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18.95 USA

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# MICHAEL JACKSON WONDER WORLD OF TOYS

## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION STORY

BY KENJI KOGA

On December 22nd, 1992, at a hotel in Tokyo..

Kenji Koga meets Michael Jackson for the very first time. At that moment, a connection was made; it was the beginning of an idea, a surreal journey into the mind of one of the most world-renowned musicians of all time.

"During the six months prior to meeting you tonight, I've been thinking about a concept called MJWWT, which is an amusement park for underprivileged children from all over the world. Can you illustrate for me, the image which is in my head, within the 10 days that I'm here?" - Michael Jackson

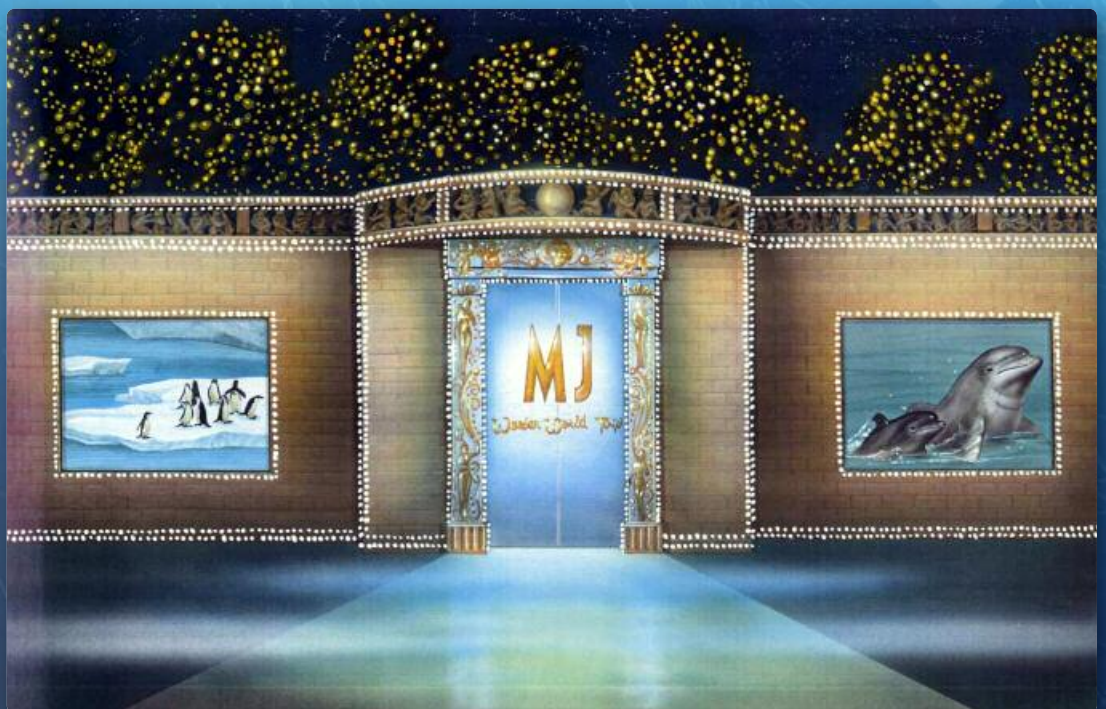
Michael was performing his 'Dangerous' Tour in Tokyo and during the short time he was in Japan, from December 22 through the New Year, he believed in and entrusted his concept of MJWWT to Kenji so that his ideas could be illus-

trated to the world. The name of this concept was "MJWWT, Michael Jackson Wonder World of Toys."

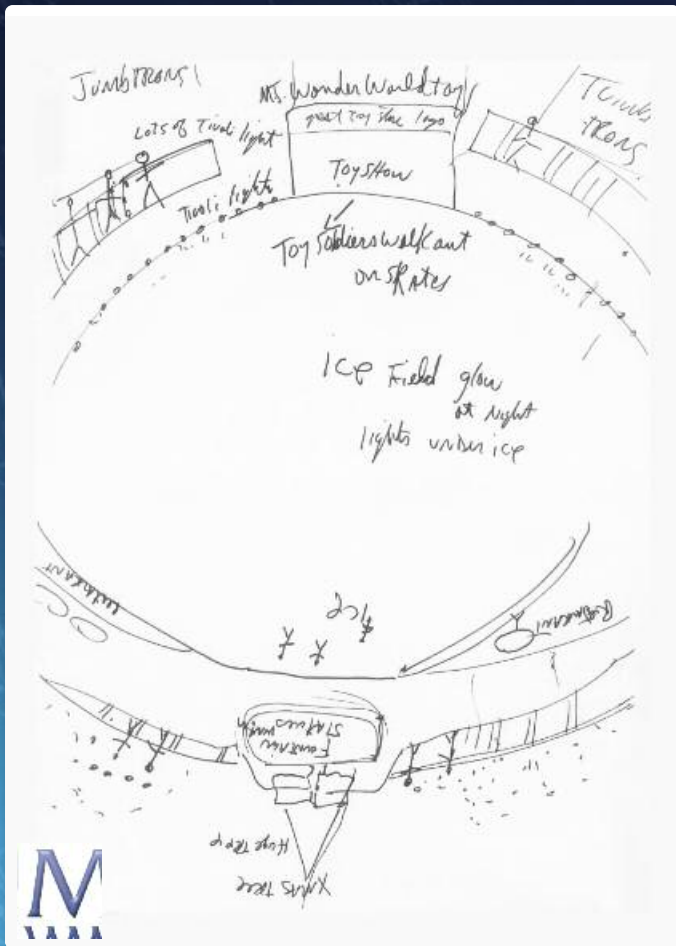
Through dialogues with Kenji, Michael out-poured his passion, and sketched a concept in his own writing. He enjoyed the creativity with childlike wonder and drew the sketch in no time, some parts described in detail. Kenji felt he understood Michael's true message from the sketch. After Michael passed away, it occurred to Kenji that Michael was leaving a message to the world through this illustration. Of how much 'MJ' loved people and the Earth we live in, how much he prayed for the improvement of the environment so that all human beings can live in peace and happiness.



The main door is designed with the "MJWWT" logo. Michael loved this logo design which is a KENJI original. Michael dreamed that when the door opened, a variety of performances from around the world would start. Kenji referred to the Baroque style that Michael chose as the design element around the gates. Kenji designed an ornament of "Bubbles", Michael's



favorite pet, to be in the middle of the gate. Michael told Kenji with a big smile, "He used to use my toilet!" and laughed. Each side of the gate is a 'Jumbotron', developed by SONY, to project many kinds of animals. Michael had much respect for Mr. Morita, the Chairman of SONY at that time. "I drew this image because Michael had said, "we definitely must place Jumbotrons on the walls!", says Kenji.



The night of Christmas Eve, December 24, 1992  
MJWWT concept sketch, drawn by Michael himself

Michael said, "This ice skating rink emerges with light in the night. There are a great number of small lights here and the world is filled with light. A lot of fireworks should be shot into the air. How about this idea, the logo can become visible under the skating rink?" As you can see, numerous fireworks are shooting up into the night sky, a Christmas Tree with magnificent lighting in the center, with a fountain set on a pedestal of elephants. Michael, for some reason very particular about having a Christmas tree, fountain, and fireworks.



Michael was also very particular about using a gothic-styled stone building. This piece is to confirm his concept of the architectural design. He was especially particular about design of the fountain. Angels placed on both sides of the fountain was a special request by Michael. People are enjoying the view of the ice rink while enjoying a meal upstairs.



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**In Michael's words:**

- "I would like you to paint a Christmas tree which doesn't extinguish light all year around."
- "Under the Christmas tree, there must be a fountain."
- "I would like you to paint a full moon in the night sky full of stars"
- "On the skating rink here, children from all around the world will skate."
- "What I really want is to make the world full of light, the world covered by abundant light."
- "I want numerous fireworks to shoot up in the night sky."
- "The main part of the attraction is held every day, it is the parade of the toy soldier."
- "There is Christmas all year around."

"I would like you to paint people skating on the rink and in front of them all should be children from a variety of countries. And an important part is a full moon. I want it to be a very large full moon."



Photo taken sometime around 3am on New Year's Day, 1993.

**Michael and KENJI**

The New Year's Eve 'Countdown' was at the Tokyo Dome the previous night, Michael left early to meet with Kenji and pick up the finished conceptual drawings before leaving for the United States. Upon handing over the completed illustrations to Michael, who was dressed in his casual pajama style, his eyes filled with tears. Three hours later, he was on the way to Narita airport.

**On December 22, 1992**

It was the day a Japanese artist met Michael Jackson. It happened in 10 days, the miraculous and special time these two spent alone was like a Christmas gift from God. It didn't take long for the two to bond, feel right at home and connect through their passion for music.

Michael began his story, **"For a half of this year, prior to meeting you tonight, I was thinking about an amusement park, named "MJWWT," which will set free the poor kids from all over the world. I would like you to illustrate this place in my head in the next 10 days."**

He kept talking till dawn until I understood the concept named "MJWWT." "Then, on the night of Christmas Eve, I told Michael that I cannot understand the concept without him illustrating some for me, bluntly, as if I were speaking with close friends," says Kenji. Michael then sketched as he explained the details of each part. Kenji said, "after one week, I finished a few of the sketches and handed it over to Michael."

**"The true inspiration and meaning of MJWWT is still undiscovered, however remembering the miraculous 10 days I spent with 'MJ', may he rest in peace, I believe he**

**was thinking of 'Wonder World of Toys" as if Earth was a large toy." - Kenji Koga**

Planet Earth and human beings are suffering from environmental destruction and war. The most affected by these problems are children. Children embrace fun and toys are expressions of joy. Through this amusement park, Michael seemed to describe "Earth" as he would like to see it in massive scale. Michael's splendid sensitivity and creativeness left us with an enormous amount of masterpieces both in music and visual arts. Out of one of these masterpieces, "This Is It", in the last few minutes of the final scene, 'MJ' left us a message..., "the time we have is only 5 years." What does that mean? Did he want to convey how human beings and the Earth should be in the future through the eyes of MJWWT?

The message he wished to communicate most is... "Love this beautiful Earth that we as human beings live, and stop wars and environmental destruction. Quit discrimination and conflict. Children are the treasures of Earth upon which we all depend on for our future." With such passion in his heart and in MJWWT, Michael kept sending messages through his music with all his strength and soul in order to help extinguish wars around the world and preserve the environment we live in.