

Blindspot Gallery •
24-26A, Aberdeen Street,
Central, Hong Kong

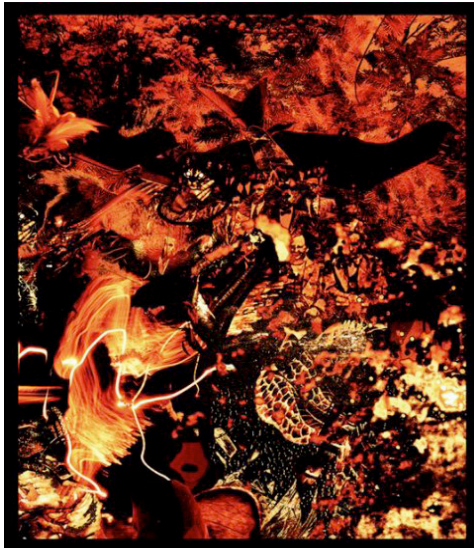
Tel • +852 2517 6238
Fax • +852 2517 6100
Email • info@blindspotgallery.com
Web • www.blindspotgallery.com

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

“Fragmented Emotions”

Featuring Cozue Takagi & Shu Ikeda

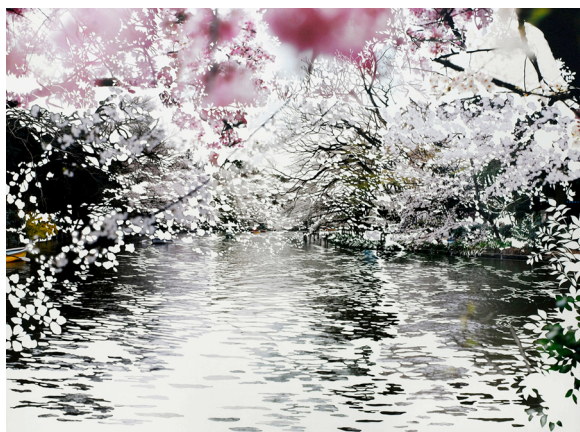
5 November - 9 December 2010



Blindspot Gallery is pleased to present “Fragmented Emotions” exhibiting photography artworks by two of the most promising young Japanese photography artists, Cozue Takagi and Shu Ikeda.

Contemporary Japanese photography has gained increasing attention since the past decades and is acclaimed for its diversity. Cozue Takagi and Shu Ikeda are both at the forefront of such diversity in their approaches. Both artists explore new possibilities in the photographic medium to express their innermost emotions with collaged photographic artworks: Takagi employs digital manipulation, while Ikeda uses the method of paper-cutting.

Being one of the most prominent young Japanese artists, Cozue Takagi stands out for her provocative imagery and rich visual density of her works. Her method is to scan a group of negatives photographed on film and to convert the monochrome images into colored ones. The images are then digitally mixed as collages. Takagi won the 35th Kimura Ihei Memorial Photography Award this year with her most recognized *ground* series. The Kimura Ihei Award established in 1975 by the Asahi Shimbun Company is one of the most respected photography awards in Japan, previous recipients include Naoya Hatakeyama, Mika Ninagawa and Lieko Shiga. Takagi’s *split* and *grain* series at the exhibition are both derived from her signature *ground* series, a diptych that represents the artist’s state of mind in confronting, discovering and understanding the world. She made the *split* series by dividing each of the 2 images of *ground* into 9 separate pieces of image; in the *grain* series, Takagi took a further step in the process of decomposition, which results in a collection of images of single elements. The process of decomposition echoes her own emotional journey, in the artist’s own words: “the repeated cycle of life and death, of life being born for the dying and returning to the earth to be born again.”



In contrast to Takagi's digital manipulation, Shu Ikeda's artworks are handled manually by cutting and pasting. Ikeda cuts out different patterns with paper cutter on the photographs he took, each artwork is a delicate creation that easily takes a few months to finish. Ikeda was formerly trained as a painter. Instead of adopting painting as the sole medium in his creations, he discovers this unique method to combine painting and photography to create his artworks. Ikeda's works are mostly ethereal images of scenery, the cutting of the image

represents Ikeda's cropping of a moment in reality; while the pasting and reconstruction of the image represent the reinvention of reality in a new shape.

Both Cozue Takagi and Shu Ikeda are audacious in pushing the limits of their visual representations, and both prominent examples of young Japanese photographers continuing to increase the diversity of contemporary Japanese photography.

About Cozue Takagi

Cozue Takagi (b. 1985) first rose to prominence in Japan's art scene when she won the Grand Prize at Canon's New Cosmos of Photography in 2006 during her last year of studies in Tokyo Polytechnic University. Since then Takagi's works have been exhibited in various solo and group exhibitions across Japan and in Korea. She is the winner of the 35th Kimura Ihei Memorial Photography Award 2010, one of the most prestigious photography awards in Japan. She lives and works in Nagano, Japan.

About Shu Ikeda

Shu Ikeda (b. 1979) studied painting in Tokyo Zokei University and graduated in 2004. Since his debut solo exhibition *fragmentary time* in 2007, Ikeda has risen as one of Japan's up-and-coming artists with his Honorable Mention at Canon's New Cosmos of Photography in 2009 and winning the Mayor of Judge Prize at Tokyo Wonder Wall 2009. He works and lives in Tokyo, Japan.

About Blindspot Gallery

Blindspot Gallery is set up to bring contemporary photography, an art form that has entered the blind spot of the Hong Kong art market, to a higher degree of visibility. We feature both established and emerging photographers and artists, mainly from the region but not limited to.

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

Image caption:

Cozue Takagi, *split*, 2009, C print, 89 x 74 cm, Edition of 3

Shu Ikeda, *We Must Say Good-bye Until We See It Once Again*, 2009, Photographic collage, mounted on paper, 89 x 119 cm