

GALLERY KOYANAGI

PRESS RELEASE

**HIROSHI SUGIMOTO | OPTICKS**

2021.3.26 (Fri) – 5.1 (Sat)



**Opticks**

It has been fifteen years since I started recreating Newton's prism experiment. Every year, as winter comes around, the sunrise comes closer and closer to the frontmost side of the prism. Traveling through the cold winter air, the light is split, then drawn into the dim observation chamber, where it is projected on the white plaster wall at exaggerated size. The profundity of the color gradation is overwhelming. I have the sense that I can see particles of light, and that each of those individual particles is a subtly different color from the next one. Red to yellow, yellow to green, then green to blue — the projected colors contain an infinity of tones and change every moment. I am engulfed in color. Particularly when the colors fade and fuse into darkness, the gradation seems to melt away into pure mystery.

I realized that I could capture those fine particles of color within the square frame of a Polaroid photograph. After years of experimentation, I managed to create a color surface that was sufficiently expansive for me to merge into the color. With light as my pigment, I believe I successfully created a new kind of painting.

Hiroshi Sugimoto

Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Hiroshi Sugimoto, titled "OPTICKS" from Friday, March 26 to Saturday, May 1. In this exhibition, we will be showing 4 works from the 'Opticks' series which was first presented at Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum last year. The work originates in his idea to recreate Sir Isaac Newton's prism experiments, and it took Sugimoto 15 years to complete, trying and incorporating the newest photographic technology.

In 1704 Newton notified the world, who believed that the sunlight was white, that in fact it was made up of multiple colors like red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet, all with different refractive indices, by his publication *OPTICKS*. And today, Sugimoto employed and improved the observational apparatus that Newton has invented, which disperses the sunlight into the array of colors through a prism, and succeeded in capturing the exact colors, by recording it on the extinct Polaroid film.\* He then produced large scale chromogenic prints by using those Polaroid films to recreate the infinite tones and gradations that appear in the gap between colors.

"The world is filled with countless of colors, so why did natural science insist on just seven? I seem to get a truer sense of the world from those disregarded intracolors. Does art not serve to retrieve what falls through the cracks, now that scientific knowledge no longer needs a God?" states Sugimoto. Known for his monochromatic photography, this is his first experiment to show a work using "light as my pigment". Please come see and immerse yourself in the overwhelming color field.

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 charitable nonprofit organization to promote traditional Japanese performing arts and culture. He has deep knowledge about traditional performing arts. Sugimoto Bunraku "Sonezaki Shinju: the Love Suicides at Sonezaki" 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.

\*Note: Polaroid Corporation went bankrupt in 2008, and the production of the original Polaroid film had to be discontinued. The works in this exhibition were created using the last stock of such film.

Press image

Hiroshi Sugimoto

*Opticks 128*

2018

chromogenic print

© Hiroshi Sugimoto / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

Information

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO | OPTICKS

March 26 – May 1, 2021

Opening hours : 12:00 – 19:00

Close on Sundays, Mondays, and National Holidays

Gallery Koyanagi

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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 Quatro Ragazzi: Hopes and Illusions of the Momoyama Renaissance - Europe through the Eyes of Hiroshi Sugimoto and the Tensho Embassy, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum, Japan  
 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel  
 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