

We are pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Mi-Yeon, “KUU” at Communication Gallery Fugensha from December 1 to December 24, 2023.

Mi-Yeon is a photographer born in Seoul, Korea. After studying design at Seoul National University of Industry, she moved to France in 1988 to study photography at ICART PHOTO in Paris, and in 1991 moved to Tokyo, where she has worked as an essayist since 2001, publishing several books, including her latest, "Kiokunohotori" (Shohakusha, 2022). After the Great East Japan Earthquake and the death of a close friend, he resumed his photographic activities, and published "Yomogi Soshi" (Madosha, 2014), which follows the fate of a single blade of grass growing on the street, "Alone Together" (Kaya books, 2014), which focuses on the uncertainty of the contours of individual existence, and "I and Thou" (private edition, 2015). To date, his work is based on questions and philosophical speculations about the world, such as life and death, self and others, which he expresses through photography and writing.

This exhibition will feature approximately 30 archival pigment prints taken under the theme of "Color is Emptiness," which were exhibited at the Anne Clergue Galerie in Arles, France this past September and received favorable reviews.

The title of this work is derived from the Buddhist doctrine of "color equals emptiness. This doctrine teaches that the world is not a constant, but is in a constant state of continuity, and that everything we see is a manifestation of the time when conditions are fulfilled, and that everything is a temporary form.

Mi-Yeon's photographs of soap bubbles in the sky, a sliver of a mountain ridge, an old tin house, and fallen leaves blowing at an intersection are insignificant, but they convey the emotion of her intimate encounters with these scenes, while at the same time foreshadowing the fact that they are no longer with us.

If she doesn't capture that moment in time that lasts forever, the landscape will have never existed, and you will be reminded of the preciousness of the private activity of photography. Mi-Yeon's photographs also convey that this is not a special role given only to photographers, but the very activity of human beings, who perceive, react to, and depict the blink of an eye of the world that appears before each of us.

“KUU”, translated into English as “Emptiness”, is a central teaching of Buddhism.

Nothing has a separate self, and nothing exists by itself.

All things depend on causes and conditions.

When conditions are sufficient, things(we) manifest and when conditions are no longer sufficient, things(we) go into hiding.

It is not a birth of something out of nothing. There has been only a change in form.

All phenomena are in a constant process of manifesting.

This series is an attempt to express “Emptiness” through photography.

The landscapes in various places sometimes tell me a story of impermanence;

yesterday, today, or tomorrow are not the same, and also not different.

Mi-Yeon

Mi-Yeon

Born in Seoul. Studied photography at Icart photo (l'école de photographie de Paris) in France.

Based in Tokyo since 1991. Her work is often inspired by philosophy, thought, and religion.

A part time lecturer in the arts and crafts department at Nagaoka Institute of Design 2015-2023.

Selected Exhibitions

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| 2023 | 2007 |
| -Céleste (KUU), Anne Clergue Galerie, Arles, France (Solo) | -I saw you there, Adan Ohana Gallery, Tokyo (Solo) |
| 2022 | 2003 |
| -Memories are like Dreams, gallery kobun, Tokyo (Solo) | -The beauty of middle-age, foo, Tokyo (Solo) |
| -I and Thou, Totem Pole Photo Gallery, Tokyo (Solo) | -At the moment of two years old, Crayon house, Tokyo (Solo) |
| -Truth is One, Place M, Tokyo (Solo) | 2002 |
| 2021 | -At the moment of two years old, Setagaya Lifestyle Design Center, Tokyo (Solo) |
| -Truth is One, Myoukouji Temple, Niigata, Japan (Solo) | 2001 |
| -Truth is One, Niigata-Eya, Niigata, Japan (Two person) | -I was born, Seoul Paris Tokyo, Gallery Koubun, Tokyo (Solo) |
| -Truth is One, Sakyukan, Niigata, Japan (Solo) | 2000 |
| 2020 | -EXISTENCE, Gallery Tomos, Tokyo (Solo) |
| -Dol / Dang, G&S NEU, Osaka (Solo) | -EXISTENCE – Erigeron canadensis, Gallery Mole, Tokyo (Solo) |
| -I and Thou, Photography Festival – Promenades Photographiques, Vendôme. France | Books |
| 2017 | Kiokunohotori (Memories are like dreams), essays & photographs, Shohakusya Publishing co., Japan, 2022 |
| -Yomogi soshi – who might you be?, Roonee Recomend wall, Tokyo | Alone Together, photobook, Noonbit photographer collection 042, Korea, 2017 |
| -I and Thou, Gallery mu-an, Nagaoka, Japan (Solo) | I and Thou, Handmade artist book, limited edition 72, 2015 |
| -Gelatin Silver Print, Space 22, Seoul | Yomogi soshi –who might you be?, photobook, Madosha, Japan, 2014 |
| -Art Festival Regards d'ailleurs, la Chapelle de l'Hôtel-Dieu, curated by Nathalie Gallon, Dreux, France | Alone Together, photobook, kaya books, Japan, 2014 |
| 2016 | Tsuki Taiyo Si Yasai (moon, sun, poem and vegetable), novel, Kadokawa Haruki Cor., Japan, 2006 |
| -I and Thou, Anne Clergue Galerie, Arles, France (Solo) | Kurage, a short story in Anthology, Kadokawa Haruki Cor., Japan, 2006 |
| -I and Thou, Salon du Panthéon, curated by Nathalie Gallon, Paris (Solo) | LOVE LAND, poems & photographs, PHP Inc, Japan, 2004 |
| -Alone Together, Gallery Niigata-Eya, Niigata, Japan (Solo) | Imacoconiiruyo (I am here now), essays & photographs, KAISEI-SHA, Japan, 2002 |
| -Yomogi soshi – who might you be”, Gallery mu-an, Nagaoka, Japan (Solo) | I was born, essays & photographs, Shohakusya Publishing co., Japan, 2001 |
| 2015 | Book Award |
| -Alone Together, Space 22, Seoul (Solo) | I and Thou |
| -Ephémérides Coréennes, as part of the Festival Photo Saint-Germain, curated by Nathalie Gallon, Paris | – Steidl Book Award Japan, shortlisted, 2016 |
| -the Grand Prize Winners of ShaShin Book Award in Paris, tokyo arts gallery, Tokyo | – Kassel dummy award, shortlisted, 2016 |
| 2014 | – Unseen Dummy Award, shortlisted, 2015 |
| -Photo Off, La Belvilloise, curated by in)(between art gallery, Paris | – Self Publishing PHOTOLUX Award, shortlisted, 2015 |
| 2013 | Alone Together |
| -Alone and Together, Gallery Tosei, Tokyo (Solo) | – Shashin Book Award , Winner, 2014 |
| 2008 | |
| -Real life, MORIOKASHOTEN, Tokyo (Solo) | |