

Chihiro Kihara Solo Exhibition

Wonderful Circuit

Dates: Saturday, April 4 – Sunday, April 26, 2026

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

Closed: Mondays, Tuesdays

Venue: Fugensha

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<https://fugensha.jp>

Fugensha is pleased to present Chihiro Kihara Solo Exhibition *Wonderful Circuit* to be held from Saturday, April 3 to Sunday, April 26, 2026.

Chihiro Kihara, a photographer born in Fukuoka Prefecture in 1985, after graduating from the Department of Education and Culture in the Faculty of Sociology at Doshisha University, she studied photography independently and now works as a photographer. She has received Grand Prix at the Fugensha Photography Award in 2021 and published her first photobook *Path of Lights*. This second photobook *Wonderful Circuit*, published in November 2025, she reimagined the work throughout four years which received the Grand Prix at the 23rd 1_WALL .(2021)

The rejection of her relationship with her lover — a monk in a temple to which she belonged, gendered terms of address, sexual orientation, and religious constraints, left Kihara with a deep emotional scar and a question that shook the very foundations of her existence. Carrying the questions and conflicts of what faith is, what religion is, she embarked on a pilgrimage to the sacred Mount Kailash in Tibet. At an altitude of 5000 meters, pushed to physical and mental extremes, she walked relentlessly forward in solitude amidst blizzards, alongside devotees performing prostrations. Within her mind, memories of the past surged violently. The rugged slopes of Mount Kailash, the streets of her hometown Fukuoka, the lingering image of her lover, religious ceremonies encountered in Kyoto, Hiroshima and Tibetan pilgrims, memory of herself standing still at dusk that day. This torrent of interconnected images, traversing time and place, the connections between self and other has begun to open as if to affirm the world she faces.

Photographs and texts, woven together through the search of light despite encountering difficulties that disoriented her identity, are things that deeply connected to the lives of an individual. Someday somewhere in this world, they will connect with someone, and new stories will arise. We would be delighted if you could experience this photobook—filled with the world's mysteries and a rich sense of interconnectedness—together with the exhibition.

During the exhibition period, we will host a gallery talk featuring Kazumi Nikaido as a guest. She is a close friend of the Kihara in both privately and professionally and is also an ordained priest of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

Biography

Chihiro Kihara

Born in Fukuoka Prefecture in 1985.

Graduated from Department of Education and Culture in the Faculty of Sociology at Doshisha University

She received Grand Prix at the first Fugensha Photography Award (2021), and Grand Prix at the 23rd 1_WALL(2021). She received the Special Prize at the Shiogama Photo Festival Photo Award in 2018.

Published a photobook *Path of Lights* (Fugensha, 2022).

Special Event

Gallery Talk: Chihiro Kihara × Kazumi Nikaido (Singer-songwriter)

Date & Time: Saturday, April 11, 14:00–15:30

Admission: ¥1,200 (on-site attendance or online streaming)

➤ There will be a reception party after the event.

Archive online viewing will be available until Sunday, May 10, 2026.

<https://fugensha.jp/events/260411talk/>

② Gallery Guide Tour (Free / No Reservation Required)

Date & Time: Saturday, April 4, 14:00–14:30

The artist and the gallery director will guide visitors through the exhibition, highlighting key points and works. If you wish to participate, please feel free to come directly to the gallery.

<https://fugensha.jp/events/260404guide/>