

Yuna Yagi Solo Exhibition, *Visual/Cognition/Polarity/Universality*

Dates: April 29 (Fri) to May 28 (Sat), 2022

Venue: √K Contemporary (6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)



√K Contemporary is proud to present Yuna Yagi's upcoming solo exhibition, *Visual/Cognition/Polarity/Universality*.

In addition to its presentation of Yagi's latest series of works predicated on the forms of sand dunes, as well as earlier works and installations, *Visual/Cognition/Polarity/Universality* will be the most comprehensive display of Yagi's works in recent years.

Following graduation from Parsons School of Design, Yuna Yagi's career has spanned the globe, from New York to Canada, Berlin and now, Kyoto. Over the years, her works have garnered international acclaim, and she has held solo exhibitions at POLA Museum Annex and the KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival.

In 2016, Yagi was presented the Hasselblad Award, the most prestigious honor at the KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival, and in 2019, she was nominated for the Higashikawa New Photographer Award. In 2021, the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa acquired Yagi's works, which were exhibited at the KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival.

With her captivating oeuvre, Yagi stands out as one of the up-and-coming artists in the Japanese art scene.

Gallery talks (Japanese only) will be held during the exhibition. For details, please visit the gallery website.

On Visual/Cognition/Polarity/Universality

The exhibition presents early to latest works from the artist's career.

Marking its debut, Yagi's latest series presents abstractions of sand dunes. Printed on acrylic and steel, the series redefines the notion of a photograph. Printed on translucent acrylic blocks, the light reflections of the work provide shifting viewpoints that alters with the viewer's perspective. As if looking through a lens, the viewer is offered a range of sights, from one of limitation, great depth, and nothingness. Drawing attention to the relationship between light and human vision, Yagi's works reveal the biased and constructed nature of "vision".

In the face of the pandemic, Yagi traveled to the vast lands of sand dunes in search of nature. Through this, she formed a perspective through her vision and viewfinder. Manifesting these subjective "misalignment(s)", these works reveal the incongruities of vision and compel viewers to reflect upon their own experiences and perceptions.



Stone A (2020-22), C-print on paper, framed.
H840 x W600mm

What is "it" that I actually see, how is "it" captured by "vision" and "cognition", and how can this information be both "biased" yet exist intrinsically within us? Perhaps the "things" one recognizes can alter with their state of mind..

As the physical process of "seeing" and "perceiving" undergoes continual changes in an increasingly digitalized society, these works compel us to reconsider the meaning of "existence" in the realm of human experience.

Exhibition Website: https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/yuna_yagi_exhibition_2022/

Artist Statement

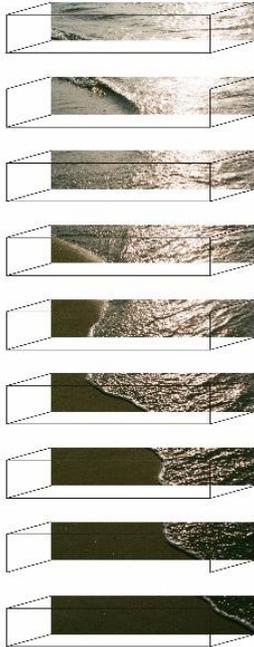
Occasionally, when you look at something, you might experience a sensation that goes beyond what is perceived. Sometimes "things" become idealized within us through visuals/cognition. However, we simultaneously maintain the conviction that we view the same "things" as others. Aren't these notions of Visual/Cognition/Polarity/Universality equivalent to ideas of mind/belief?

In this current situation where varying emotions and beliefs are divided by events such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War, I want to demonstrate that there is a possibility to "see" the same "things" in spite of the overarching existence of Visual/Cognition/Polarity/Universality.

— Yuna Yagi

Exhibiting Works

①



(Reference Image)

②



(Reference Image)

③



- ① *Polarization* (2020-22)
9 pieces, UV print on acrylic, steel
H85 x W450 x D120mm
- ② *quadrangular prism* (2020-22)
UV print on steel, magnets
H1800 x W1800mm
- ③ *Strata 01* (2018-2021)
UV print on acrylic
H312 x W200 x D136 mm

In 2004, Yuna Yagi graduated from New York Parsons School of Architecture. After working for Shigeru Ban Architects New York, she moved to Berlin in 2007, and then moved to Kyoto in 2010.

Yagi strives the truth of things through the experience of “seeing.” She is best known for her two-dimensional and three-dimensional works and installations, which appeal to the senses and use a variety of materials.

Yagi’s wide and diverse production spans from the creation of *It’s One World* (2015), a three-dimensional series of works presents photos bound in acrylic blocks, to *Collapsing World* (2016), which applies algorithms to photographs to produce distorted images. Further highlights include *Space For Prayer* (2017), which considers the Japanese view of life and death through funeral halls in Japan, and *BLANC / BLACK* (2019) a series centered upon ideas of light and shadow. In 2018, she held a solo exhibition *NOWHERE* at the Pola Museum Annex Ginza. In 2016, Yagi was awarded the Hasselblad Award at the “KYOTOGRAPHIE Kyoto International Photography Festival” Portfolio Review and in 2017 she was invited to participate at the Paris International Contemporary Photography Art Fair, FOTOFEVER and, in 2019, was nominated for the Eberhaard Awards. In the same year, Yagi was awarded the BIG EMOTIONS AWARDS for her exhibition and production of Okurayama Studio with the designer Teruhiro Yanagihara at DESIGNART 2019.



Selected Awards:

- 2019 *FOTOFEVER Paris*, Eberhaard Awards, Nomination.
- 2019 *DESIGNART 2019*, BIG EMOTIONS AWARDS.
- 2019 Higashikawa New Photographer Awards, Nomination.
- 2017 *FOTOFEVER Paris*, Invited Artist.
- 2016 *Kyotographie* Portfolio Review, Hasselblad Prize, Grand Prix.

Public Collections:

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Japan), The Reign Hotel Kyoto (Japan)

Artist Website | <https://yunayagi.com/>

IG | @yunayagi FB | @artistYUNAYAGI TW | @yagi_me_me_

■ Exhibition Details

Exhibition Title	Visual/Cognition/Polarity/Universality
Exhibiting Artist	Yuna Yagi (八木 夕菜)
Dates	April 29 (Fri) to May 28 (Sat) * Closed Sunday and Monday (Open throughout Golden Week)
Venue	√K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary) Address: Minamicho 6, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo Tel: (+81) (0)3-6280-8808 Email: info@root-k.jp URL: https://root-k.jp
Exhibition Website	https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/yuna_yagi_exhibition_2022/
Admission	Free
Organizer	√K Contemporary
Cooperation	FLAT LABO

※Depending on the state of COVID-19, business days and hours are subject to change.

Please check updates on the √K Contemporary website, Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter periodically for updates.

About √K Contemporary

Inspired by the notion that new art generates from years of refinement, √K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary) was founded with the aim of creating a space where one can experience art at its fullest. Established May 2020, √K Contemporary is an offshoot sibling gallery of Kashima Arts, which has strived, since 1988, to showcase and enhance traditional Japanese art. Seeking to present a form of next-generation art that withstands social and temporal trends, the gallery's futuristic interiors and thoughtful approach to modern and contemporary exhibitions carry a sense of originality and sophistication.

Official Website: <https://root-k.jp/en>

TW : [@rk_contemporary](#) | FB : [@rootkcontemporary](#) | IG : [@rk_contemporary](#)

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