



Akihito Yoshida

The absence of Two

OPENING JANUARY 9 – 6.30 PM
EXHIBITION JANUARY 10 TO MARCH 14 2020



THE GALLERY

Opened in October 2016, the Fisheye Gallery is located in the 10th arrondissement of Paris in an area exclusively dedicated to photography, a stone's throw from the Saint-Martin Canal. With a second 200 m² space open in Arles this year, the gallery is proud to represent artists with diverse writing skills and to support cultural initiatives, as evidenced by the partnerships established since its inception with the Circulation(s) and La Gacilly festivals. As a young gallery, Fisheye Gallery tends to stand out by offering an emerging international programming that is uncomplicated. It assumes its role as a pioneer of new photographic writing at major European fairs and in front of public institutions and photography stakeholders. The gallery is chaired by Benoît Baume, co-founder of the Fisheye group, whose magazine of the same name is dedicated to the current state of photography and the role of this art in our society from an economic, cultural and sociological point of view.

Since February 2019, it has been managed by Jehan de Bujadoux, an art historian by training and specialized in expertise and art market law.

Represented artists :

Delphine Diallo
Sandrine Elberg
Stéphane Lavoué
Morvarid K

Fairs :

MIA Photo Fair
Paris Photo
Photo London
Polyptyque
Unseen Amsterdam

FISHEYE GALLERY

2, rue de l'Hôpital Saint Louis
75010 Paris
Wednesday-Friday 2pm - 7pm
Saturday 11am - 8pm
By appointment

19, rue Jouvène, 13200 Arles
From April to October:
Wednesday-Sunday 2pm-8pm
By appointment
contact@fishyegallery.fr
www.fishyegallery.fr

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Akihito Yoshida *The absence of Two*



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On the occasion of its first exhibition in Europe, the Fisheye Gallery invites you to discover the series *The Absence of Two* by Japanese artist Akihito Yoshida, an intimate journey with a tragic ending in the daily life of two symbiotic soul mates.

Thirty years after Nobuyoshi Araki's *Sentimental Journey*, Akihito Yoshida tells, as a spectator, the complexity of the human soul and the relationships that build its existence. The fusional attachment of the two characters in this story resonates in each other like a mythological episode, in which reactions and behaviors express the most exacerbated feelings, in the proximity of the family circle nestled in a small rural town in southern Japan today.

The exhibition *The Absence of Two* is also the occasion to present a collector's edition limited to 3 copies of the eponymous book published in 111 copies and then reissued by Seigensha and Xavier Barral. The collector's edition in large format is a handmade book by the artist in large format with a new selection of images and a platinum palladium print, signed and numbered.

Several workshops on the making of the book by hand will be given during the exhibition in small groups (100€/person) and animated by the artist at the gallery and hosted by the artist at the gallery on January 11 and March 14, 2020.

STATEMENT

The town Kunitomi is located Miyazaki Prefecture in Kyushu Japan. This small and peaceful rural town with its field is where my grandmother, who was born in 1928, and my cousin Daiki, who was born in 1980, lived together. On behalf of his busy parents, my grandmother carefully raised and took care of Daiki from the time he was a child, living with him in the same house, eating and sleeping in the same room together.

"I attended his elementary school entrance ceremony, you know. All the other children's mothers were young, and I'm sure Daiki wasn't happy with being the only one whose grandma showed up. I bet the teachers also wondered why his grandma had come"

So my grandmother said one day, as she showed me a photo album. It contained photographs of many memorable moments, from his Shichi-Go-San celebration and elementary school entrance ceremony to his sports day. The album was like one that could be found in any home, the only slight difference being that my grandmother always appeared along with Daiki in the pictures. For my grandmother, Daiki was no doubt a treasure that had been entrusted to her during the late years of her life. Every time I visited my grandmother's house, she told me various

stories about Daiki. Always sitting next to her on these occasions was a young Daiki, with a beaming smile on his face. Meanwhile, for Daiki, my grandmother must have been the very "place where he belonged." Their time together over many years gave birth to a bond that transcended the usual relationship between "grandmother" and "grandchild"- a strong sense of and trust flowed within both of them. One Daiki mentioned to me. "Since I grew up showered by grandma's affection, I think it's natural that I take care of her until she dies."

True to his words, Daiki remained by my grandmother's side ever after becoming a student at a nursing university, continuing to live with her and fully devoting himself to her care.

Until I began photographing them, I had observed their small everyday world as nothing out of the ordinary. The image of Daiki off to university. The image of the two of them relaxing on the floor, chatting about small things. Now, however, every time I look at the images I continued to document of the two thought my lens, as both a family member and a photographer, these seemingly ordinary scenes appear as precious moments.

This story was supposed to come to an end with my grandmother's death, which would no doubt

come in the not-so-distant future. However, it unexpectedly ended in a different way.

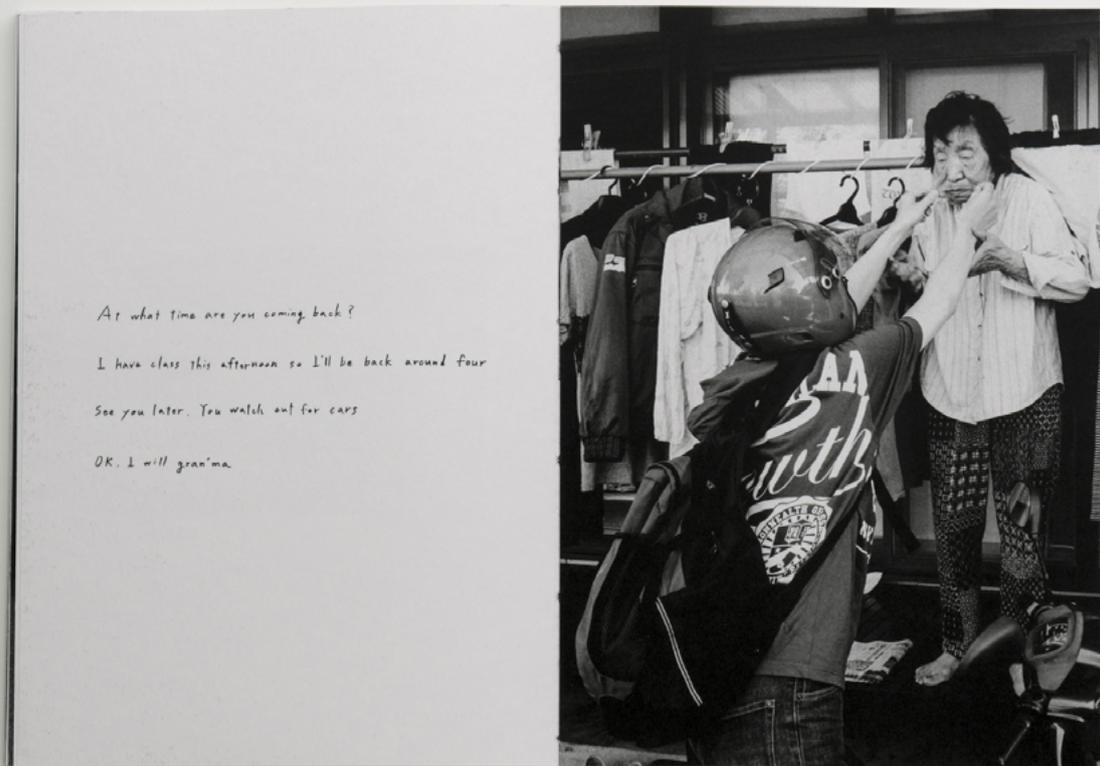
"I wonder where he's gone to? He went out on his motorbike and hasn't been back since"

At the end of February in 2014, Daiki suddenly went missing. There being nothing she could do, my grandmother just stood in front of the window and kept waiting for Daiki to return home. Almost a year passed without any word of his whereabouts, until one day Daiki's body was found in the anything

behind, and had brought an end to the 23 years of his life. Like lush green leaves that turn brown and fall with the passing of the seasons. As if following in his footsteps, in the following year my grandmother passed away.

The last thing that remained were countless photographs of the two and their life together, all the time needing each other, supporting each other, and caring for each other. Thought there photographs, which capture images of his small everyday life in this rural town, I try to reach out to them, and to engage in a dialogue with them once again.

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Fisheye Gallery
2, rue de l'Hôpital-Saint-Louis, 75010 Paris
Du mercredi au samedi 14 h-19 h / dimanche 16 h-19 h / Sur rendez-vous
contact@fisheye-gallery.fr

fisheye
GALLERY

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1980, Yoshida Akihito resigned from his occupation as a primary school teacher to pursue a career in photography, and since then has continued to produce works that earnestly confront the intentions and emotions that lie within human beings. In recent years, he has self-published two photobooks on the theme of "what it means to work." The first is *Brick Yard* (2014), a documentation of seasonal workers at a brick factory in Bangladesh who perform manual labor without the help of machines. The second, *Tannery*, captures the harsh working environment inside a tanning plant in Bangladesh. There is always a certain warmth in Yoshida's gaze as he follows his subjects. He conveys a sense of human dignity that never ceases to prevail even under such harsh working conditions, allowing it to emerge as a radiant ray of light.

BOOKS

- 2019 «THE ABSENCE OF TWO»
Seigensha
- 2019 «UNE DOUBLE ABSENCE»
Editions Xavier Barral
- 2018 «The Absence of Two»
self publish 111 limited edition
- 2017 «Tannery» self publish
special edition 100 limited editions
and standard edition 400 limited
editions
- 2017 «SAKURADA»
- 2014 «Brick Yard» self publish
200 limited editions

AWARDS

- 2017 «Cortona on the move» in ITALY
dummy book Award nominated
- 2017 KYOTO GRAPHIE Main program
Exhibition «Falling Leaves»
- 2016 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO
PRIZE 2015 People category First
Prize
- 2016 EMON PHOTO AWARD special prize
Paris Photo-Aperture Foundation
PhotoBook Award 2015 First
PhotoBook Shortlist 2015 Click
- 2015 konica Minolta Photo Premio
Grand Prize 2014
- 2015 KYOTO GRAPHIE PLUS
BEST4 EXHIBITION
- 2014 Konica Minolta Photo Premio Prize
- 2013 Kyoto Photograph bien'nare
- 2013 Ueno Hikoma Awards, Japan
Photography Art Encouraged Prize,
Mainichi Newspaper, Japan
- 2012 Ueno Hikoma Awards,
Japan Photography Art Encouraged
Prize, Mainichi Newspaper, Japan
- 2011 Nominate, EPSON Gallery
Spot Light Institution Click

SOLO SHOWS

- 2020 *The Absence of Two*
Fisheye Gallery Paris France
- 2019 *Gonbe Mane* Gallery SUGATA Kyoto
- 2019 *Bus Helper* Bangladesh Return Project
- 2019 *Diary* Seikosha Bookstore Kyoto
- 2019 *The Absence of Two*
Books Kubrick Fukuoka
- 2018 *The Absence of Two, Reminders*
Photography Stronghold Tokyo
- 2017 Lianzhou International Photo Festival
Lianzhou china
- 2017 *The Absence of Two* Seikosha
Book Store, Kyoto Japan
- 2017 NGO No border without children
Photo Exhibition *Victims* Gallery Sirius,
Tokyo Japan
- 2017 *Sky Burial* Gallery SUGATA
Tokyo Japan
- 2017 *The Absence of Two*
Reminders Photography Stronghold,
Tokyo Japan
- 2017 *Sky Burial* Gallery SUGATA,
Kyoto Japan
- 2017 *On Labor* EMON PHOTO
GALLERY, Tokyo Japan
- 2017 *Falling Leaves* KYOTOGRAPHIE
Main Program Exhibition
- 2016 *Tannery* Foreign Correspondents
Club of Japan, Tokyo Japan
- 2016 *Tannery* Daikanyama Kitamura
Camera Shop, Tokyo Japan
- 2016 *Tannery* EMON PHOTO GALLERY,
Tokyo Japan
- 2016 *Tannery* Seikosha Book Store,
Kyoto Japan

- 2015 *Calico Factory Artisans*
Gallery SUGATA KYOTO Japan
- 2015 *Brick Yard* Art Space
IROSORA Gallery, Miyazaki Japan
- 2015 *Brick Yard* Konica Minolta Gallery, T
okyo Japan
- 2015 *Brick Yard* Keibunsha BookStore,
Kyoto Japan
- 2012 *Calico Factory Artisans*
IROSORA Gallery, Miyazaki Japan
- 2011 "Warm Light" Paxi house, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 *Calico Factory Artisans* EPSON Gallery,
Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 *Encounter Journey* Bar Sentakusen,
Tokyo, Japan

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 «Four Wish» NPO Children
without Border, Tokyo Japan
- 2015 «Brick Yard» PHOTO PREMIO
GRAND PRIZE EXHIBITION,
Konica Minolta Gallery, Tokyo Japan
- 2013 *Kyoto Photograph bien'nare* 2013
Kyoto Japan
- 2013 *Brick Yard Workers* Tokyo Metropolitan
Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 *Painting Artist Murabayashi Yuki*
okai Tokyo Bond Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *Portrait of the Bangladesh Workers*
Tokyo Metropolitan Museum
of Photography, Tokyo, Japan