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Spring **Wataru Yamamoto**

July 25 – August 23, 2014

Closed: August 10 – 18, 2014

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Gallery Talk & Opening Reception: Saturday, July 26

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present, from July 25, 2014, a solo exhibition *Spring* by Wataru Yamamoto.

Wataru Yamamoto has featured his various works through the medium of photography: “Drawing a Line,” a self-portrait in the primeval forest of Kumano Kodo, Wakayama; “Leaf of Electric Light” and “Plane Tree Observations,” where he recorded the lights generated by plants discharged with high frequency and high voltage; and “Form of Desire,” a solid object made by pouring plaster into a man’s masturbation tool and molding it. Yamamoto has presented each of these works almost during the same period. His technical attempts differ in each piece, showing variation and making a profound mark of space, material, ideas, civilization and self beyond the conventional frame of photography, and reflecting his strong will to seek what it means to take a photograph of nature, capture and pick from nature, an act which varies depending on the period or culture.

The works on display attempt to capture as a direct sensual experience the natural phenomena brought by the sun, which is the source of light and heat. Though visually beautiful, they do not end there but question the viewers about the boundaries of what is natural and human. In this show, we will exhibit approximately 10 pieces, selecting from those works which were produced from winter through spring in 2014.

Gallery Talk will be held with Wataru Yamamoto and Chihiro Minato, photographer and art critic along with the exhibition.

■ **Concept**

On a winter night that I spent freezing in the mountains, I was strongly impressed with the warmth of the morning sun which soaked into the skin, shining through the mountains. I then realized how much I craved the sun as a source of heat. Since then, I have had a desire to directly capture the phenomenon generated by the sunlight and temperature change, the very feeling in the skin.

In *Spring*, I attempted to capture sunlight and temperature change, using water and color films for the skin. To describe the piece precisely, I created a “photograph of the sun taken with films absorbed and frozen in water”.



The photographs took a long time to create, a process involving the transformation of film followed by defrosting, as well as a pattern of ice and the diffused reflection of melting water during exposure. I used a pinhole camera and took a photograph of the sun as a heat source, and I defrosted the frozen film with the sunlight through the hole rather than using the transformed light through the lens.

I chose the title *Spring* because the process of using warmth to defrost and expose film that had been kept in a dark place reminded me of the activity of every living creature in spring. I started to produce these pieces from the beginning of March. This period, when leaf buds crack the bark and insects emerge from hibernation underground, is called "Keichitsu" in Japanese. "Kei" means "open" and "chitsu" means "be confined". For me, whose mother tongue is Japanese, the word Keichitsu is an abundant and solid image which represents the subtle change in the seasons from winter to spring.

There are many works of art that center on a theme of springtime and its associated feelings. I approach the theme of springtime, too, but relying on my own sensation on my skin and the images associated with the word Keichitsu.

Wataru Yamamoto
July, 2014

■ Gallery Talk

With Wataru Yamamoto, Photographer and Chihiro Minato, Photographer/Writer

Saturday, July 26, 18:00-19:30; booking required.

For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to event@ycassociates.co.jp

■ Profile

Wataru Yamamoto

1986 Born in Tochigi, Japan
2011 Received Excellence Award at Canon New Cosmos of Photography 2011
2013 Received Master's Degree at Tama Art University

[Selected Solo Exhibitions]

2013 *Plane Tree Observations*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
Drawing a Line, photographer's gallery, Tokyo
2012 *Wataru Yamamoto*, ANOTHER FUNCTION, Tokyo

[Selected Group Exhibitions]

2014 *TOKYO 2020*, Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich
2013 *LIVING WITH PHOTOGRAPHY*, Isetan Shinjuku, Tokyo
LIMIX MEETS / TOKYO 2020 BY JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHERS 9,
1 RUE RICHELIEU, HILLSIDE TERRACE, Paris & HILLSIDE FORUM, Tokyo
2012 *3331 TRANS ARTS*, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo
2011 *Canon New Cosmos of Photography Award 2011*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography
2010 *126 Polaroid Group Exhibit*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama

[Art Fair]

2013 *Japanese Contemporary Art Fair "NEW CITY ART FAIR Taipei, Taiwan 2013"* Taipei

Chihiro Minato

Born 1960. Photographer and art critic. Professor, Department of Interaction Design of Tama Art University since 1995. Visiting scholar, Oxford University. He has been active in extensive fields such as works on visual anthropology with the theme of memories and images. His recent books include *Geijutsu Kaikiron* [Theory of Art Recurrence](2012, Heibonsha) and *Void eno Tabi* [Journey to the Void](2012, Seidosha). His latest exhibition includes *AABB ,Howl Space, Tainan, Taiwan/PLACE M, Tokyo*(2014). In 2007, he served as Commissioner of the Japan Pavilion at the 52nd Venezia Biennale. He did curatorial work in the Taipei Biennial 2012.

■ ■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

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Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku URL: <http://www.ycassociates.co.jp>

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Opening Hours: 12:00 - 19:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays)