

GALLERY KOYANAGI

PRESS RELEASE

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO | Past Presence
2020.3.14 (Sat) – 8.29 (Sat)



KOYANAGI BUILDING 9th FLOOR, 1-7-5 GINZA CHUO-KU TOKYO JAPAN 104-0061

Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to reopen the gallery with the continued solo exhibition by Hiroshi Sugimoto “Past Presence” extended through August 29, 2020.

In this exhibition, we will be showing 4 works from the new series *Past Presence* for the first time in Japan. In this series, Sugimoto explores his continued interest in the philosophic notion of space and time through a canon of twentieth-century modern masterworks. Giacometti, Brancusi, Picasso and Magritte’s works are photographed the same way as in his earlier Architecture series, using the technique ‘twice as infinity’ as Sugimoto calls. By intentionally blurring the focal point, he purifies the details. In effect, it conjures the original conception nascent in the artist’s mind in idealistic form, while we the viewer unconsciously seek associations. Sugimoto challenges the viewer to call upon our visual memory, evoking questions of how images are remembered, and whether the images are recalled in precise recollection or not. Removed from the familiar, Sugimoto asks us to contemplate the inchoate essence of an artwork.

Born in Tokyo in 1948, Hiroshi Sugimoto moved to the United States in 1970 to study photography. A multi-disciplinary artist, Sugimoto works in photography, sculpture, installation, performing arts, architecture, gardening, and gastronomy. His art bridges Eastern and Western ideologies while examining the nature of time, perception, and the origins of consciousness. His representative works are in collections of major museums throughout the world such as The Metropolitan Museum, New York and Pompidou Center in Paris. His photographic series include Dioramas, Theaters, Seascapes, Architecture, Portraits, Conceptual Forms, and Lightning Fields, among others. In 2008 he established the architecture firm New Material Research Laboratory and in 2009 he founded Odawara Art Foundation, a nonprofit organization to promote traditional Japanese performing arts and culture. He has deep knowledge about traditional performing arts. *Sugimoto Bunraku “Kannon Pilgrimage” from The Sonezaki Love Suicides* received high acclaim nationally and internationally. In the fall of 2019, *At the Hawk’s Well*, directed by Sugimoto, was featured as one of the opening programs of the season at The National Opera of Paris.

Currently, Sugimoto is having three exhibitions in Japan. The first, “HYOGU—Frame of Japan” is on view at Hosomi Museum (Kyoto) through September 6, 2020. The second, “HIROSHI SUGIMOTO — POST VITAM” is held at the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum (Kyoto) until October 4, 2020. The third, he will join the group exhibition “STARS: Six Contemporary Artists from Japan to the World” at Mori Art Museum (Tokyo).

Past Presence

In 2013 MoMA commissioned me to photograph their sculpture garden. Designed by Philip Johnson, it is home to many masterpieces of Modernist sculpture. Among the many famous pieces there, a Giacometti sculpture was the first to catch my eye. The form is extenuated—as if all the flesh had been scraped off a human body—while what remains successfully expresses the condition of being *in extremis*. This sculpture of Giacometti had already achieved what I set out to achieve with my own approach to photography. I therefore photographed the Giacometti sculpture twice, once in broad daylight and once in the evening twilight. For me, it evoked an image of two figures in *Noh* drama. *Noh* is about dead souls coming back to life and becoming visible. In the *maeshite* (the first half of a *Noh* play), the dead take human form and lament their own passing. In the *nochishite* (second half), the ghosts of the dead reappear again dance a dance of bitter sorrow because they cannot rest easily in their graves. In the performance one catches a glimpse of the dead, though the degree of reality depends not just on the power of the acting, but, to a large extent, on the viewer's own imaginative abilities. Photographing Giacometti gave me the sense of watching a *Noh* drama, because in *Noh* the past is reborn as the present. Inspired by Giacometti, I went on to photograph other sculptures in the garden.

-Hiroshi Sugimoto

Press images

Hiroshi Sugimoto

Past Presence 001, Tall Figure, III, Alberto Giacometti

2013

gelatin silver print

© Hiroshi Sugimoto / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi,

depicted artwork © Succession Alberto Giacometti (Fondation Giacometti, Paris + ADAGP, Paris) 2020

Information

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO | Past Presence

March 14 – August 29, 2020

*The exhibition dates extended

Opening hours: 11:00 – 19:00

Close on Sundays, Mondays, and National Holidays

Summer Holidays: August 11 – 15, 2020

Gallery Koyanagi

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Solo show

"HIROSHI SUGIMOTO — *POST VITAM* "

Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art (Kyoto)

May 26 – October 4, 2020 *Advance reservation required / Visits limited to residents of Kyoto Prefecture

<https://kyotocity-kyocera.museum/en/exhibition/20200321-20200614>

"HYOGU—*Frame of Japan* "

Hosomi Museum (Kyoto)

April 4 – September 6, 2020

<https://www.emuseum.or.jp/eng/index.html>

Group show

"STARS: Six Contemporary Artists from Japan to the World"

Mori Art Museum (Tokyo)

April 23 – September 6, 2020 *Postponed

<https://www.mori.art.museum/en/exhibitions/stars/index.html>

Hiroshi Sugimoto

- 1948 Born in Tokyo, Japan
 1970 Graduated from Saint Paul's University, Tokyo
 1974 Graduated from Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles
 1974 Moved to New York
 Lives and works in Tokyo and New York

Grant/Award/Honor

- 2018 National Arts Club Medal of Honor in Photography, New York
 2017 Person of Cultural Merit, Tokyo
 The Royal Photographic Society, Centenary Medal, London
 2014 Isamu Noguchi Award, New York
 2013 Officier de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Paris
 2010 The Medal with Purple Ribbon, Japan
 2009 Praemium Imperiale in Honor of Prince Takamatsu, Painting category, Tokyo
 2006 PHotoEspaña Prize, Madrid, Spain
 2001 Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography, Göteborg, Sweden
 2000 Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Parsons School of Design, New School University, New York
 1999 Glen Dimplex Award, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
 International Center of Photography, Fifteenth Annual Infinity Award for Art, New York
 1988 Mainichi Art Prize, Tokyo
 1982 National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.
 1980 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, New York
 1977 C.A.P.S. (Creative Arts Public Service) Fellowship, New York

Selected Solo Exhibition

- 2020 HYOGU - Frame of Japan, The Hosomi Museum Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan
 Hiroshi Sugimoto - Post Vitam, Higashiyama Cube, Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Kyoto,
 Japan
 Past Presence, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
 2019 Past Presence, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, USA
 2018 Quattro Ragazzi: Hopes and Illusions of the Momoyama Renaissance - Europe through the Eyes of
 Hiroshi Sugimoto and the Tensho Embassy, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum, Japan
 SUGIMOTO VERSAILLES: Surface of Revolution, The Estate of Trianon, Palace of Versailles,
 Versailles, France
 Nobunaga and Quattro Ragazzi: Hopes and Illusions of Momoyama Renaissance – Europe through
 the eyes of Hiroshi Sugimoto and the Tensho Embassy, MOA Museum of Art, Shizuoka, Japan

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- Hiroshi Sugimoto: Still Life, Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 Gates of Paradise, Japan Society, New York, USA
- Le Notti Bianche, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino, Switzerland
- 2016 Lost Human Genetic Archive, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 Art and Leisure, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan/ Hosomi Museum, Kyoto, Japan(2016)
- Past and Present in Three Parts, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan/ Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, Russia(2016) / Musée des Beaux-Arts, Le Locle, Switzerland(2016)
- 2014 ON THE BEACH, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Aujourd'hui, le monde est mort [Lost Human Genetic Archive], Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: Past Tense, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
- 2012 Five Elements, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- From Naked to Clothed, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 Hiroshi Sugimoto ORIGINS OF ART | Architecture, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa, Japan
- 2009 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Nature of Light, IZU PHOTO MUSEUM, Shizuoka, Japan
- Lightning Fields, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2008 History of History, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan/ The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan(2009)
- 2007 Leakage of light, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Hiroshi Sugimoto, K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany/ Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany(2008)
- 2006 Art Capturing, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Mathematical Forms, L'atelier Brancusi, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2005 History of History, Japan Society Gallery, New York, USA
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: End of Time, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan/ Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., USA(2006)
- 2004 Étant donné: Le Grand Verre, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France
- 2003 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Serpentine Galleries, London, UK
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: L'histoire de l'histoire, Maison Hermès Forum, Tokyo, Japan
- ARCHITECTURE, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: Architecture, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 2001 Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Architecture of Time, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria
- Portraits, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2000 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Internacional Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Architecture Series, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, USA

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- Sugimoto: Portraits, Deutsche Guggenheim Museum, Berlin/ Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain/
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York, USA
- 1999 In Praise of Shadows, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1998 Modernism, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1997 Twice as Infinity, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1996 Hiroshi Sugimoto—Photographies, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Motion Picture, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1995 Sugimoto, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA/ Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston,
USA(1996)/ Hara Museum Arc, Gunma, Japan(1996)/ Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio,
USA(1997)
Sill Life, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed, Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland
- 1994 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 1992 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed, CAPC Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France
- 1991 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed, Sagacho Exhibit Space and IBM Courtyard, Tokyo, Japan
- 1989 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Dioramas, Theaters, Seascapes, National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
- 1988 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sagacho Exhibit Space and Zeit-Foto Salon, Tokyo, Japan
Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sonnabend Gallery, New York, USA
- 1977 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Minami Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2020 STARS: Six Contemporary Artists from Japan to the World, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2017 What Absence Is Made Of, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA .
- 2015 Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 Simple Shapes, Centre Pompidou-Metz, France
- 2012 Phantoms of Asia, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, California, USA
- 2011 Yokohama 2011 International Triennale of contemporary Art, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2010 17th Biennale of Sydney, Australia
Sexuality and Transcendence, PinchukArtCentre, Kiev, Ukraina
- 2009 Mapping the Studio, Punta Della Dogana, Venice, Italy
The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860–1989, Solomon R. Guggenheim
Museum, New York, USA
- 2008 Reality Check: Truth and Illusion in Contemporary Photography, Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York, USA
Photography on Photography: Reflections on the Medium since 1960, Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York, USA
- 2004 Singular Forms (Sometimes Repeated): Art from 1951 to the Present, Solomon R. Guggenheim
Museum, New York, USA

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- 2003 Happiness: A Survival Guide for Art and Life, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
The History of Japanese Photography, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA/ Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA
- 2002 Moving Pictures, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 2001 Yokohama 2001 International Triennale of contemporary Art, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2000 Gendai: Japanese Contemporary Art – Between the Body and Space, Center for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland
Expanding Horizons: Landscape Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
- 1999 Regarding Beauty: A View of the Late Twentieth Century, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA
The Third Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia
The Museum as Muse: Artists Reflect, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 1998 At the End of the Century: One Hundred Years of Architecture, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan/ Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 1997 In Visible Light: Photography and Classification in Art, Science and the Everyday, Modern Art Oxford, UK
- 1996 Tenth Biennale of Sydney, Australia
Prospect 96: Photographie in der Gegenwartskunst, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
By Night, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France
- 1995 Album: De fotoverzameling van Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam (Album: the Photographic Collection of Museum Boymans van-Beuningen Rotterdam), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam, Netherlands
Art in Japan Today: 1985-1995, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1994 Photography and Beyond in Japan: Space, Time and Memory, Hara Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
Japanese Art after 1945: Scream Against the Sky, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan/ Guggenheim Museum Soho, New York, USA/ San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA
- 1993 Das 21. Jahrhundert / The 21st Century, Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland
- 1992 Réflexions Voilées (Hidden Reflections), Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
- 1991 Carnegie International 1991, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, USA
A Cabinet of Signs: Contemporary Art from Post-modern Japan, Tate Gallery Liverpool, UK
- 1990 Japanische Kunst der Achtziger Jahre, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
The Past and the Present of Photography, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1987 Contemporary Japanese Art in America (I): Arita, Nakagawa, Sugimoto, Japan Society Gallery, New York, USA
- 1978 Recent Acquisitions, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA