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## Wataru Yamamoto *Shimi Some Shiwa*

January 23 (Sat) - February 27 (Sat)

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. 316, 4-32-6,

Nishi-Shinjuku Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 Japan

Opening Reception : January 23 (Sat) 18:00 – 20:00

Talk Event: January 23 (Sat) 17:00 – 18:00

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present, from January 23, 2016, a solo exhibition *Shimi Some Shiwa* by Wataru Yamamoto.

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Wataru Yamamoto has featured various works through the medium of photography till now.

*Drawing a Line* in which he took a self-portrait, going along a trackless road of the old road in the primeval forest of Kumano Kodo, Wakayama, *Form of Desire*, seemingly a beautiful sculpture but actually a solid object made by pouring plaster into a man's masturbation tool and molding it, and *Spring* in which the warmth of the shining sun was visualized with a pinhole technique. Each of these differently-depicted works has been presented in a different way of approach, relying on Yamamoto's self experience. However, the core of them is consistently his attempt to record nature as an emotional image of human beings varying in many ways.

In his new works, Yamamoto used a cloth as substrate instead of photographic paper with a technique of cyanotype. What motivated him was one news: in 2011 after the nuclear accident in Fukushima, a high radiation dose was measured in a park in front of his house in Kanagawa about 280 kilometers far away from Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Children would not be seen any more in that sunny and breezy park one day he imagined. He then thought about keeping human existence in some form which he had not particularly bothered before, and decided to preserve not human figures but wrinkles of human clothes which were worn as traces.

First, Yamamoto made a little part of clothes absorb sensitizing solution and exposed it to the sun. Then, he could capture the mark left by the people who wore the clothes. While seeing that each person's mannerism or habit makes a shadow reflecting each body shape and that the sweat seeped from the inside of clothes makes an image, he became also interested in the relationship between a cloth as substrate and sensitizing solution as record medium, which is formed by the sun.

The clothes, on which shadows and sweat were stuck and exposed, shows unknown reality which was familiar but could not be recognized. That is what Yamamoto meant "visualized" natural phenomenon.



The image of wrinkle like a bird's-eye view of mountains seen in the round imbued part reminds of the Rising Sun flag and moreover could be read as a crack of the earth. This may be regarded as a sarcastic message from Yamamoto on the recent social situation.

Simultaneously with the exhibition, a talk event will be held, inviting Mr. Takuma Ishikawa, Artist & Art Critic as a guest.

#### ■ Talk Event

January 23 (Sat), 2016, 17:00-18:00

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

with Wataru Yamamoto & Takuma Ishikawa, Artist & Art Critic

Advanced booking required, Free of charge

For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to [event@ycassociates.co.jp](mailto:event@ycassociates.co.jp)

#### Takuma Ishikawa

Born in 1979. MA, Fine Art, Musashino Art University.

Recent Writings: *The More Questions We Ask Others, The Greater Our Knowledge Increases.* (Railroad Siding 2015, Railroad Siding executive committee, 2015), *Photography As Post-Appropriation* (The Camera Knows Everything, Yumiko Chiba Associates etc. 2015), *War And Etching - On Chimei Hamada's "War" pictures*

(*Eve/Frontline: Critical Perspectives on World War II and Painting*, Yumiko Chiba Associater, 2014)

#### ■ Related Information

Wataru Yamamoto will appear as a guest speaker in the talk event "Shashin wo yomu Yoru" by Mr. Hiroyasu Yamauchi held at Daikanyama Kitamura-Camera Shop.

Date: February 5(Fri) 20:00-21:30

Venue: Daikanyama Kitamura-Photo Shop

Admission fee: 1,000 Yen, Tax inclusive (500 Yen in case of standing room)

Seating capacity: 40 (Seating: 25, Standing: 15)

Presenter: Hiroyasu Yamauchi & Wataru Yamamoto

\*Advanced booking required

Please book direct at Kitamura-Photo Shop or call: 03-5728-3958.

For more detail: <http://real.tsite.jp/daikanyama/event/2016/01/post-55.html>

#### ■ Artist Profile

##### Wataru Yamamoto

1986 Born in Tochigi, Japan

2011 Received Excellence Award at Canon New Cosmos of Photography 2011

2013 Received Master's Degree at Tama Art University

##### [Selected Solo Exhibitions]

2014 *Desired Forms -The Deep Shadows of Vessels*, NADiff Gallery, Tokyo

2013 *Spring*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo

2013 *Plane Tree Observations*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo

2013 *Drawing a Line*, photographer's gallery, Tokyo

2012 *Wataru Yamamoto*, ANOTHER FUNCTION, Tokyo

##### [Selected Group Exhibitions]

2015 *New Japanese Photography*, DOOMED GALLERY, London

2015 *LUMIX MEETS / TOKYO 2020 BY JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHERS #2*, IMA CONCEPT STORE, Tokyo



- 2014 *LUMIX MEETS / TOKYO 2020 By Japanese Photographers #2*, Yellow Korner Paris Pompidou, Paris
- 2014 *Unseen Photo Fair 2014 "Anima on Photo – Hidden sense of Japanese Photography"*,  
Westergasfabriek-Festival Ground, Amsterdam
- 2014 *TOKYO 2020*, Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich
- 2013 *LIVING WITH PHOTOGRAPHY*, Isetan Shinjuku, Tokyo
- LIMIX MEETS / TOKYO 2020 BY JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHERS 9*,  
1 RUE RICHELIEU, HILLSIDE TERRACE, Paris & HILLSIDE FORUM, Tokyo
- 2012 *3331 TRANS ARTS*, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo
- 2011 *Canon New Cosmos of Photography Award 2011*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography
- 2010 *126 Polaroid Group Exhibit*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama

[Art Fair]

- 2015 Daikanyama Photo Fair, Daikanyama Hillside Forum, Tokyo
- 2015 *Art Osaka 2015, The Power of Photography*, Hotel Granvia Osaka, Osaka
- 2013 Japanese Contemporary Art Fair "NEW CITY ART FAIR Taipei, Taiwan 2013" Taipei

[Collection of Works]

- 2014 *Desired Forms -The Deep Shadows of Vessels*, Yumiko Chiba Associates
- 2012 *Drawing a Line*, MCV MCV

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■ ■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

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Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku URL:<http://www.ycassociates.co.jp>

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Opening Hours: 12:00 - 19:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays)