



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Nakazora: space between sky and earth: Masao Yamamoto
September 10 – November 26, 2008

Wednesday, September 10
Gallery Talk by John Caperton, Curator: 5:00pm
Opening Reception: 5:30-7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center announces *Nakazora: space between sky and earth*, a major new site-specific work by the renowned Japanese photographer **Masao Yamamoto**. Yamamoto will travel to Philadelphia from Japan to create a site-specific installation of dozens of his photographs (sized between 2x3" and 3x5") attached directly to the walls of The Print Center, creating an ambitiously scaled, yet exquisitely delicate, new work. His tiny images of still-lives, nudes and landscapes are treated with dyes, toned (with tea), painted, sometimes torn and then installed individually and unframed on the gallery's walls in unexpected juxtapositions and lyrical combinations. This will be Yamamoto's first exhibition in Philadelphia and will coincide with an exhibition of the artist's work at Yancey Richardson Gallery in New York.

This exhibition provides a significant opportunity for American audiences to experience the work of this celebrated Japanese photographer. While several of Yamamoto's Japanese contemporaries have received critical attention in the United States, including Hiroshi Sugimoto and Daido Moriyama, Yamamoto's achievements have not yet been fully recognized. While his work is often startlingly contemporary, especially his installations, the quiet simplicity of his work reflect a Japanese spirit and deep connections to the historical traditions of Japanese photography. Individual images may recall the landscapes of early Japanese photographer Suizan Kurokawa's, or Kazuma Ogawa's photographs of Japanese buildings. Yamamoto's work also relates to contemporary Japanese photography, including Masahisa Fukase's dark portraits of ravens or Miyako Ishiuchi's details of the female body. ***Nakazora: space between sky and earth*** will help to contextualize this work in both the history of Japanese photography as well as contemporary international photography.

Yamamoto has had numerous solo exhibitions internationally, including recent exhibitions at the Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA; Galerie Gabriel Rolt, Amsterdam; and Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo. His work was also included in the exhibition *Picturing Eden* at the George Eastman House, Rochester, NY. Six publications of the artist's work have been published by Nazraeli Press.

Nakazora: space between sky and earth will be on view at The Print Center from September 10 to November 26, 2008. On Wednesday, September 10 there will be gallery talk by John Caperton, Curator of Prints and Photographs, The Print Center at 5:00pm followed by the opening reception from 5:30-7:30pm. Free and open to the public. This exhibition is made possible by generous support from the Japan Foundation.



The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including exhibitions; The Print Center Gallery Store, which offers the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; and an extensive series of education programs and special events.

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