

M/E

Rinko Kawauchi

March 14th - April 26th, 2025

The gallery is pleased to invite Rinko Kawauchi for her third solo exhibition, titled *M/E*. This evocative title invites a dual interpretation: *Mother/Earth* and *Me*. This abbreviation serves as a clear and profound reflection on our personal connection to Mother Earth as well as on the intricate interdependence between living and non-living entities.

The exhibition spans all three gallery spaces in the form of specific installations, each drawing from an extensive archive of photographs Rinko had collected over the years. The works include images of Iceland, where she recently returned, interwoven with photographs taken in Japan.

In the left-hand space, a video composed of multiple digressions offers a mosaic of moments from Kawauchi's life: everyday scenes, glimpses of nature, and fleeting impressions of meteorological phenomena. By juxtaposing discontinuous moments, she paradoxically creates a continuous thread, emphasizing unity through fragmentation and multiplicity. There is a resonance between what is photographed (a spider web, dew drops, a ray of light) and her creative process itself: she draws parallels to form an interdependent whole with elegant simplicity. In the right-hand space, a dozen images echo one another, forming a quiet narrative of fleeting brilliance and ephemeral moments.

Finally, in the space in the back, an installation made up of suspended printed fabrics unfolds with a lightness that literally allows visitors to physically move through the images. This compelling metaphor highlights the fragility and precariousness of all things as well as the direct impact humans have on their environment; indeed, passing through these images stirs air currents, which in turn ripple through the fabrics—a tangible reflection of our interconnectedness. This space offers an opportunity to experience Kawauchi's vision of existing «between» things or ideas, evoking a profound sense of presence and flow. Extending this notion, it is tempting to reference haiku, that form of Japanese poetry with short and impactful lines, of which Bashō is undoubtedly the best-known representative (17th century). While this analogy feels fitting—if somewhat frequent—Kawauchi's work also invites associations beyond Japanese culture, whether Latin—revisiting the verses of Virgil's *Georgics* in François Bon's magnificent «contemporary» translation—or Native American, offering alternative ways of connecting to nature and time. At its heart, Kawauchi's work is a celebration of the Earth—simple, yet universal. She speaks to everyone and to all times.

Kawauchi's attentive gaze captures the smallest details of life, from a drop of water on the verge of evaporation to a child's gesture, her images bear witness to the enigma of life. She records, assembles, isolates to reveal or at least open perspectives on the elusive. In Kawauchi's work, there is an act of vision. "The fertile Eyes" as Paul Eluard put it. To see there, but also and above all to see here. To see better than others. To see differently from others. Can this help overcome the crisis of sensitivity that confronts our era? In any case, there is gratitude and continual offering in Rinko Kawauchi's work, and this helps us to live.

Or to die. A matter of perspective.

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Rinko Kawauchi, born in 1972 in Shiga, Japan, studied at Seian University of Art and Design. In 2001, she gained recognition in the Japanese art scene by simultaneously publishing three books: *Hanako*, *Utatane*, and *Hanabi*. Since then, she has expanded her body of work with major publications such as *AILA* (2004), *The Eyes, the Ears* (2005), *Cui Cui* (2005), *Illuminance* (2011), *Ametsuchi* (2013), *The River Embraced Me* (2016), and this year, she will release *M/E*.

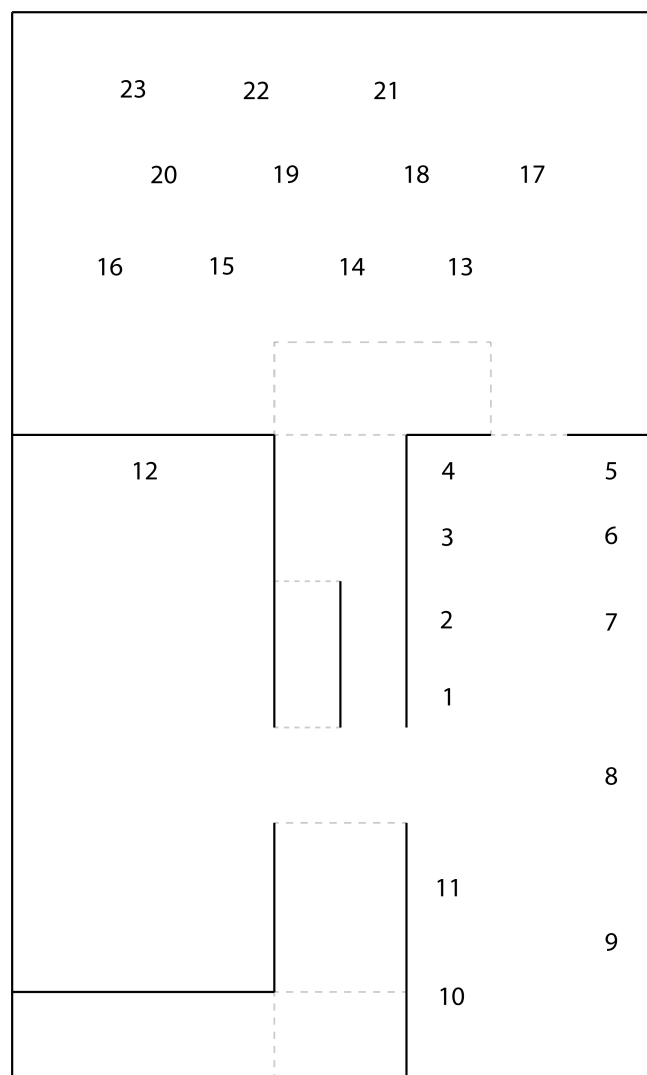
Her work has been exhibited at prestigious institutions worldwide, including Fotografiska Stockholm (Sweden), the Kunsthaus Wien in Vienna (Austria), the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris (France), and the Contemporary Art Museum in Kumamoto (Japan). Her works have also been shown in solo exhibitions at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography (Japan), the Fotomuseum Antwerpen (Belgium), the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (United States), the Lesley University College of Art and Design (United States), and Somerset House (United Kingdom). More recently, she had a major solo retrospective at the Bristol Photo Festival at the Arnolfini Gallery (United Kingdom).

Her work has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston (United States), the Haus der Kunst in Munich (Germany), the Jeu de Paume in Paris (France), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (United States), the Rencontres d'Arles (France), and the Getty Center in Los Angeles (United States). Rinko Kawauchi's works are part of public collections, including those of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (United States), the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography (Japan), the Fondation Cartier in Paris, the Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (Brazil), and the Contemporary Art Museum in Kumamoto (Japan).

Rinko Kawauchi has received several prestigious awards, including the Kimura Ihei Prize (Japan) in 2002, the Infinity Award for Art presented by the ICP International Center of Photography (NYC, United States) in 2009, and the title of Honorary Fellowship from the Royal Photographic Society (London, United Kingdom) in 2012. In 2023, she was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award by Sony.

She currently lives and works in Tokyo.

- 1 **Untitled (ME8)**, 2019
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 2 **Untitled (ME37)**, 2022
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 3 **Untitled (ME38)**, 2019
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 4 **Untitled (ME54)**, 2020
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 5 **Untitled (ME53)**, 2020
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 6 **Untitled (ME51)**, 2020
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 7 **Untitled (ME33)**, 2020
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 8 **Untitled (ME18)**, 2020
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 180 cm
- 9 **Untitled (ME70)**, 2020
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 180 cm
- 10 **Untitled (ME57)**, 2021
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm
- 11 **Untitled (ME58)**, 2021
M/E
Chromogenic print
Edition of 3 ex
120 x 80 cm



- 12 **Untitled (M/E)**
Video
10:32 loop
- 13 - 23 **Untitled, 2019 - 2022**
M/E
Inkjet print on fabric
156 x 104 cm