

YANCEY RICHARDSON GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Masao Yamamoto

Kawa=Flow

September 5 – October 18, 2008

Project gallery exhibition: Hiroh Kikai Tokyo Labyrinth

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm

Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to present *Kawa ~ Flow*, our fourth exhibition by Japanese artist Masao Yamamoto. The show runs concurrently with *Nakazora: Space Between Sky and Earth*, a solo exhibition by the artist at The Print Center, Philadelphia, on view through November 26, 2008. The gallery exhibition combines the concepts of dispersion and concentration. As Yamamoto 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.



For the exhibition, Yamamoto will devote one wall to an installation of several dozen photographs drawn from his ongoing *Nakazora* series. In these intentionally stained and worn photographs, Yamamoto explores notions of memory and the passage of time. Arriving at the gallery bundled in worn leather suitcases and small enough to hold in the palm of your hand or carry in your pocket, the work is an anachronism, belonging to a sensibility that contrasts vividly with the large-scale color photographs prevalent today. Functioning like words or phrases in what Yamamoto considers his “dictionary”, the unframed photographs are attached directly to the gallery wall in a loose constellation where the white space comes forward as an equal visual element in the composition.

The balance of the gallery will feature a carefully considered selection of slightly larger framed photographs, measuring approximately 5 x 8 inches. These new works 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 singularly as opposed to in groups. Each image recalls a fleeting, transitory moment: the crest of a breaking wave, the gaze of an eagle, a ball suspended in mid-air. 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, Omizuaio*, 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 Galleria 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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