

## CHRISTIAN KŌUN ALBORZ OLDHAM'S SELECTIONS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE OF KOSEN OHTSUBO

November 3–19, 2022

Lecture by Christian Kōun Alborz Oldham: November 3, 6–7pm

Christian Kōun Alborz Oldham is presenting the work of his ikebana master, Kosen Ohtsubo at Ulrik.

The exhibition is produced in cooperation with Kosen himself, and supported materially by Keiko Ohtsubo, the Ryusei School of ikebana, and Empty Gallery. It includes twelve prints of Kosen's work from the 1970s to the present day, as well as *Corner Vase* (2022) for botanical matter, provided by Yugoexport and designed by Irena Haiduk.

Prints are available for purchase at the price of \$350 each. The profits from sales will be split between Kosen, Oldham, and Ulrik, with Kosen receiving the majority share. A portion of the proceeds will provide funding for the founding of *Flower Planet*, an institution dedicated to the study of flowers, their production, propagation, and arrangement, founded by Oldham. Yugoexport's corner vase is flexibly priced and dependent on the reader's income level.

Binders featuring career-spanning press materials in English and Japanese, Oldham's recollections of time working with Kosen, and images of works by the two artists are available for viewing.

The first iteration of this series was staged with a set of twelve different prints at Paid, in Seattle, Washington, between July 23 and August 6, 2022.

Kosen Ohtsubo is one of the most significant living practitioners of the art form of ikebana. Colloquially nicknamed "The Legend of Ikebana", Ohtsubo rose to prominence in the 1960s due to his use of readily available materials such as vegetables and refuse. While formally trained in electrical engineering at Tokyo Denki University, for decades he served as the Headmaster's Advisory Instructor of the Ryusei Ikebana School, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan and has exhibited his mastery of the ikebana medium in both avant-garde and classical styles of arranging. His work and demonstrations have been presented in India, Hong Kong, Spain, Holland, England, Korea, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the United States. Documentation of Ohtsubo's practice has been chronicled in two major publications in 1981 and 1995.

Christian Kōun Alborz Oldham is an artist, writer, researcher, and educator who, under the tutelage of Kosen Ohtsubo, became a 3<sup>rd</sup> level master of Ryusei-ha freestyle ikebana in 2016.