

Ryuichi Yahagi Solo Exhibition *KISEKI x KISEKI - Miracles and Trails-*

Dates: Friday, November 1– Sunday, December 1, 2024

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

Closed: 21th November and Mondays

Venue: Communication Gallery Fugensha

5-3-12 Shimo-Meguro, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0064, Japan

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We are pleased to announce Ryuichi Yahagi's solo exhibition *KISEKI x KISEKI - Miracles and Trails-* at Communication Gallery Fugensha from November 1 (Fri) to December 1 (Sun), 2024.

Ryuichi Yahagi is an artist born in Kawasaki City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, and lives in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, where he graduated as a sculptor from Kanazawa College of Art in 1995, and moved to Mexico in 1995. He graduated from Tsuji Culinary Institute in 1987 and had worked as a chef, and has also done workshops and artworks on the theme of chili peppers.

This exhibition will feature 108 photographs and some “Moseki” from the *KISEKI x KISEKI* series. About 500 years ago, in Mexico after the Spanish conquest, a miracle occurred in which the Virgin Guadalupe, a Mexican version of the Virgin Mary with brown skin and black hair, appeared before Juan Diego, a native who was baptized into Christianity. From then on, Guadalupe became the object of the greatest devotion in Mexico, a country with a strong Catholic faith. Yahagi, who was watching the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident caused by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake from the other side of the world, had the Virgin Mary appear at the country's only nuclear power plant in his home state of Veracruz, Laguna de la Luz. Starting from Laguna Verde, the country's only nuclear power plant, he began visiting nuclear power plants scattered all over Japan, one by one, and photographing them with Guadalupe appearing with the nuclear power plants in the background. Along with these, black-and-white photographs of newly constructed residential areas after the disaster in Tomioka and Namie towns in Futaba-gun, Fukushima Prefecture, adjacent to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, will be exhibited, along with fast-moving snaps of Mexican festivals born from the fusion of Christianity and indigenous culture.

Also on display will be “Moseki,” a project that sculptor Yahagi has been working on for many years. “Moseki” is a stone sculpture that takes a stone collected in a certain location and imitates it using stones of the same composition to the point that the two are indistinguishable from each other. In this

exhibition, stones collected near Tepeyac Hill, where Guadalupe appeared, will be used to create imitations of stones found on the coasts of Tomioka and Namie towns.

The works, created while traveling back and forth between Japan and Mexico, are centered around the miracle of Guadalupe's appearance, and make us think about the trajectory, present, and future of the two cultures. We hope that through the works created by stirring the cultures and histories of the two countries, we will be able to deepen our mutual understanding.

Biography

Ryuichi Yahagi

1967 Born in Kawasaki City, Kanagawa Prefecture

1987 Graduated from Osaka Abeno Tsuji Culinary School

1995 Graduated from Kanazawa College of Art, Department of Sculpture

1995 Moved to Mexico

2001 Mexican Government Artist Program Scholarship

2002-2009 Lecturer, Department of Fine Arts, State University of Veracruz

2010 BFA in Fine Arts, National Autonomous University of Mexico, San Carlos

Currently Researcher at the Institute of Fine Arts and Plastic Arts, State University of Veracruz,
Doctoral student at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, College of Fine Arts, San Carlos
Member of *Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte (SNCA)*

<https://ryuichiyahagi.wixsite.com/japon>