

Christophe Guye Galerie

In Conversation: A Photographic Dialogue Between Japan and Korea

29 August – 28 September 2024

In this exhibition, a captivating dialogue unfolds between nine artists from Japan and Korea, each renowned for their unique approaches to photography. The interplay between these artists—Hiroshi Sugimoto, Risaku Suzuki, Rinko Kawauchi, Yoshinori Mizutani, Syoin Kajii from Japan, and Jung Lee, Jun Ahn, Ina Jang, A Mi Yoon from Korea—creates a rich tapestry of visual exploration and introspection. Their work collectively navigates themes of identity, nature, and perception, offering profound insights into both personal and universal experiences.

Hiroshi Sugimoto explores the passage of time and the relationship between nature and human perception. Sugimoto's 'Diorama' series captures the artifice of natural history museum displays, revealing the tension between reality and representation. His works show nature and historical representation as both a backdrop and a focal point for exploring existential themes.

Risaku Suzuki and Jung Lee both engage with the natural world but from distinct perspectives. Suzuki's "Water Mirror" series reflects the serene interplay between water and light, capturing the subtle beauty of reflective surfaces. Jung Lee's integration of neon sculptures into natural landscapes presents a striking contrast, highlighting the collision between artificial and organic elements. Their works create a dialogue between tranquility and spectacle, inviting viewers to consider the tension between natural and constructed environments.

Rinko Kawauchi and Ina Jang share a focus on the personal and introspective. Kawauchi's "Ametsuchi" series, with its contemplative images of ritualistic burning and natural cycles, contrasts with Jang's surreal self-portraits and staged scenarios. While Kawauchi's work immerses viewers in the ephemeral beauty of nature, Jang's photographs create a fantastical realm where personal identity and existential themes converge. Their interaction highlights the exploration of inner worlds and personal narratives, with Kawauchi's serene introspection complementing Jang's imaginative self-representation.

Yoshinori Mizutani and Jun Ahn both explore the relationship between environment and self. Mizutani's "Tokyo Parrots" series captures the vivid interaction between urban and natural elements, showcasing the coexistence of vibrant wildlife within the cityscape. Jun Ahn's daring self-portraits on the edges of skyscrapers challenge perceptions of vulnerability and self-discovery. Mizutani's urban juxtaposition contrasts with Ahn's dramatic confrontations with height and fear, creating a dialogue between external environments and internal experiences.

Syoin Kajii and A Mi Yoon both address themes of introspection and transformation. Kajii's serene landscapes, influenced by Zen practice, evoke a deep sense of spiritual contemplation and natural beauty. A Mi Yoon's conceptual work delves into personal transformation and emotional depth, using layered compositions to reveal the complexities of identity. Kajii's meditative approach complements Yoon's conceptual explorations, offering a profound reflection on the nature of self and existence.