

March 12 (Tue) – April 14 (Sun) 2024
Weekdays: 11 : 00 –19 : 00 Sundays and holidays: 11 : 00 –18 : 00
Closed Mondays (including national holidays falling on Monday)
Organized by Shiseido Company, Limited
Supported by: IHI Corporation, Oji F-Tex Co., Ltd.
(Zai Nomura Exhibition)

君の存在は消えない、だから大丈夫

- It's OK, the fact you exist will never fade even though
this universe will be gone -

野村 在
Zai Nomura

"shiseido art egg" is an open-call program in which Shiseido supports emerging artists whose creations stimulate the senses and offer different and diverse values, expanding the possibilities for new kinds of beauty, the opportunity to showcase their work in solo exhibitions. Since the program was launched in 2006 a total of 48 artists / artist units have presented their work in this manner, and gone on to grow their presence on the art scene.

To date Zai Nomura has attempted to uncover life, death, and what lies between through a variety of media, taking mainly photography and sculpture as his materials. This exhibition will include a photographic device that prints photos of the dead onto water, and a performative work that will continue to run for decades. Viewing information media and its intersection of past, present and future, and transformation from analog to digital, through an idiosyncratic lens, Nomura interrogates the essence of what it is to be human, and ways of existing.

Zai Nomura

1979 Born in Hyogo
2009 MFA at Goldsmiths University of London
2013 Ph.D. in Fine Arts at Musashino Art University
Lives in Hyogo

Career highlights to date

2024 solo exhibition "Can't Remember I Forgot You", Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo,Tokyo
2021 solo exhibition "Echoes", Ulterior Gallery, NY, USA
2017 solo exhibition "Can't rewind it", Soh Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Artist HP: <https://www.nomurazai.com/>

SHISEIDOGALLERY



HP



Instagram



X

Peeling off the surface layers of the medium.

Stripping away the surface of the record, layer by layer.

In order to reveal the true nature of "something" that it insists.

Exactly 100 years ago, my grandfather was born in Tokyo.

He had a beautiful younger sister, but she was weak and died young.

My grandfather was so shocked by this that he enlisted to fight in the war.

That was in 1941.

When he returned to Japan after the war, he discovered that his beloved fiancée had also disappeared.

Instead, a woman he didn't know was waiting at his house, and that was my grandmother.

I found out about this from my grandfather's journal discovered after his death along with a photo that accompanied it.

The photo shows my grandfather in a school uniform and his sister looking lovely in a white dress.

His sister passed away a few days after that photo was taken.

Since its discovery, I've always held onto that photo.

And I had a thought.

If this beautiful girl hadn't died, perhaps I wouldn't exist now.

I wonder if this photo is proof of my existence.

That's why, I burned the photo, which had been kept for over 80 years, and photographed the light from the flames.

When I looked at the developed negatives, I felt more moved by the light released from both their bodies and papers
than the pain of the loss of it.

I was overwhelmed.

In fact, the photo of them that had disappeared was burned into the back of my eyes, and my existence was not disappeared.

Somehow, I felt OK.

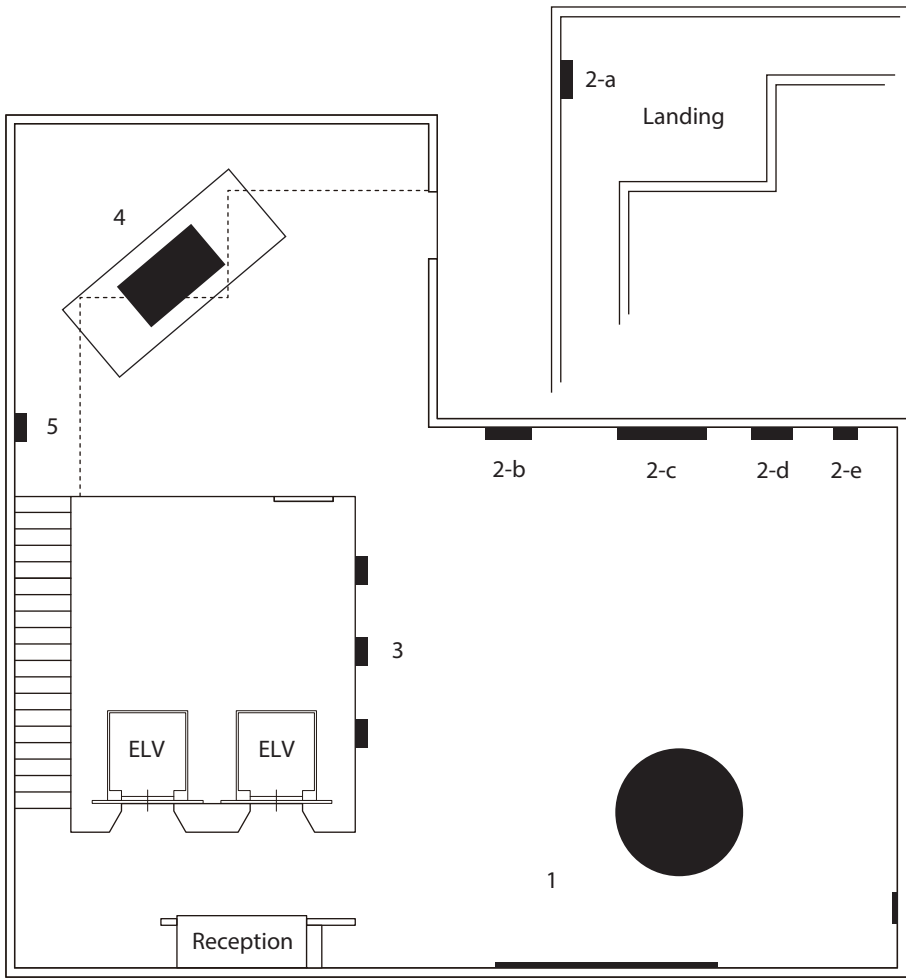
That's why I could bring those who had disappeared back into the light.

That's why the letters that never reached their destination are kept like shadows.

And that's why these everyday memories full of love would fade.

But that is OK.

Even if you disappear and I, the person who remembers you, also disappear, and 100 years from now no one remains to
remember you and even though this universe will be gone, it's OK, the fact you exist will never fade.



1
Untitled
(It's OK, the fact you exist will never fade even though this universe will be gone)

DNA data, punched tape machine, microcomputer, paper, projector, 2024

This work utilizes a punched tape machine suspended from the ceiling to continuously engrave all of one person's DNA onto paper. In the past, punched tape printing machines were used to record information through the use of "paper and holes" as an analog form of communication. If one person's DNA data were printed using punched tape, the total length would be 12 million meters, which is about 1/3 the circumference of the Earth. (This would take 91 years and 172 days of non-stop, 24/7 printing.) The DNA tape is continuously imprinted in accordance with the rhythm of the heartbeat, and the percentage of the imprinted amount is projected on the wall in conjunction with a projector.

2
Biophoton has been shining like this
Burned vintage portrait photography, UV-pigment print on glass, acrylic box, 2024

In this work, the artist collected portraits (including those of his own family/ancestors) from all over the world taken over the past 120 years (1903-2023). He burned them one by one in a darkroom and then photographed the flames using long exposure. These developed films are affixed to the glass using UV-pigment printing, a printing technique that is cured by ultraviolet light.

2-a
Biophoton has been shining like this
(A boy wearing a sailor suit and holding a model yacht, 1919)
Burned vintage portrait photography, UV-pigment print on glass, acrylic box, 2024

2-b
Biophoton has been shining like this
(A beautiful baby looking upwards to the left, harmonica in hand, 1925)
Burned vintage portrait photography, UV-pigment print on glass, 2024

2-c
Biophoton has been shining like this
(Captain Tom on a cruise ship with a big smile, 1999)
Burned vintage portrait photography, UV-pigment print on glass, acrylic box, 2024

2-d
Biophoton has been shining like this
(A man in his 40s wearing yellow seawater pants and sunglasses and a woman of the same age wearing a white bikini. The two pose on a New York beach crowded with over 50 people, 1980)
Burned vintage portrait photography, UV-pigment print on glass, acrylic box, 2024

2-e
Biophoton has been shining like this
(A Japanese man with glasses wearing a checkered shirt, smiling while sitting on a blue sofa with a beagle dog, 2001)
Burned vintage portrait photography, UV-pigment print on glass, acrylic box, 2024

3
Gift
Letters that never reached to anyone, glass box, glass ball, stainless steel, 2024

4
Fantôme
Water tank, water, inkjet printer, LED monitor, ozone generator, microcomputer, internet cloud, 2024

Fantôme is a device that prints photos in water of those who have passed away. Anyone from around the world can participate via an external website. Please scan the QR code displayed below to access the website using the Google App or Camera App on your phone. *You will need to set up a Google account in advance to participate. *Photos of pets such as animals are also accepted.



5
Kantsubaki
Polaroid film, UV-light, cable, 2024

Explanatory Notes
Information on the works are listed in the following order: work title, materials and year of production.