

right? [laughs]. But I try not to make it look finished, or rather, I try to make it as uncool as possible.

Kitano: I don't have multiple personalities, but there are times when I think I have a dual personality. I can't help but feel like I'm creating my own "Beat Takeshi" and becoming his friend. I'm enjoying myself like a puppet. There is a part of me that enjoys making myself into a puppet, and when I become completely integrated, I can't control myself. When I'm in bad shape, it's not me. When the puppet starts to work well, I slip back into it, for my own convenience.

**There are cunning people in the world, like bureaucrats.
Of course, you are not like those people, but do you have "cunningness" or "badness"?**

Kitano: But I feel as if there are two of me, so when one of me makes something and everyone says it is good, I am only half as happy as I should be. The pleasure I experience when I let the other half of me do something and watch it is only half of what I feel when I do it all by myself.

Yamamoto: People used to say to me, especially from fashion journalists. They would say, "Yohji, you should be into one thing and one thing only". I can't become obsessed with one thing. I just can't. I'm always a bit preoccupied. When I decided to do a show in Paris for the first time in my life, I thought that since I was going to do it in Paris, I would never show Japanese kimonos. On the contrary, I decided to use European techniques. Other designers would always bring straight Japanese elements. I used as my theme the Portuguese attire from the pre-Meiji period when they came to Nagasaki. There are many things that I am too shy to do. That is probably not shyness or anything, but rather that I have a twisted sense of humour [laughs].

Kitano: Twisted versus dual personality [laughs]. When you are conscious of a foreign country, you are aware of your Japanese culture. I know that people would be more pleased if I did things with a "topknot" in my films. So, the question is whether I have the boldness to do so or not. So, I don't want to do it, or rather, I can't do it.

Yamamoto: Takeshi-san, you are the one who doesn't do it.

Kitano: Of course, I don't.

Yamamoto: I can't do that either.

Kitano: To tell you the truth, there is the question of when to do it, and I think I will do "Hideyoshi" one of these days [laughs], but I don't think it's fair to go there from the start.

Yamamoto: It's unfair [laughs]. For 15 years, Europeans have been calling me and Kawakubo-san "mode japonais," and we sometimes wanted to fight with each other, but finally we felt that we had had enough. Now that the taboo has been lifted, I've tried doing things like "kimonos" and so on.