

GOTO AKI Solo Exhibition
Tabigori (Journey of Ritual Purification)
: *The Non-linear Landscape*

Dates: Friday, October 3 – Sunday, October 26, 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>

Fugensha is pleased to present the solo exhibition of GOTO AKI *Tabigori (Journey and Ritual Purification): The Non-linear Landscape* from Friday, October 3 to Sunday, October 26, 2025.

GOTO AKI is a Tokyo based photographer born in Kawasaki City in 1972. He graduated from Sophia University's Faculty of Economics, Department of Management in 1995 and worked for Marubeni after. In 1999, he entered Tokyo College of Photography and started on a career in photography. Drawing upon a sense of the Earth's scale from his around-the-world journey from 1993 to 1994, he started documenting natural landscapes across Japan. His landscape photography, oscillating between the detailed and the abstract as if traversing his inner self and the external cosmos, and was published as *terra* (Akaaka-sha, 2019). Based on the work he received The Japan Photographic Society Newcomer Award in 2020.

This work, *Tabigori: The Non-Linear Landscapes*, emerged from GOTO's project undertaken since 2023, walking the Kii Road, one of the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage routes. It comprises photographs from four journeys: November 2023, January and August 2024, and January 2025. The Kii Road is a pilgrimage route of approximately 300 kilometres from Tenmabashi in Osaka to Tanabe in Wakayama, leading to the Kumano Sanzan (Three Sacred Mountains of Kumano). Since the 7th century, it has been traversed by nobles, poets, ascetic practitioners, and others.

The series of photographs were primarily captured using an interval timer, which automatically triggered the shutter every 15 seconds. Along the route south to Kumano, fragments of 24,000 images—captured amidst backlighting where the photographer's gaze and camera merge—showing the farmland, the asphalt, and the light piercing moss-covered alleys. These convey a sense of resonance between the

photographer's body, engaged in the landscapes of mountains and fields, and the primal act of walking. Moreover, the stone monuments and shrines appearing along the journey woven from artefacts and nature become triggers freely traversing present and past, liberating the photographer from linear timelines. The images generated whilst traversing 300 kilometers simultaneously evoked memories accumulated within the photographer's body and, as nameless images liberated from specific times and places, became connectors to new worlds.

GOTO states that 'The fragments revealed through walking and photographing are not mere records; they can become catalysts for imagining the future.' The landscape photographs obtained through the physical practice of a solitary photographer—journey of purification (*Tabigori*)—evoking a kind of transformation-like state through long-distance walking along pilgrimage routes, transcend individual memory and experience, inviting us into an invisible world of imagination.

Biography

GOTO AKI

Graduated from the Department Management, Faculty of Economics, Sophia University, and the Department of Photographic Arts II, Tokyo College of Photography. Started his practice with an around-the-world journey from 1993 to 1994, has since visited 56 countries. After working on natural gas pipeline transportation projects at Marubeni Corporation. He shifted his focus to photography. At Tokyo College of Photography, he studied under Kiyoshi Suzuki and Norio Kobayashi. Focusing primarily on natural landscapes across Japan, he directs his attention to structure, rhythm, and the vibrations of light and color, pursuing a photographic expression that traverses the autonomy and spirituality of the vision. Notable works include *LAND ESCAPES*, *LAND ESCAPES FACE*, and *terra*. His 2019 solo exhibition *terra* (Canon Gallery S) and the photobook *terra* (Akaakasha) earned him the 2020 The Japan Photographic Society Newcomer Award. In recent years, he has undertaken the series *Tabigori*, involving long-distance walks and photography along ancient pilgrimage of the Kii Peninsula. Within an era of accelerating digital and AI advancement, he explores the potential of photographic expression born from dialogue with the land through the physical body. He is also an associate Professor at Nihon University College of Art.

Special Event

① Gallery Talk : GOTO AKI × Masako Sato

Date: October 11 (Saturday), 14:00–15:30

Participation Fee: ¥1,000 (Online streaming available)

The archive of the online stream will be available until Sunday, November 9, 2025.

How to Register:

Please purchase your preferred ticket from the Fugensha online store:

<https://fugensha-shop.stores.jp/> If you wish to pay in person at the venue,
please contact Fugensha directly at 03-6264-3665.

For more information visit: <https://fugensha.jp/events/251011talk/>

② Gallery Guide Tour (Free, Walk-in)

Date: October 25 (Saturday) 14:00–14:30

For more information visit: <https://fugensha.jp/events/251025guide/>