

**For Immediate Release**

**Masao Yamamoto**

*Kawa*

February 24 – April 9, 2011



Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to present *Kawa*, our fifth exhibition by Japanese artist Masao Yamamoto. Existing together in the same atmospheric sense, the works in the series “Kawa” suggest both a connection as well as a divide between the present and past. Each print, measuring approximately 5 x 8 inches, avoids traditional capture of a singular event. Rather, these images conjure memories of fleeting and fluid moments, eliciting consideration and meditation.

*As the artist states: Up to now I have been working in the form of installation. What overflows from one photograph would flow into the next piece, and in two's and threes, the groups would create a combined effect, like the layered notes of an orchestra. But recently my thoughts are more focused on the individual incident - the urge to dwell deeper into each element is rising slowly. A landscape or an incident around me is cut out into a square piece of photograph. What that square piece will inspire in you... perhaps it is something that already exists inside of you.*

Yamamoto's spare and meditative photos depict natural subjects such as a perching owl, mushrooms growing on heavy rope or an abstract composition portraying light's reflection on water. Part of a carefully considered selection for the gallery, these masterfully crafted prints, made by the artist in Japan, mark a subtle departure from Yamamoto's earlier series. Each one presenting a contained world of natural beauty, they are intended to be seen and contemplated individually as opposed to in groups. Yamamoto's images speak softly, with an intimacy that draws the viewer near to explore each piece at close range. Rather than telling a story or describing a scene, the work evokes a moment of heightened awareness, of looking with quiet intensity at the world.

Yamamoto has produced five books published by Nazraeli Press: *A Box of Ku, é, Nahazora, Omizuo*, and *The Path of Green Leaves*. His work has been exhibited internationally at the Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, the Galeria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, the High Museum, Atlanta, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The work of Masao Yamamoto is held in the collections of Harvard University Art Museums; Museum Contemporary of Photography, Chicago; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The International Center of Photography; Center for Creative Photography; Princeton University Art Museum; Santa Barbara Museum of Art; Portland Art Museum.

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