

Tokyo Rumando "I'm only happy when I'm naked"

Dates: Jun 30 – Aug 27, 2016 [Summer holidays: Aug 7 – 22, 2016]

Location: Taka Ishii Gallery Photography Paris

Opening reception with the artist: Thursday, Jun 30, 18:00 – 21:00

Book signing: Saturday, Jul 2, 13:00 – 16:00

Taka Ishii Gallery Photography Paris is pleased to present "I'm only happy when I'm naked," a solo exhibition of works by Tokyo Rumando from June 30 to August 27. This exhibition marks the artist's first solo presentation with Taka Ishii gallery, and features approximately 8 photographs from her latest series "Orphee" and a selection of 100 Polaroids.

After being involved with modeling for many years, Tokyo Rumando takes on the camera herself and pursues expressions which are spontaneous, yet emerge from her own experiences. Mainly working on self-nude portraits, she considers her photographic practice as an "input to rebuild a new self".

In her 2014 work "Orphee," the artist '(un)dresses up' in front of a giant circular mirror, confronting all the memories, projections, fears and desires reflected behind its surface. The sequence of images convey different women, who are yet the same person, challenging the meaning of identity without a real desire to question it: from the figure in front of the mirror to the images reflected within, everything is part of a cohesive whole, and the boundaries distinguishing inside from outside seemingly disappear. Tokyo Rumando uses the mirror as a chronological border between past, present and future, thus the images serve to paradoxically reveal that the past and present can coexist ceaselessly. Originally entitled "Projection⇌Introduction," the series demonstrates the means by which she reflects upon the past: "I was shaping my inner self again, projecting it on a picture and once again reintroducing it inside. Rather than finding, I'd say I was receiving something".

The exhibition title "I'm only happy when I'm naked" has also been a key phrase of her works ever since she made her debut with "REST 3000~ STAY 5000~," a series of images photographed in Japanese love hotels that combine elements of reality and fiction.

Changing yourself in order to fit with other people and the circumstances has become quite the norm today, and it's not just about clothes and make-up. We keep on putting on more and more masks, but the true liberation stands in stripping them off and getting close to the slightest piece of skin underneath. Even though many of these masks are a burden and I'd like to take them off, I cannot get rid of them that easily as long as I live. I feel like they are necessary to survive in this society. Perhaps some of these masks are even comfortable, but it might just be that we are generally afraid to take them off. Thus, you can say this slogan is my everyday prayer.

Tokyo Rumando, excerpted from "The endless look of the gaze," an interview by Federica Sala
<http://zenfotogallery.blogspot.jp/2016/02/interview-with-tokyo-rumando.html>

Her Polaroids follow this theme, and further develop her desire to fill her works with madness by accumulating a numerous array of images and cramming them into a single space. The exhibition serves as a comprehensive introduction to the photographic world of Tokyo Rumando, an emerging artist who has recently been featured in a group exhibition "Performing for the Camera" at Tate Modern from February to June 2016.

Tokyo Rumando was born in 1980 in Tokyo. While working as a model for movies and magazines, she began shooting photographs in 2005. Self-taught, she mainly photographs her self-nude portraits and portraits of Rakugo artists. Her latest series "Orphee" has been presented in a group exhibition "Performing for the Camera" at Tate Modern (London, 2016). Her solo exhibitions include, "Orphee," TokyoLightRoom; PLACE M; ZEN FOTO GALLERY (Tokyo, 2014), "REST3000~ STAY5000~," ZEN FOTO GALLERY (Tokyo, 2012) and "Hotel Life," PLACE M (Tokyo, 2012). Her photobooks include *Orphee* (ZEN FOTO GALLERY, 2014) and *REST 3000~ STAY 5000~* (ZEN FOTO GALLERY, 2012).

For more information:

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Gallery hours: 12:00-19:00 Closed on Sun, Mon and National holidays



Tokyo Rumando
"Orphee" (No.00core), 2014
Gelatin silver print
Image size: 23.2 x 32.9 cm
Paper size: 27.9 x 35.6 cm
© Tokyo Rumando



Tokyo Rumando
"Polaroid", 2005 -
Polaroid
Image size: 7.3 x 9.1 cm
Paper size: 10.1 x 10.3 cm
© Tokyo Rumando



Tokyo Rumando
"Orphee" (U3), 2014
Gelatin silver print
Image size: 23.2 x 32.9 cm
Paper size: 27.9 x 35.6 cm
© Tokyo Rumando



Tokyo Rumando
"Polaroid", 2005 -
Polaroid
Image size: 7.3 x 9.1 cm
Paper size: 10.1 x 10.3 cm
© Tokyo Rumando



Tokyo Rumando
"Polaroid", 2005 -
Polaroid
Image size: 7.9 x 7.7 cm
Paper size: 10.8 x 8.8 cm
© Tokyo Rumando



Tokyo Rumando
"Polaroid", 2005 -
Polaroid
Image size: 7.3 x 9.1 cm
Paper size: 10.1 x 10.3 cm
© Tokyo Rumando



Tokyo Rumando
"Polaroid", 2005 -
Polaroid
Image size: 9.1 x 7.3 cm
Paper size: 10.3 x 10.1 cm
© Tokyo Rumando