

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Now, Here, and Beyond" by Ken Kitano
19 September - 14 November 2015

Opening Reception: Saturday, 19 September 2015, 4 - 6:30pm
(Guided tour by artists starts at 4:30pm)

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm (Sunday and Monday by appointment only); closed on public holidays



Blindspot Gallery is pleased to present "Here, Now and Beyond" a solo exhibition of Japanese artist Ken Kitano. "Here, Now and Beyond" showcases his latest body of photographs *day light* and *watching the moon*, and new portraits from Kitano's major and ongoing *our face* series taken during the Occupy Movement in Hong Kong.

The exhibition features Kitano's latest body of photographs *day light* and *watching the moon*, conceived and executed during his one-year artist residency in USA in 2013. *day light* was produced on 4 x 5 negative film using day-long exposure from dusk to dawn; *watching the moon* was created where Kitano aligned the camera lens with the moon's trajectory to capture its motion. The misalignments in these images reveal the slippages between time on earth and time expanding outward across the infinite space, as they illuminate the relationships between nature, human life and universe. The highlight of the show also includes new portraits from his ongoing *our face* series since 1999, which embodies the theme of the interconnectedness of human in his work. By combining and overlapping the portraits he shot of Hong Kong police and the protesters at the Occupy Movement from last September, Kitano produced two metaportraits to represent the collective faces of these two groups at the movement.

While *our face* combines different faces to create an icon of a particular community that represent a demographic whole, Kitano's new work marks the attempt to understand human life through observing the beyond of space - in his own words, the brittle and ungraspable "here and now" that is our existence.



Blindspot Gallery will also open another solo exhibition “Good day good night” by South Ho Siu Nam on the same day. The opening date coincides with the South Island Cultural Art Day when selected galleries and artist studios at south side of Hong Kong Island will open door with refreshments for visitors. The artists will be present at the opening reception. Interviews are welcome and can be arranged.

About Ken Kitano

Born in 1968 in Tokyo, Kitano graduated from the College of Mathematical Engineering at Nihon University in Chiba. He won the ‘16th Society of Photography Award’ in 2004 and the ‘Newcomer’s Award’ of the Photographic Society of Japan in 2007. Kitano’s major and ongoing series since 1999 *our face* has been exhibited extensively and collected by major museums in Japan and around the world. Publications by Kitano include *our Face*, *our Face: asia*, and *FLOW AND FUSION*. Kitano currently lives and works in Tokyo.

About Blindspot Gallery

Blindspot Gallery was set up in 2010 to bring contemporary photography, an art form that was in the blind spot of the Hong Kong art scene, to a higher degree of visibility. We feature contemporary photography and image based works of established and emerging artists, mainly from the region but also beyond.



For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email info@blindspotgallery.com

Image captions:

Ken Kitano, *Mojave desert*, March 22, 2013, 2013, C-print, 81.3 x 101.6 (Edition of 5) / 40.4 x 51.3 cm (Edition of 12)

Ken Kitano, *National flag*, Santa Monica, March 27, 2013, 2013, C-print, 73.7 x 110.5 cm (Edition of 5) / 37.3 x 55.8 cm (Edition of 12)

Ken Kitano, *25 participants at 2014 Hong Kong protests “Umbrella Revolution”*, 2014, Gelatin silver print, 177 x 152 cm / 35 x 28 cm (Edition of 7)

(Images courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery)