

## Naohiro Utagawa Solo Exhibition

### *“Ie no Yarikatā” The Way of the Home*

Dates: Friday, June 6 – Sunday, June 29, 2025

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

Closed: Mondays

Venue: Fugensha

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<https://fugensha.jp>

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Fugensha is pleased to present Naohiro Utagawa's solo exhibition, "Ie no Yarikatā" (The Way of the Home), from Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 29, 2025.

Naohiro Utagawa is a photographer, born in 1981 in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture. After graduating from Chuo University, Bachelor of Law in 2004. He started his career by questioning himself, “Why am I able to create works?” He began confronting the structures surrounding various notions of rightness, and continues positioning himself as both an insider and an outsider within the systems of his surroundings.

He also engages in collaborative through his work with the art unit “Spew” (Daisuke Yokota and Koji Kitagawa) and the art collective “Culture Center”. His improvisational, communicative practice and evolving approach—shaped by real-time interaction with fellow artists and audiences is a characteristic of Utagawa’s work.

His new piece, "Ie no Yarikatā" (The Way of the Home), begins with his personal experiences of power dynamics within the household, the inner conflict and resistance. As someone involved in domestic labor and child raising, Utagawa uses this exhibition to explore how photography can restructure the perspective of home and everyday Life

Utagawa tentatively describes photography as “the act of taking, and offering what one takes from the outside,” in which exclusive from a private realm - a place that is at the same time loosely open to the outside, unstable place of relationship - is the “photographic way”. Tables and ceramic plates appear as such “photographic things,” and materials from his own life (Snickers bags, leaves from his vegetable garden, starch glutinous rice cakes, etc.) appear in the exhibition as fragments of relations interconnected

within the structure.

While dealing with the power relations that arise in daily life, such as watching (caring) and observing (monitoring) children, “serving” food and “wielding (deterrence)/being wielded (being deterred)”, they also respond to the gaze of larger power such as the commercial system, public institutions, and the art market. At the same time, it is a search for a way to confront the image of the artist and the state of the photographic work that is demanded of him, while staying in the meta perspective.

This exhibition aims to offer a space where viewers and the artist can navigate between seeing (including comprehending), creating, and living. It is hoped that this becomes an opportunity to consider ways of operating that exist just slightly off-axis from the norms, even while remaining within the framework.

On Saturday, June 14, a gallery talk will be held with guest photographer Utsu Yumiko.

## Biography

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Naohiro Utagawa

Born in 1981, Naohiro Utagawa graduated from the Bachelor of Law at Chuo University in 2004. His major accolades include being a finalist in the 8th "1\_WALL" Photography Competition (2013), receiving an Honorable Mention in Canon's New Cosmos of Photography (selected by Masafumi Sanai, 2013), and selection for "Foam Talent Call 2015" (2015). His notable solo exhibitions include "Assembly" (QUIET NOISE, Tokyo, 2017), "Pipe-chan, People-chan" (Guardian Garden, Tokyo, 2018), "Niwa No Kigakari" (Sprout Curation, Tokyo, 2021), and "Dogu" (flotsam books, Tokyo, 2023). Group exhibitions include "Foam Talent" (De Markten, Brussels, and Beaconsfield Gallery, London, 2015), as well as domestic shows such as "Donimonaranai" (TALION GALLERY, Tokyo, 2017) and "BUG SCHOOL 2024: Feeling Cities with Wild Sense" (BUG, Tokyo, 2024) and more...

## Special Event

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Gallery Talk: Naohiro Utagawa × Utsu Yumiko (Photographer)

Date: June 14 (Saturday), 14:00–15:30

Venue: Fugensha

Participation Fee: 1,000 yen (for offline and online)

\*Online streaming available (Archive available until Sunday, July 13, 2025)

\*A reception party will be held after the event.

Please purchase your ticket from the Fugensha Online Store (<https://fugensha-shop.stores.jp/>).

If you prefer to pay at the venue, please contact Fugensha via TEL (03-6264-3665).

For more information visit: <https://fugensha.jp/events/250614talk/>

Guide Tour: Naohiro Utagawa

Date: June 22 (Sunday), 14:00–14:30

An interaction between the photographer and the viewer (including comprehending) is expected during the guided tour, about “seeing”, “creating”, and “living”.

For more information visit: <https://fugensha.jp/events/250622guide/>