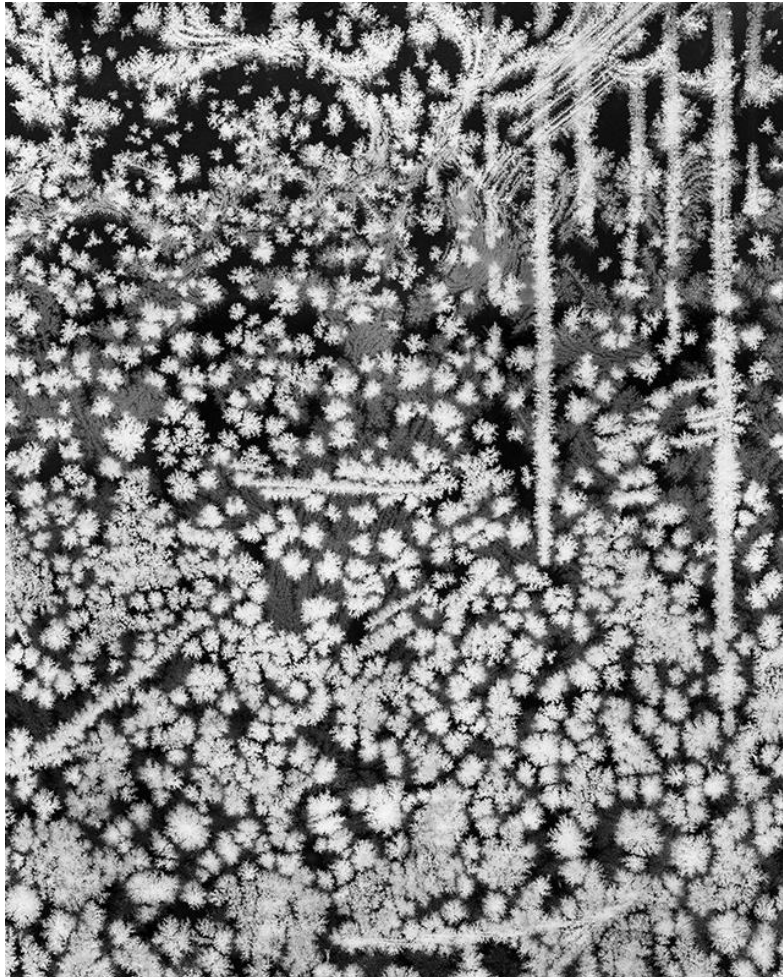


Tomoko YONEDA***Crystals***

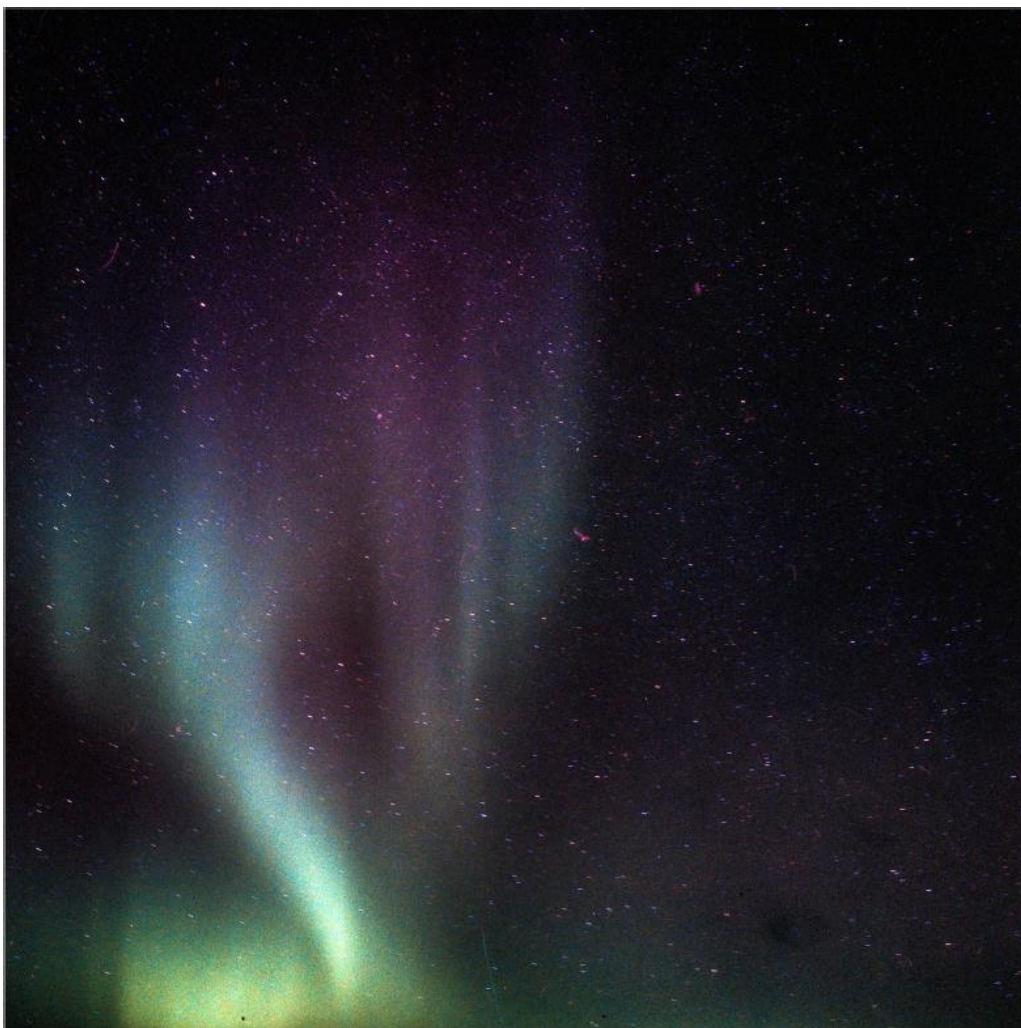
Saturday, 13 January – Saturday, 24 February

Tomoko YONEDA, *Crystals VIII*, 2023, gelatin silver print, image: 35.4x28.4cm, ed.15

They sometimes appear on a freezing winter night, and disappear by the early morning as the sun rises; these ice crystals are delicate and disappear with the slightest rise in temperature or change in humidity. These natural ice patterns are accidental drawings that appear unexpectedly. The aurora borealis seen in the polar regions also appears unexpectedly and lights up the sky in the sun and the atmospheric periphery. These natural phenomena are majestic and also symbolic while embodying the essence of raw energy that never runs out. Crystallized life radiates beauty in an instant; nature breathes around us even though it is at odds with the harsh world we now live in.

Tomoko Yoneda, December 2023

Tomoko Yoneda's works are always deeply connected with historicity and the memory of a place, exemplified in the series titled *Between Visible and Invisible* in which she looks into the inner workings of people who were tossed about by the turbulence of the 20th century, or in *Scene*, capturing traces of events that once occurred in specific locations. It has not been mentioned, however, that the basis of her creation is a sincere appreciation of life, all life forms including humans, and a fervent wish for peace. In this exhibition, Yoneda focuses on the ephemeral yet majestic existence of the natural world, while showcasing works that suggest, "we are all small beings in a great, uncontrollable unity."

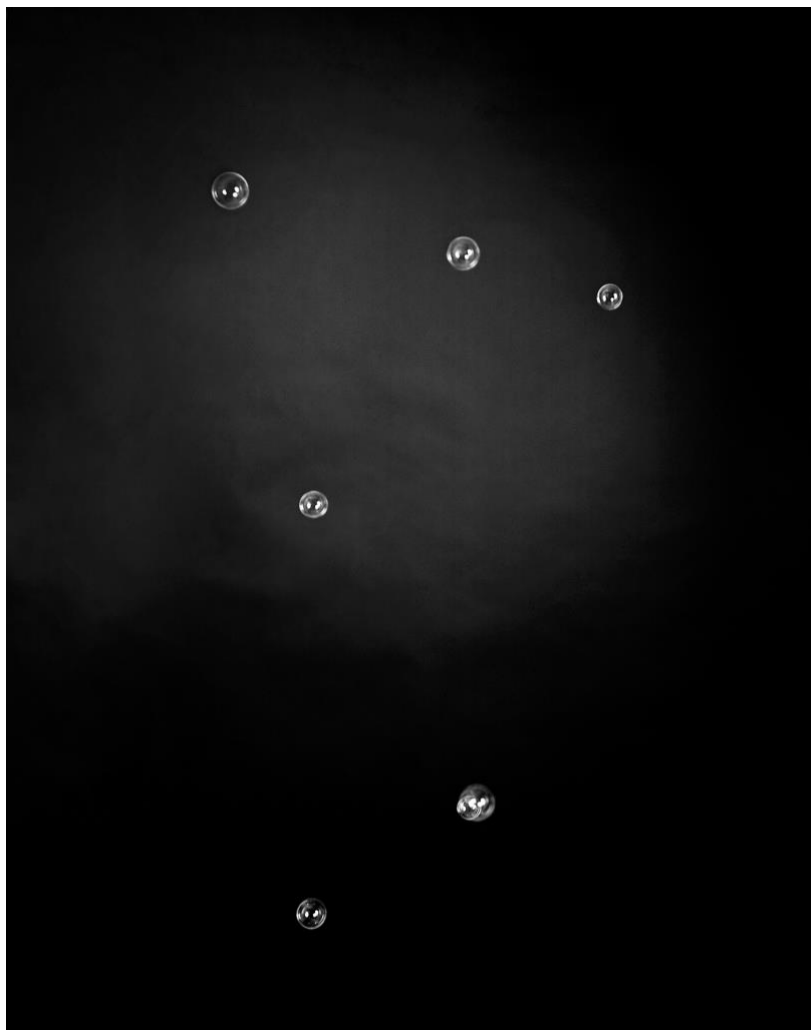


Tomoko YONEDA, *Aurora VI*, 2013/2023, chromogenic print, image: 19x19cm, ed.25

The *Crystals* series (2013 to 2023) has been shot in freezing cold Finland. These tiny ice crystals disappear with the slightest change in the environment, but they also remind us of the cycle of nature in which they repeatedly reappear on the ground. The exhibition will unveil 24 works for the first time, including *Crystals, Siberia I · II* (1998/2023), photographed during a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Additionally the *Aurora* series taken in the village of Kilpisjärvi, Finnish Lapland, and a work of soap bubbles, a theme taken from historic symbolism of 17th century painting and philosophy referring to 'vanitas vanitatum' – the fragility and transience of human life.

Yoneda, who has continued to photograph various people's memories and traces of history, has always maintained an eye for life through nature. Please look forward to the charm of Yoneda's work, which deviates from her usual practice.

ShugoArts, December 2023



Tomoko YONEDA, *Bubbles I*, 2023, gelatin silver print, image: 24x19cm, ed.15

Tomoko YONEDA *Crystals*

Dates: Saturday, 13 January – Saturday, 24 February, 2024

Venue: ShugoArts

Hours: 11am – 6pm, Closed on Sun, Mon and Public Holidays

Directed by Minako Ishii

Closing reception

Date & Time: Saturday, 24 February, 2024, 5pm – 7pm

Tomoko YONEDA related exhibitions

At the Zoo — From the Tokyo Metropolitan Collection and Other Collections

Dates: Thursday, 16 November, 2023 – Monday, 8 January, 2024

Venue: TOKYO METROPOLITAN ART MUSEUM

Exhibition website: https://www.tobikan.jp/en/exhibition/2023_collection.html

Recovery

Dates: Saturday, 23 December, 2023 – Sunday, 10 March, 2024

Venue: Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art

Exhibition website: <https://www.mimoca.org/en/exhibitions/2023/12/23/2929/>

Remembrance beyond images

Dates: Friday, 1 March – Sunday, 9 June, 2024

Venue: TOKYO PHOTOGRAPHIC ART MUSEUM

Exhibition website: <https://topmuseum.jp/e/contents/exhibition/index-4549.html>

Artists Talk-Tomoko Yoneda x Marja Pirilä

Date & Time: Saturday, 2 March, 2024 1:30pm ~ 3:30pm

Venue: TOKYO PHOTOGRAPHIC ART MUSEUM

Admission: for free

*For opening hours and more information, please check the respective museum websites.

Tomoko YONEDA

Born in Hyogo, Japan, in 1965. Currently lives and works in London. In her practice, Yoneda incorporates her laborious research in order to deal with the ideologies of the 20th century. The nature of her artmaking has taken her not only to places in Japan where the past wars and earthquakes are still traceable, but also to regions in both Western and Eastern Europe and Asia where people's memories are still strongly ingrained. Yoneda probes into historical facts that are embedded in specific locations and objects through her photography, which recalls multi-layered memories offering a cornucopia of poetic sensibility behind each scene.

Selected exhibitions: DMZ exhibition : Checkpoint, Paju and Yeonchoen, Korea, 2023; Echoes—Crashing waves, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2022; Tomoko Yoneda, Fundación MAPFRE, Madrid, 2021; Dialogue with A.C., ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2019; 12th Shanghai Biennale 2018, Shanghai, 2018-19; Dialogue with Albert Camus, Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris, 2018; Discordant Harmony, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, 2015/ Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, 2016; The 10th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, 2014; Aichi Triennale, Aichi, 2013; We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness, Himeji City Museum of Art, Hyogo, 2014/ Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, 2013; Arsenale 2012: The First Kyiv International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv, Ukraine, 2012; Japanese House, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2011; An End is a Beginning, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 2008; Venice Biennale, The 52nd International Art Exhibition, Venice, 2007; A Decade After, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Hyogo, 2005; Beyond Memory and Uncertainty, Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo, 2003

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◆Other artists' news are available on: <http://shugoarts.com/en/topics/>