

We are pleased to announce the solo exhibitions of Shingo Kanagawa and Ryu Ika, the two artists whose work appears on the front cover of the magazine, in celebration of the publication of "Sha Shin Magazine vol.5 FACES" at Communication Gallery Fugensha from January 25 to March 3, 2024. The second half of the exhibition, "MOM LAND," a solo exhibition by Ryu Ika, will be held from February 15 to March 3.

Published by Fugensha on January 20, 2024, "Sha Shin Magazine vol.5 FACES" was planned to consider portrait photography, which originated from the beginning of the history of photography and its birth, and the relationship between the human "face" and photography.

Ryu Ika is a photographer born in Inner Mongolia, China and based in Tokyo, Japan. In 2019, Ryu Ika won the 21st Photography "1_WALL" Grand Prix. "The Second Seeing", a solo exhibition to commemorate the award, she used the human face as an important motif, expressing the relationship between "seeing/being seen" in contemporary society with images of coarse particles that were repeatedly digitally processed and input-output.

The current work, "MOM LAND," is a series of photographs of her mother, whom she was unable to see for a period of time due to the Corona disaster, in various scenes set in Inner Mongolia and Tokyo. Mothers are the only human beings we encounter in our lifetime who begin the process of parting from the zero-distance relationship we have spent in the womb the moment they are born. For Ika, who says that "photography is a tool for parting," this work is the purest manifestation of her stance on photography.

The works by Risaku Suzuki, Shinya Arimoto, Ayaka Yamamoto, and Haruto Hoshi featured in this issue will be on view at the same time at Papyrus Gallery on the second floor. We invite you to view the works of these contemporary Japanese photographers, who explore the universal theme of self and others while confronting the labyrinthine existence of the "face", the closest thing we have to a face but cannot see for ourselves.

As a related event, a gallery talk will be held on February 17 at the Ryu Ika exhibition venue with Masakazu Murakami, chief editor of "Sha Shin Magazine", as an interviewer. Ryu Ika and Shingo Kanagawa will also participate.

Please enjoy this one-day-only talk session with the unique casting of "Sha Shin Magazine".

Ryu Ika

Ryu Ika is a photographer born in Inner Mongolia. Before graduating from Musashino Art University, Department of Imaging Arts in 2020, she studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 2018. After returning to Japan at a time when the pandemic made verbal, direct communication difficult, she began taking photographs as a way to communicate with others. She continues to exhibit and self-publish her work in Japan and abroad, exploring the boundaries between self and other, reality and the staged world. In 2019, she won the Grand Prix of the 21st 1_WALL competition. In 2021, she published the photobook *The Second Seeing* (Akaaka Art Publishing).