist Yoshitomo Nara's 12-Foot Sculptures Ready for Park Avenue

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Twin images of the whimsical "Ghost" sculpture will be set up across from each other at East 67th and East 70th streets.

By Gabriela Resto-Montero

UPPER EAST SIDE — Park Avenue passersby will be seeing ghosts next month.

Twin 12-foot fiberglass, "White Ghost" sculptures by Japanese pop artist Yoshitomo Nara will stand sentry on Park Avenue at East 67th and East 70th streets beginning Aug. 29.

The works, which depict a bone white figure with a serene expression, are presented by the non-profit Art Production Fund and will remain in place until Nov. 26. A full retrospective of Nara's art will debut at the Asia Society at 725 Park Avenue in September.

Before the sculptures go up, Nara, 50, and artist Hideki Toyoshima will re-create an artist's studio for the public at the Park Avenue armory, said Casey Fremont, director of the Art Production Fund at the Community Board 8 meeting where the exhibit was approved.

Nara, one of Japan's most renowned artists, specializes in cartoon-like portraits of innocent-looking children often wielding knives or other dangerous weapons.

The artist's retrospective, "Yoshitomo Nara: Nobody's Fool" will be the first time the entire Asia Society museum will feature the work of one artist, the New York Times reported. The museum will have over 100 pieces from Nara's collection.

Nara's exhibit will run from Sept. 9 through Jan. 2 at the Asia Society.