

Takashi Homma

mushrooms from the forest
June 5 - July 17, 2021

Nonaka-Hill is honored to present *Takashi Homma: mushrooms from the forest*, the first Los Angeles solo exhibition of works by the Japanese artist. The exhibition of thirtythree photographs is on view from June 5th to July 17th, 2021.

For this occasion, Homma selected photographs of mushrooms and the forests where he found them within contaminated zones of the Fukushima and Chernobyl nuclear disasters. Homma intermingled images of radioactive mushrooms with others from the forests in Stony Point, New York where avant-garde music composer John Cage became enamored of mushrooms and was forever changed by the study of Mycology. The series, which began in Fukushima six months after the accident, are chronicled in Homma's monographs *mushrooms from the forest* (blind gallery, Tokyo, 2011) and *Symphony—Mushrooms from the Forest* (Case Publishing, Tokyo, 2019).

Homma's mushroom images, which are produced onsite in the forests in "nature study style" show the specimen against white paper and are treated much like portraits. Mushrooms are the fruiting body expressions of fungi, existing as more than 1.5 million species with unique characteristics. The bulk of a mushroom's fungi lay underground, spreading as mycelium threads to achieve elaborate networks of passageways across spectacular expanse. The communication which occurs through this network often draws comparison to our internet. Cage's expanded concept of sound, as pertains to the mushrooms and his life the forest, most certainly takes into account the fullness of the Mushroom Kingdom, much of which is invisible and underfoot. Homma makes this visible with his inclusion of the root-systems, strains of mycelium and host soil.

The mushroom, long associated with fear, death and decay, is seen by scientists more and more as an agent of rebirth, rejuvenation and regeneration. Considered to be our distant relatives from 650,000,000 years ago, mushrooms are now employed to clean oil-spills, cure cancer and aid in mental health, and pertinent to Homma's series, may be useful in radioactive remediation.

Born in Tokyo in 1962, Takashi Homma began his professional career in 1984, working as an inhouse photographer for a Tokyo advertising agency. In the early 1990s, Homma worked in London as a photographer for i-D maga-zine, world renowned for its keen and enduring eye on youth culture and the diversity of human expression, often captured in "street photography". Homma returned to Japan and, in the following years, he photographed Japan as it really exists, chronicled in his 1998 artist book, *Tokyo Suburbia* (Korinsha Press, Tokyo), for which he was awarded the prestigious Kimura Ihei Commemorative Photography Award in 1999. A cursory review of the spectrum of photography from Japan might give the impression that two polar positions have dominated the nation's photographic discourse: a perceived mandate to use the camera's inherent capability to document objective truth versus a more expressive exploration of the photographic medium's potential, Homma's practice offers a middle ground, between a documentary and expression, a poetic view of our world as it is. Homma has produced an extraordinary range of photo books, an artform wherein he has achieved great distinction.

Takashi Homma

Biography

In 1999, he received the 24th Kimura Ihei Award for Photography for his photo book *"Tokyo Suburbia"* (Korinsha Publishing Co., Ltd.). From 2011 to 2012, he held a solo exhibition, *"New Documentary,"* at three different museums in Japan. He is the author of *"Fun Photography: A Photography Classroom for Good Children"* and recent collections of his work include THE NARCISSISTIC CITY (MACK) and TRAILS (MACK). He has also published *"Symphony mushrooms from the forest"* (Case Publishing) and *"Looking Through Le Corbusier Windows"* (Walther König, CCA, Window Institute) in 2019. Currently a visiting professor at Tokyo Zokei University

1962 Born in Tokyo, Japan

1999 Received 24th Kimura Ihei Commemorative Photography Award for the photobook, *Tokyo Suburbia*.

Lives and works in Tokyo, Japan

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2021 *mushroom from the forest*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles

2020 *Eye Camera Window: Takashi Homma on Le Corbusier*, CCA, Montreal
Takashi Homma/Symphony – mushrooms from the forest, POST, Tokyo

2019 *Trails of Takashi Homma*, Pon Ding & moom bookshop, Taipei
Looking through – Le Corbusier windows, TARO NASU, Tokyo

2018 *Fugaku 11/36 –Thirty six views of mount fuji -*, TARO NASU, Tokyo
Mountain, CIFAKA, Okayama

2017 *NEW WAVES*, POST, Tokyo
TWENTYSIX GASOLINE STATIONS / ROYAL ROAD TEST / BABYCA KES, POST, Tokyo

La città narcisista. Milano e altre storie, VIASATERNA, Milan

2016 *Various cameraobscura studies - inprogress*, TARO NASU, Tokyo

Mitsukoshi Wrapping Paper, Marugame Genichiro Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa

VARIOUS SHAPED HOSES AND SNAKE, POST, Tokyo

2015 *Chandigarh*, CoSTUME NATIONAL, Tokyo

Seeing Itself, Dazaifu Tenmangu Art Program vol.9 Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka

Camera obscura studies, Tokyo International photograph fair ART FACTORY, Tokyo

2014 *NINE SWIMMING POOLS AND A BROKEN IPHONE*, POST, Tokyo

TOWARDS THE CITY - camera obscura study -, TARO NASU, Tokyo

2013 *New Waves*, Longhouse Projects, New York

Kenzo Tange Exhibition From Setouchi to the World, Kagawa prefecture Museum, Kagawa

Pinhole Revolution / Architecture, TARO NASU, Tokyo

2012 *mushrooms from the forest 2011*, Blind Gallery, Tokyo

MORE Mushroom, The Cave, Tokyo

Takashi Homma

- Selected Solo Exhibitions
- 2012 *Homma Takashi New Documentary*, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa
New Waves, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
Hokuo Kenchiku Toka [Nordic Architecture etc.], Bo Concept, Tokyo
 - 2011 *Homma Takashi New Documentary*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art Kanazawa, Kanazawa Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo
IN OUR NATURE, Mitsubishi Estate Artium, Fukuoka
 - 2010 *Vedove/Widows*, Antico Castello sul Mare, Rapallo, Italy (Rapallo Fotografia Contemporanea, 4a edizione)
New Waves 2010, 1223 Gendaikaiga—Contemporary Painting Museum, Tokyo
M, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
 - 2009 *Trails*, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
 - 2008 *I don't Go to Grandes Jorasses*, limArt, Tokyo
Tokyo, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
Mountains "Seeing Itself," Display By Arts&Science, Tokyo
 - 2007 *New Waves*, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
New Waves, Logos Gallery, Tokyo
Tokyo/Reykjavik, 101 Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland
Architectural Landscapes, Gallery White Room Tokyo, Tokyo
 - 2006 *Tokyo and My Daughter*, Galerie Claudia Delank, Cologne, Germany
 - 2005 *New Waves 2005*, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
 - 2004 *Kiwamete yoi fukei [Extremely Good Landscapes]*, NADiff, Tokyo
Short Hope, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
 - 2003 *Waves*, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
New Waves, A.P.C., Tokyo
 - 2002 *Tokyo Children*, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
 - 2000 *Tokyo Suburbia*, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
 - 1999 *Takashi Homma: Tokyo Suburbia*, Minolta Photo Space, Tokyo; Minolta Photo Space in Osaka, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Sendai
Tokyo Suburbia, Parco Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
Takashi Homma Exhibition '99, Gallery The Deep, Tokyo
 - 1998 *Hyper Ballad: Icelandic Suburban Landscapes*, Gallery 360°, Tokyo
Tokyo Suburbia, Parco Gallery, Tokyo
 - 1995 *Babyland*, Parco Gallery, Tokyo
Tokyo Teens, Homma Takashi Photo Office, Tokyo

Takashi Homma

- Selected group Exhibitions
- 2020 *The Window: A Journey of Art and Architecture through Windows*, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa
 - 2019 *The Window: A Journey of Art and Architecture through Windows*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo Present Day and in Times Past - Multiple Perspectives, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo
 - 2018 *Casino Palermo*, VIASATERNA, Milan
Japan in Architecture: Genealogies of Its Transformation, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
Le Corbusier / Chandigarh -Creation and Context-, Arch-DepoTokyo
A gaze into architecture :Phases of Contemporary Photography and Architecture, Arch-Depot, Tokyo
 - 2017 *TOP Collection: Scrolling Through Heisei Part1 : In the Here and Now*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum
 - 2016 *20 Year Anniversary TOP Collection: Tokyo Tokyo and TOKYO*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo
Windowology 10th Anniversary Exhibition: The World Through the Window, Spiral Garden, Tokyo
 - 2015 *Tokyo Art Meeting VI "TOKYO" -Sensing the Cultural Magma of the Metropolis*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
In the Wake : Japanese Photographers Respond to 3-11, Boston Museum of Fine Art, Boston
 - 2014 *The Fab Mind: Hints of the Future in a Shifting World*, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT , Tokyo
You reach out – right now – for something : Questioning the Concept of Fashion, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum, Kagawa
You reach out – right now – for something : Questioning the Concept of Fashion, Art Tower Mito Contemporary Art Gallery, Ibaraki
 - 2013 *gesture, form, technique III*, TARO NASU, Tokyo
Ryosen, POST, Tokyo
Memories of town, Yokosuka Museum of Art, Kanagawa
 - 2012 *Double Vision: Contemporary Art From Japan*, Moscou Museum of Modern Art, Moscou/Haifa Museum of Art, Israel
The Month of Photography 2012, FUJIFILM PHOTO SALON, Tokyo
 - 2010 *Asia Spectrum at Daegu Photo Biennale 2010*, Daegu Culture and Arts Center, Daegu, Korea
 - 2009 *Mountains "A Way of Seeing,"* Gallery Trax, Hokuto, Japan
 - 2007 *Gazing at the Contemporary World: Japanese Photography from the 1970s to the Present.* (traveling exhibition to 22 cities in 12 countries including Lithuania, Germany, Egypt, Latvia, Indonesia, Australia.)
 - 2006 *Stories, Histories: Set 3 from the Collection of the Fotomuseum Winterthur*, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
 - 2005 *36 Photographers of the Kimura Ihei Award*, Kawasaki City Museum, Kawasaki
 - 2003 *Japan—Contemporary Ceramics and Photography— Tradition and Presence*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany

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- Selected group Exhibitions
- 2003 *The History of Japanese Photography*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; The Cleveland Museum of Art, OH
Everyday Contemporary Art from Japan, China, Korea, and Thailand, Kunstforeningen, Copenhagen, Denmark
 - 2001 *JAM: Tokyo-London*, Barbican Art Gallery, London; Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo (2002).
Landscapes, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo
 - 2000 *MOT Annual 2000: Land/mind/body-scapes in the Age of Cold Burn*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo
 - 1999 *TOKYO 60/90 17 Contemporary Photographers*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo
Retrospective: The Kimura Ihei Memorial Photography Award 1975-1999, Kawasaki City Museum, Kawasaki, Japan
 - 1997 *Cities on the Move: Contemporary Asian Art on the Turn of the 21st Century*, Secession, Vienna; Hayward Gallery, London and other venues until 2000.
 - 1996 *Baby Generation*, Parco Part III Square 7, Tokyo

Major Publications

- Babyland*, Little More, Tokyo, 1995
- Baby Generation*, Little More, Tokyo, 1996 (with other authors)
- Tokyo Teens*, Little More, Tokyo, 1996
- Hyper Ballad: Icelandic Suburban Landscapes*, Switch Publishing, Tokyo, 1997
- Tokyo Suburbia*, Korinsha Press, Kyoto, 1998
- Tokyo Children*, Little More, Tokyo, 2001
- New Waves*, A.P.C., Tokyo, 2003
- New Waves*, Magazine House, Tokyo, 2003 (relax magazine special edition)
- Kiwamete yoi fukei [Extremely Good Landscapes]*, Little More, Tokyo, 2004
- In-between 1: Takashi Homma: Denmark, Poland*, EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee, Tokyo, 2005
- Tokyo and My Daughter*, Nieves, Zurich, 2006
- New Waves*, Parco Publishing, Tokyo, 2007
- Architectural Landscapes*, Gallery White Room Tokyo, Tokyo, 2007
- Takashi Homma*: Tokyo, Aperture Foundation, New York, 2008
- Mountains "Seeing Itself" (between the books 00)*, Between the Books, Tokyo, 2008
- Trails*, Match and Company, Tokyo, 2009
- Tanoshii shashin [Fun Photography]*, Heibonsha, Tokyo, 2009 (essays on photography)
- First, jay comes.*, Hassla Books, New York, 2009
- R: 1994-2009*, Zine's Mate, Tokyo, 2009
- 35 Years Later*, The Thunderstorm Press, Tokyo, 2009
- Vedove/Widows*, Fantombbooks/Boiler Corporation, Milan, 2010

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Major Publications

Nursery, Nieves, Zurich, 2010

M, Gallery 360°, Tokyo, 2010

IN OUR NATURE, SUPER LABO, 2011

Takashi Homma New Documentary, Asahishinbunsha, 2011 (exhibition catalog)

Mushrooms from the Forest, blind gallery, 2012

Tanoshii shashin 2 Portrait [Fun Photography], Heibonsha, Tokyo, 2012 (essays on photography)

New Waves 2000-2013, 1223 Gendaikaiga, Tokyo, 2013

New Documentary, SUPER LABO, Tokyo, 2014

Tanoshii shashin 3 [Fun Photography] Workshop, Heibonsha, Tokyo, (essays on photography), 2014

THE NARCISSISTIC CITY, MACK BOOKS, London, 2016

Homma takashi Renovation: I've tried it! Introduction to Video Literacy, Shinchosha, Tokyo, 2017

TRAILS, MACK BOOKS, London, 2019

Symphony - mushrooms from the forest, Case Publishing, Tokyo, 2019

Looking Through: Le Corbusier Windows, Window Research Institute, CCA, Walther König, 2019