We are pleased to present a two-person exhibition “Black Closer to White” by Emmanuel Guillaud and Ryudai Takano from October 12 (Fri) to November 10 (Sat), 2012.

Official opening will be on October 12 (Fri) 18:00 ~ 20:00. * Mr. Guillaud and Mr. Takano will be present.

■ Artist Statement

It was three years ago in his solo exhibition when I first met Mr. Guillaud. He had introduced me to the French press before that time. The only thing I knew about him was that he was a professional photographer from France and had been living in Japan for a few years. Everything else about him was a mystery to me.

At his exhibition, there was a slide show with parks at night and emergency stairway. I had seen many photographs of night till then, but his photos were different from all the others and had a strong sexual overtone. There is probably no other person, who captures dark moods like him. I still remember that I was shocked when I met him because his work was so different from his gentle and cheery appearance, which intensified his mysteriousness.

I suggested this exhibition to Mr. Guillaud last year just before he went back to France. I may have been a bit sentimental as he was leaving, but I had a feeling that we might be able to do something interesting together. Take the title of our exhibition. Mr. Guillaud, whose mother tongue is not Japanese, made a slight mistake in Japanese kanjis when he was noting down for himself “Kuro to Shiro” (“Black and White”). It became “Kuroi Shiro” (“Black Closer to White”) and we immediately felt this unexpected combination was right.

The works of Mr. Guillaud, who treats many darkness of night, are in color. Nevertheless, the pictures he captures are almost colorless and most of the field is black. On the other hand, my works, which are monochrome, have
sunlight as the theme. Thus the screen is predominantly white. The difference between the two of us are like "Night and Day", "Artificial Light and Sun Light" and "Darkness and Shadow". What we have in common is that in our works, the objects are not emphasized. From a distance, our works may look like black and white photos.

While we were talking about the above, Mr. Guillaud wrote “Black Closer to White” (“Kuroi Shiro”). He happened to refer to the condition, where both of our works are mixed, in words. I was fascinated with the co-incidence and imagined the layout of exhibition where our works are mixed and become gray-colored in observer’s mind.

With each of us from France and Japan respectively, the difference in distance and environment are evident. If our works are mixed and create a gray color, it follows the law of a nature, “it will become gray if all colors are mixed” in a different way. I cannot help thinking that this may be a miracle. Gray is not only one of many colors, but may have a special importance. I will be happy if we could present such an idea in the exhibition.

(Ryudai Takano)

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■ Emmanuel Guillaud Profile
Born in Paris (1970), Emmanuel Guillaud is an artist living and working in Paris and Tokyo. He works mostly with projected pictures, building photographic installations made of synchronised slideshows. Since 2007, he is working on an on-going series of installations called "Until the sun rises". Started as single screen project (Les Rencontres d’Arles – Voies Off International Selection, 2007; Museum of Arts, Palm Springs, USA, 2009; g/p gallery, Tokyo 2009), it evolved into various multi screens installation conceived according to the topography of each location (Noorderlicht Gallery, Holland, 2009, School Gallery, Paris Solo Show, 2010, Singapore Art Museum, 2011). Other projected works have included “(going nowhere)” (Super Deluxe, Tokyo, 2005) and site-specific installation “i/o (–side)” (No Man’s Land in the former buildings of the French Embassy in Tokyo). He also exhibited works at Photo Espana 2009 / Descubrimientos ”discovery” section (Madrid, 2009), Tokyo Wonderwall (Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo 2005 and 2010), Philadelphia Photographic Art Center, USA (Going from nowhere, 2009/2010), Institut Franco-Japonais de Tokyo (Tokyo, 2010). In 2012, “Notes on unfinished projects”, a notebook on Emmanuel Guillaud’s creative process co-realised with Kiyoshi Takami was published by art beat publishers / Heuristic.

www.emmanuelguillaud.info
www.untilthesunrises.net

■ Ryudai Takano Profile
Born in 1953 in Fukui. As a photographer, Takano first presented his works from 1994. In 2006, received the 31st Kimura Ihei Award with his photographic collection “IN MY ROOM”(Sokyusha) of which theme is sexuality. Besides themes such as the body and sex, he has recently been interested in cities. In 2010, has started up “Photo–Secession Tokyo” with Risaku Suzuki, Taiji Matsue, Shino Kuraishi and Minoru Shimizu.
Main solo exhibitions are “Stand up, Kikuo” (Zeit–Foto Salon, Tokyo, 2012) “Photo–Graph” (Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room Shinjuku, Tokyo, 2012) “An Ignition Point” (Zeit–Foto Salon, Tokyo, 2010), “with me” (NADiff a/p/a/r/t, Tokyo, 2009), “46th Open Studio – Document, Memory and Something” (Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo, 2009) and many more. For group exhibitions, participated many times inside and outside Japan, such as “Still/Motion: Liquid Crystal Painting” (Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, 2008). “Beyond The Border” (Tangram Art Center, Shanghai, 2010), “the 35th Anniversary Exhibition of the Kimura Ihei Award” (Kawasaki City Museum, Kanagawa, 2010), “PARIS PHOTO 2008” (Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, 2008), and “Jiro Takamatsu/Ryudai Takano PHOTOGRAPH and Phtograph” (Dazaifu Tenmangu Houmotsuden, Fukuoka, 2009)

■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.
E–mail: info@ycassociates.co.jp  Tel. +81–3–6276–6731
Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku  URL: http://www.ycassociates.co.jp
Opening Hours: 12:00 – 19:00 (Closed on Sunday, Monday, National Holiday)

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Yumiko Chiba Associates Press Release