

Makoto Takagi 's Solo Exhibition “*The Living Earth*”

Dates: Friday, September 13 – Sunday, September 29, 2024

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 12:00 - 19:00, Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 18:00

Closed: Mondays,

Venue: Communication Gallery Fugensha

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We are pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Makoto Takagi, *The Living Earth* at Communication Gallery Fugensha from September 13 to September 29, 2024. This exhibition commemorates the publication of his new photo book of the same title, published by Fugensha.

Makoto Takagi was born in Okazaki, Aichi Prefecture in 1957. Takagi began mountaineering in high school and was influenced by world-renowned mountain photographer Takeshi Mizukoshi, and began taking mountain photographs, which were selected seven times for the Nika Exhibition from 1984 to 1994, and won the first Yukio Tabuchi Award in 2001 for his suite photograph *The Living Mountain*. In 2010, he published a book entitled *The Japanese Alps: A Legacy of Ice Ages* (The Tokyo Shimbun), a collection of his photographs compiled from the viewpoint of natural science.

This exhibition will feature 34 original black-and-white prints from *The Living Earth*, Takagi's first book published in 14 years, in which he continues to photograph Kamikochi, his life's work. These black-and-white works express the “spirituality” that one feels when encountering the beautiful terrain of Kamikochi and the pristine nature nurtured there, which has been fostered by the passage of time since the great eruption 12,000 years ago. Taking the “Japanese view of nature”

that sees the soul in all things in the forest as a clue, he found a cycle of life in Kamikochi. The photo book is composed of four chapters representing this cycle: “Heaven: Light and Air,” “Traces of Time on Rocks,” “The Cycle of Water,” and “The Wheel of Life in Woods”.

For Japanese people, nature, where gods, Buddha, and souls dwell, is the spiritual center of their hearts, an idea that runs through the foundation of their religion, culture, and art, which originated in the Jomon period. Takagi photographed beautiful and terrifying mountains in the sky, megaliths that remind us of the passage of time since ancient times, diverse forms of changing water, and rich forests where diverse lives are born. Takagi's eye for capturing these mysterious scenes, his advanced photographic techniques, and his finely controlled print work convey the tremors of the heart that he feels through his five senses.

We invite you to view *The Living Earth*, a collection of original prints and deep blacks achieved through double-tone offset printing. During the exhibition, a gallery talk will be held with Ms. Kazuko Sekiji, Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, who contributed to this book.

Biography

Makoto Takagi

Makoto Takagi was born in Okazaki City, Aichi Prefecture in 1957. Taking up mountaineering as a high school student, he was enchanted by the natural beauty of the mountains. He graduated from the Graduate School of Engineering at the Nagoya University. In 2000, he participated in the group exhibition *Photographing Nature: The Eyes of Five Photographers* held in conjunction with a solo exhibition of works by Takeshi Mizukoshi entitled *Walking on the Earth Now* at the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art in Aichi Prefecture. In 2001, Takagi won the first Yukio Tabuchi Prize for his series *Living Mountains*. In the same year, he held a solo exhibition *Sangaku Doppo* (Learning in the mountains while walking alone) at the Shimin Times Azumino Sanko Hall in Nagano Prefecture. The subject of his work has consistently been the mountains and rivers around Kamikochi, where diverse aspects of nature coexist in harmony. In 2010, he published the photobook *The Japanese Alps: A Legacy of Ice Ages* (The Tokyo Shimbun), in which he captured views of the Yari-Hotaka Mountain Range and Kamikochi from the perspective that the area exhibits many features that were shaped by glaciers. In 2019, he held a solo exhibition entitled *Esoteric Power of Time* at the Yukio Tabuchi Memorial Museum. He is an Emeritus Professor at the Aichi Institute of Technology and a Doctor of Engineering.