

## Shiro Takatani *Camera Lucida*

This first-ever museum exhibition by Shiro Takatani presents a survey of his endeavors, both as artistic director of the internationally known performance art collective Dumb Type, doing video, lighting, graphics and set design for the group, and as a solo visual artist whose imaging [video and photo] works offer deep insights into the natural environment and diverse physical phenomena. Takatani has also collaborated with musicians and artists in many other genres, and most recently unveiled a series of photo works that showcase his interest in optics.

The Latin exhibition title borrows upon philosopher Roland Barthe's discourse on photography *Camera Lucida* [Fr. *La Chambre Claire: note sur la photographie*] (1980). A reference to those optical devices formerly used by painters and draftsmen to project traceable images onto their canvases, the *camera lucida* differed from the earlier *camera obscura* (literally "dark room") devices — pinhole and mirror predecessors to today's cameras — in that they were not enclosed and employed prisms and lenses instead of mirrors. Similarly, with his performance work *La Chambre Claire* (2008) Takatani wanted to "stage a photographic image-fixing process exposed to light instead of in a black box," turning the theater itself into a *camera lucida* device as an approach to Barthe's idea of photography.

Barthes held that photographs essentially revealed "that which was (*celui qui a existé*)." Painting might emulate the look of things, but it does not show things themselves. Whereas photography captures "the scene itself, the literal reality," and so evokes memories and presences in the viewer. Takatani likewise sees photography's capacity to form images as the basis for all media expressions.

Works slated for this exhibition include the installations *Camera Lucida* (2004), *Chrono* (2006), *Toposcan and Topograph* (premiere; revised version), as well as works selected from the Museum collection to elucidate the history of photographic imaging up to Takatani's endeavors.

### Shiro Takatani Biography

Born 1963 in Nara. Graduated in Environmental Design, Kyoto City University of Arts. Joined Dumb Type in 1984. Along with Dumb Type productions, began solo works in 1998. Recent works include *Chroma* (premiered Biwako Hall, 2012; Marseille de Festival danse et arts multiples, 2013), *composition* (Sharjah Biennale 2013); and the collaboration *Life-Well* with Ryuichi Sakamoto and Mansai Nomura (YCAM, 2013).

### Events

#### ■Artist talk (in Japanese only)

date and time: Friday 3 January 2014 16:00 – 17:30 doors open 15:30 (tentative)

venue: ground floor hall (190 seats)

speakers: Ryuichi Sakamoto (musician), Akira Asada (critic), Shiro Takatani (artist)

•free admittance to all exhibition ticket stub holders, free seating

•entry by numbers issued at ground floor reception from 10:00

#### ■Curator commentaries

second and fourth Fridays each month and Thursday 2 January 16:00

\* open to same-day ticket holders, please assemble at the exhibition entrance

subject to change or cancellation without prior notice

Please check the official webpage for the latest information and updates on related events.

### Shiro Takatani *Camera Lucida* exhibition

sponsors: Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Sankei Shimbun Co., Ltd.

co-sponsor: Toppan Printing Co., Ltd.

cooperation: NEC Display Solutions, Ltd., Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], cosmos-tv

support: Sankei Sports, The Fuji Evening News, Fuji Sankei Business i, iza!, SANKEI EXPRESS

dates: Tuesday 10 December 2013 - Sunday 26 January 2014

venue: Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography lower level exhibition space

hours: 10:00 - 18:00 (Thursdays and Fridays until 20:00) last admittance 30 minutes before closing

\* Thursday 2 - Friday 3 January 11:00 - 18:00

closed: Mondays (Tuesday if a holiday falls on a Monday), New Year holidays Sunday 29 December - Wednesday 1 January

tickets: ¥500 (¥400) general admittance; ¥400 (¥320) university; ¥250 (¥200) high-school, middle school,

seniors 65+ ( ) groups of 20 or more \*free for seniors 65+ on third Thursdays each month

\* free for Friends of the Museum, elementary school children and younger, persons with certified disabilities and

their caregivers

access: 7 min walk from JR Ebisu Station, 10 min walk from Tokyo Metro Ebisu Station

\* no museum parking, please use pay carkpark facilities nearby

### For additional information, contact

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