



YUMIKO UTSU, MAYUMI HOSOKURA

# NATURES

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GALERIE  
**LWS**



Mayumi Hosokura, *Untitled*, from the series *Kazan*, 2009-2011

ON DISPLAY FROM APRIL 19 TO MAY  
19 AT THE GALLERY LWS, **NATURES**,  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **YUMIKO UTSU**  
AND **MAYUMI HOSOKURA**, AN EXHIBITION  
ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
G/P GALLERY, TOKYO

Following the success of the *Mizu no Oto - Sound of Water\** exhibition (FotoGrafia - Festival Internazionale di Roma 2011), **3/3** was invited by **LWS** Gallery to present a selection of photographs from **Utsu's** *Out of Ark* and **Hosokura's** *Kazan*.

From a collective show on the theme of water involving five Japanese women photographers - **Asako Narahashi**, **Rinko Kawauchi**, **Lieko Shiga**, **Yumiko Utsu** and **Mayumi Hosokura** - to **Natures**, a real and metaphorical dialogue between two of Japan's most interesting contemporary women photographers.

The research of the two artists is far removed from documentation, for their photography does not record reality, but is instead a means of creating and relating. On the one hand, as in Utsu's case, it circumscribes new worlds, guaranteeing their existence and permanence; on the other, as with Hosokura, it is the prolonging of the senses, a means of dialogue with the world, a transcription and abstraction of emotional and spiritual landscapes.

**Yumiko Utsu** is a visionary photographer, capable of projecting us into crowded scenes with great imaginative power, where attraction and repulsion co-exist. Fishes, food, dolls, fabrics and old prints populate her pictures and find unexpected contents and meanings in them. Familiar, decontextualised and upturned elements interpret unusual roles in *mises en scène* that are as playful as they are desecrating, which accumulate in a centrifugal itinerary within the imagination of an artist with a more than Dadaist freedom.

The resulting sensation is familiarity and, at the same time, disconnection and opening. Released from their original contexts, the everyday elements present in the pictures drag us into new surreal and iconic worlds, both ambiguous and elusive, in an authentic journey through a fantastic universe, inhabited by creatures that have come out of a new Ark, *Out of Ark*.

Yumiko Utsu, *Octopus Portrait*, from the series *Out of Ark*, 2009



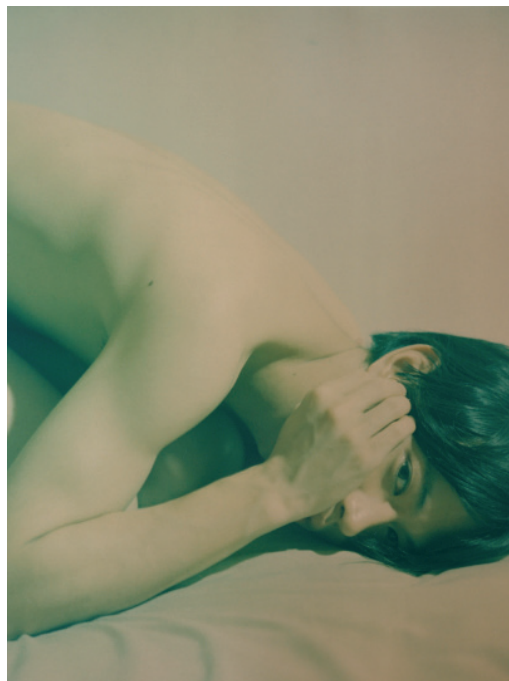


The appearance and themes of **Hosokura's** work are more familiar to contemporary photography, and are particularly close to a certain school of subjective-hedonistic depiction of private life that is very sensual and associated with nature, but reveals strong traces of a material and chromatic sensitivity that has much in common with the immediateness and delicacy also visual of much contemporary Japanese photography.

The theme behind **Kazan**, the project on which the artist spent the past four years working, recently published in the book of the same name, is the continuous tension between opposing elements of life and nature: on the one hand the ephemeral character of physical youth, play and relations, on the other the permanence of nature, minerals and plants.

Hosokura's research is evocative and seductive, incorporating an attentive balance of orchestration and chance, the staged and the spontaneous. The pictures are composed in such a way to demand empathy and touch the imagination of their viewers, taking them, by way of a profound formal and chromatic investigation, from one sensation to another and from reality to imagination.

*\*Mizu no Oto - Sound of Water* was made possible thanks to a coproduction between Fotografia - Festival Internazionale di Roma, G/P gallery, Galerie Priska Pasquer and 3/3.



Mayumi Hosokura, *Untitled*, from the series **KAZAN**, 2009-2011



Yumiko Utsu, *Squid Mask*, from the series *Out of Ark*, 2008

**A SELECTION OF YUMIKO UTSU  
AND MAYUMI HOSOKURA BOOKS  
BY ARTBEAT PUBLISHERS AND THE  
CATALOGUE OF THE EXHIBITION  
*MIZU NO OTO* WILL BE AVAILABLE  
AT THE GALLERY**

## YUMIKO UTSU

Yumiko Utsu was born in Tokyo in 1978. She won the 26th Hitotsubo award in 2006. Utsu has shown her works in many solo and collective exhibitions including the Daegu Photo Biennale, Korea; the Pingyao Photo Festival, China, and at the G/P gallery. Her first international solo show was held at the Lumen Gallery in Budapest and the G/P gallery in Tokyo. *Out of Ark*, her first photo-book, was published in 2009 by artbeat publishers.

## MAYUMI HOSOKURA

Mayumi Hosokura was born in 1979 in Kyoto. She is a graduate of the Faculty of Literature at Ritsumeikan University and also has a photography degree from the Nihon University of Art (2005). She was shortlisted for the Hitotsubo award in 2004 and 2005. She was recently selected for Foam magazine's Talent issue (2011). Her latest publication **KAZAN** was published by artbeat publishers in March 2012.

## 3/3

3/3 was founded in Rome by Chiara Capodici and Fiorenza Pinna. Since 2009, 3/3 has curated a series of exhibitions and publications, such as those focusing on Marco Lachi, Fabio Barile and Penny Klepuszewska, and organised workshops related to publishing with Rinko Kawauchi, Anouk Kruithof, Rob Hornstra, Joachim Schmid. 3/3 curated Joel Sternfeld's first solo exhibition in Italy and developed site-specific projects such as *The Sochi Project* in Rome and *Temporary? Landscapes* in L'Aquila. In 2010 3/3 launched the project *Little Big Press*: an annual exhibition, a travelling library and a bookshop devoted to independent and self-produced photobooks. On occasion of the 10th edition of FotoGrafia Festival Internazionale di Roma, 3/3 curated the collective exhibition *Mizu no Oto - Sound of Water*, together with a focus on Japanese photo-books. 3/3 is photo editor of **LAZLO** magazine.