

Commemoration of the Publication of Kotaro Iizawa's Poetry Collection
Marejeo kutoka kisawa cha paka (Return from Cat Island),
artwork by Katsuyuki Takahashi

Dates: Friday, January 31– Sunday, February 23, 2025

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

Closed: Mondays,

Venue: Fugensha

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

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<https://fugensha.jp>

Fugensha is pleased to announce the exhibition celebrating the publication of Kotaro Iizawa's poetry collection "Marejeo kutoka kisawa cha paka (Return from Cat Island)", featuring illustrations by Katsuyuki Takahashi. The exhibition will be held from January 31 (Friday) until February 23 (Sunday), 2025.

This time will be the fourth upcoming poetry collection "Marejeo kutoka kisawa cha paka (Return from Cat Island)", published by Fugensha, is based on a manuscript from 1982, written after Iizawa's stay in East Africa. The collection is set on "Cat Island," an island dominated by cats, which is Lamu Island on the east coast of Kenya. The poems depict a journey undertaken by "me (Iizawa, the narrator)" and "a child with the face of a monkey".

This exhibition will feature 17 original illustrations by Katsuyuki Takahashi, which vividly bring to life the image of "Cat Island" created through the polyphony of Kiswahili and Japanese. Takahashi's illustrations, made using techniques such as synthetic lacquer, oil painting, and acrylics evoking the texture of tree trunks, reminiscent of the African landscape. The exhibition invites visitors to embark on a journey to "Cat Island" alongside "me (Iizawa, the narrator)" and "a child with the face of a monkey", brought to life by the poetry and the illustrations. We hope you can join us on this journey.

Biography

Kotaro Iizawa

Born in 1954, in Miyagi Prefecture. He is a renowned photography critic, a mushroom literature researcher, and a poet. After graduating from the Department of Photography at Nihon University College of Art in 1977, he completed his doctoral program at the Graduate School of Art and Design, University of Tsukuba in 1984. Iizawa began his poetry career while submitting to Gendai Shi Techo (Contemporary Poets' Journal) during his student years. In 1996, he received the Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities for his book "Welcome to the Photography Museum" (Kōdansha Gendai Shinsho). That same year, he published his first poetry collection, "Mushroom Diary" (Sangatsu Usagi-sha). After focusing on photography criticism, his work as a poet has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, his second poetry collection "A Little Perfect Lover" (Fugensha) was a finalist for the 28th Nakahara Chuya Prize, and his third collection "Trilogy Winter / Summer / Spring" (Minato no Hito) was a finalist for the 32nd Hagiwara Sakutarō Prize in 2024.

Katsuyuki Takahashi

Born in 1967, in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture. In 1992, he graduated from the Faculty of Education at Fukushima University, and in 1995, he completed his graduate studies at the Graduate School of Fukushima University.

Exhibitions:

1994 and 2003: VOCA Exhibition (Ueno Royal Museum)

1995-2014: Solo exhibitions (Toho Gallery / Kyobashi)

1998: "New Generation 98" (Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art)

1999: "Prospects of Contemporary Japanese Painting" (Tokyo Station Gallery)

2001: Solo exhibition (Kitakata City Art Museum), "Seeking Form – Exhibition of 11 Japanese Artists" (Busan Museum of Art, South Korea)

2005: "New Spirits Fukushima - Around the Story" (Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art)

2011: Selected Encouragement Exhibition (Sompo Japan Museum of Art / Shinjuku)

2012: New Acquisitions Exhibition (Saku Municipal Museum of Modern Art)

2016 and 2017: Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition (Ueno Royal Museum)

2018: Solo exhibition "Phantom – It Is Made of Phantom" (Fugensha / Tsukiji)

2021: Solo exhibition "Face-to-Face" (Fugensha / Meguro)

2023: Solo exhibition "The Bottom of the Hole" (Fugensha / Meguro) and others.

Public Collections:

Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art, Kitakata City Art Museum, Saku Municipal Museum of Modern Art, Fuchu Art Museum, Okawa Museum of Art

<https://k-takahashi.net/>

Special Event

“Return from Cat Island” Poetry Reading + Talk

(Featuring: Kotaro Iizawa and Katsuyuki Takahashi)

Date and Time: February 8 (Saturday), 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

*Online streaming available (Archive viewable until Sunday, March 9, 2025)

*Reception to be held after the event

Venue: Fugensha

Participation Fee:

- Poetry collection + Ticket: ¥3,000 (tax included)
- Ticket only: ¥1,000 (tax included)

How to Apply:

Please purchase your preferred ticket through Fugensha's online store:

<https://fugensha-shop.stores.jp/>

For those wishing to pay at the venue,
please contact Fugensha at (03-6264-3665).

New Release Information

Kotaro Iizawa “Marejeo kutoka kisawa cha paka (Return from Cat Island)”

Illustration: Katsuyuki Takahashi

Publisher: Fugensha

Publication: January 23, 2025

Design: Koji Miyazoe

Binding: Swiss Binding/ High Quality Binding / 110×250mm

Page: 115 pages

Price: ¥2,970 (tax included)

ISBN: 978-4-908955-38-9