



About Size (Measuring Instrument) *a part ©Kanji Wakae, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

Kanji Wakae

Visibility

May 13 (Fri) – June 11 (Sat)

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Park Grace Shinjuku bldg., 206,

4-32-6 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Opening Reception: May 14 (Sat) 18:30 – 20:00

Talk Event: May 14 (Sat) 17:00 – 18:30

Kanji Wakae & Ryo Sawayama, Art Critic

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present, from May 13, 2016, a solo exhibition *Visibility* by Kanji Wakae.

A photograph functions with its factor to examine the world. A camera works as a ruler. To be specific, to remeasure by camera, that is, to examine things means to remeasure the world.

- Kanji Wakae, from a special talk event between Yuri Mitsuda, Keiji Uematsu and Kanji Wakae, *To the 1970s The Turning Point of Photography & Art*, Yumiko Chiba Associates, 2013

Kanji Wakae has been active extensively since the late 1960's, being free from media in his practice. He has focused on the functional side of a camera from early on, such as a camera's symbolic nature or representation, not just its recordability. Then, he has presented the works, making skillful use of the camera's characteristics as such in a context of the contemporary art.

Wakae seeks the border between virtuality and reality by placing the subject for photography and its image taken in his photograph work. Also his device visually controls the size of subject, which confuses the viewer's visual recognition and makes him/her question about ambiguity of looking.

In front of such work of his, we cannot fix point of view and doubt about our perception/recognition for things which we have taken for granted. This reveals that visibility of human being is so weak.

In the back of Wakae's production, his attitude consistently lies; to be skeptical about the fixed perception of reality at all times, to examine an act, "looking" through photographs, and to seek how the world could be remeasured.

In this exhibition, the space itself forms a work, where things and photograph images are juxtaposed. They are mutually connected in visual and semantic sense. Viewers will observe the works closely with their relation as a clue, and then will be inspired to think about existence of things which are usually overlooked.

On the occasion of the exhibition, a talk event will be held, inviting Ryo Sawayama, Art Critic.



■ Artist Comment

My previous solo show of photographs and paintings at Yumiko Chiba Associates in 2013, *Domain of Mirror - Downfall & Turnover*, presented “mirror link” with the photography works in which similar images turn over and stand in a row, and paintings, suggesting existence of a mirror. So it was the mixture of works connected with mirrors. However, in this show *Visibility*, only photographs are shown after a long time.

The central work in the show, *About Size*, combined with a photograph and an object, was first exhibited at *FRIEDEN, EIN WORT (...)*, Kunstmesuem Wolfsburg, northern Germany in 1983, while I was staying there (awarded the Fellowship of Overseas Study by the Japanese Government). That was the first *About Size*. When I came back to Japan, I was requested to present that one by the curator in charge of the exhibition, *Photography in Contemporary Art*, the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. So there are two versions of *About Size*.

Then, my original idea with a measuring instrument as a subject for *About Size* sees the light of day finally in its third time exhibition.

The title *Visibility* is a meteorological term, used in observing the density of thickness of fog and mist. I took the word, meant to be the scale of viewers' thinking which is induced when their naked eyes have reached the object. The concept of *About Size* is associated with Seeing and Looking series from early 1970's, which are photograph works of a sphere placed in the scenery. I was motivated to produce the work by a thought that the standard to define the size of object, whether it is big or small is only ambiguous, depending on an extremely personal experience obtained in the growth period of each person.

Total 24-25 works are exhibited, including *About Size* (Violon), using a violin, 8 to 10 new ones from Black Box Camera series, each of which comprises a set of two photographs, 3 by reproducing the old works in 1980's with a question about water, 6 from Sphere series, and the rest around 3 works.

Photographs pose mystery of looking at all times.

Kanji Wakae

April, 2016

■ Talk Event

May 14 (Sat) 17:00-18:30

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Presenter: **Kanji Wakae & Ryo Sawayama, Art Critic**

*Advanced booking required, Admission free

* For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to event@ycassociates.co.jp

Ryo Sawayama

Art critic. Born 1982. MA, Musashino Art University.

Selected writings: *Sai to Kankei – Josef Albers to Black Mountain College no Shiso* [Difference and Relation - Ideas by Josef Albers and Black Mountain College](*Art Trace Press 03*, 2015, Art Trace), *The extreme experience and confinement within a painting Yasuo Kazuki's Siberia* (*Critical Archive vol.2, Eve/Frontline, Critical Perspectives on World War II and Painting*, 2014, Yumiko Chiba Associates), *A Room of Difference and Delay* (Kanji Wakae – *Do main of Mirror – Downfall & Turnover*, 2013, Yumiko Chiba Associates).

**■ Profile****Kanji Wakae**

- 1944 Born and lives in Kanagawa
1974 Awarded the Prize of Minister of Education, Science and Culture for the work “*Pencil-74-III*” at the 9th International Biennial Exhibition of Prints in Tokyo”
1982-83 Studied in Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany, awarded the Fellowship of Overseas Study, Programme for Artists by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japanese Government

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 *Kanji Wakae “The Large Glass” Deciphered*, Museum Haus Kasuya, Kanagawa
2014 *Kanji Wakae “The Relevance of the Nude - The Subject of Painting”*
Museum Haus Kasuya, Kanagawa
2013 *Domain of Mirror - Downfall & Turnover*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
2008 *Under the Light of Time*, Neues Kunstforum, Koeln, Germany
2006 HIROSHIMA, Museum Haus Kasuya, Yokosuka, Kanagawa
2004-05 *Kanji Wakae*, Aomori Contemporary Art Center, Aomori
2004 *Under the Light of Time*, The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura, Kanagawa
2001 Millennium- IV, LeRoy Nieman Center for Print Studies, Columbia University, New York
2001 Millennium- V, President’s Gallery, Massachusetts College of Arts, Boston
1995 *Ethos*, Museum Haus Kasuya, Yokosuka, Kanagawa
1994 *Kanji Wakae: Photographic Prints and Sculpture*, JICC:Japan Information and Culture Center, Washington, D.C.
1991 *Ethos*, Lunami Gallery, Tokyo
1990 *Trend- II*, INAX Gallery, Tokyo
1989 *Trend- I*, Kunst-und Museumsverein Wuppertal, Germany
1975 *Galerie m*, Bochum, West Germany
1974/72/70 *Muramatsu Gallery*, Tokyo
1972/71 *Tamura Gallery*, Tokyo
1968 *Yoseido Gallery*, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *Paris Photo 2015*, Yumiko Chiba Associates’ Booth, Paris
2015 *For a New World to Come: Experiments in Japanese Art and Photography, 1968–1979*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Grey Art Gallery, New York, Japan Society, New York
2014 *Turning Point of Japanese Art after World War II*, The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma
2014 *COLOR, MOTION, FORM, SUMMER ADVENTURE IN ART*, The Museum of Modern Art Hayama, Kanagawa
2014 *Image and Matter in Japanese Photography from the 1970s*, curated by Yumiko Chiba, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York
2013 *THERMODYNAMICS OF THE SUN*, Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi
2013 *MEMORIES OF A CITY – Yokosuka in Photographs and Contemporary Art*
Yokosuka Museum of Art, Kanagawa
2011 *Noriyuki Haraguchi / Kanji Wakae*, Yokosuka Museum of Art, Kanagawa
2011 *To the 1970s The Turning Point of Photography & Art*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
1989 *Das autonomies Bild. Experimentelle Gestaltung 1839-1989*, Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Germany
1989 20th Biennial of Sao Paulo, Brazil
1983 *Photography in Contemporary Art*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo / The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
1980 *Simulated Images in Contemporary Art*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka
1977 *Malerei und Photographie im Dialog von 1840 bis Heute*, Kunsthaus Zuerich, Switzerland
1976/75/70 *Artists Today ’70*, Yokohama Citizen’s Gallery, Kanagawa
1974 9th International Biennial Exhibition of Prints in Tokyo,
The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
1974 Tokyo Biennial ’74, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo
1973 12th Biennial of Sao Paulo, Brazil
1972 8th International Biennial Exhibition of Prints in Tokyo,
The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
1969 *9th Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo



[Public Collection]

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology/ Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts/
The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama/ Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo/ The National
Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/ Kawaguchiko Museum of Art/ Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts/
Aomori Contemporary Art Centre/ Yokosuka Museum of Art/ The National Museum of Art, Osaka/
MUSEUM HAUS KASUYA/ National Museum, Kraków, Poland/ Geschichtsmuseum der Stadt Lüdenscheid,
Germany/ Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Germany/ Von der Heydt-Museum, Germany, Centre Georges-Pompidou,
France

■■ 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)