

We are pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Keiko Nomura, "Naked Flowers" at Communication Gallery Fugensha from May 3 to May 26, 2024.

Keiko Nomura is a photographer born in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture and has been based in Okinawa since 2020. After graduating from Osaka Visual Arts College, she moved to the U.S. to study photography in LA and Santa Fe, and since her first photo book "DEEP SOUTH" (Little More) in 1999, her main subjects have been portraits of women and landscapes such as cities, sky, sea, and mountains, which she photographs as if to imprint her own senses, memories and emotions. In 2019, she won the Hayashi Tadahiko Photography Award for her book "Otari-Pristine Peaks", set in Otari Village, Nagano Prefecture, Japan.

This exhibition will feature approximately 30 nude portraits taken in Poland, Spain, and Taiwan, where she was an artist-in-residence from 2021 to 2023.

During the first residency in 2021, the effects of the Corona disaster were visible, and during the second residency in 2022, when war broke out in the neighboring Ukraine, displaced people were seen everywhere. The residency resulted in the publication of a book of photographs, Melody of Light (BWA Wrocław). In 2023, she also did a residency in the northeast of Spain with artists from Israel and the Basque Country, living and sleeping together in the wilderness.

In these years of pandemics and war catastrophes, Nomura has experienced the exchange of people across oceans and in different regions, and has reaffirmed what she takes for granted: that each place has its own daily life and life in its own way. The sunlight that shines equally on everything in Nomura's photographs, and the images of unclothed people in the midst of nature, acting as freely as animals, make the boundaries of national borders, race, and culture, which cause all kinds of conflicts, seem trivial. At the same time, the work reminds us of the joy of communication through photography. We hope that you will be able to confront Keiko Nomura's photographs as you are.

In conjunction with this exhibition, we will be releasing a large zine "Naked Flowers" (private edition), a compilation of works photographed in Spain.

## Keiko NOMURA

Born in Hyogo, Nomura graduated from Visual Arts College Osaka and studied photography in Los Angeles. Her photo book *Deep South*(1999) captures her roots of Okinawa and attracted much attention for its unique colours and rich emotionality. Since then, women and water have been the motifs in her overarching theme of 'life'. Her work explores life's infinite cycle beyond time and space and her pieces have been published in 8 photo books and shown in over 40 solo exhibitions. Nomura received the Newcomer's Award from the Photographic Society of Japan in 1999 and New Photographer Prize at the 16th Higashikawa International Photography Festival in 2000. Tadahiko Hayashi Prize in 2019. Nomura currently based in Okinawa prefecture in Japan.

[www.keikonomura.com](http://www.keikonomura.com)

### **Publications**

- 1999 DEEP SOUTH / Little More, Tokyo
- 2004 In-between/Eu-Japan-Fest, Tokyo
- 2006 Boody Moon,/Toseisha, Tokyo
- 2009 Red Water,/ Artbeat-Publishers
- 2012 Soul Blue, Silberbooks/AKAAKA
- 2016 Drop of light to rushing water/ Pierre von Kleist
- 2017 OKINAWA / Pierre von Kleist
- 2018 Otari-Pristine Peaks / Super Lab

### **Pubic collection**

- Tokyo art museum of photography
- Okinawa Prefecture Art Museum, Okinawa
- Higashikawa Gallery of Photography
- Kiyosato Photo Art Museum
- Shunan City of Museum Art and History.