

Takeshi Shikama

Born: 1948 in Tokyo, Japan.

In 2002, Takeshi Shikama turned to photography after a career in the field of design. He was drawn to forests as the subject for his large format camera. It was the “invisible world”, hidden behind the “visible” that he worked to capture. His first photo collection was published in 2007 as *Mori no Hida - Silent Respiration of Forests*. This project became the launch of his lifetime endeavor.

Roaming the forests, he trained his lens to capture the scenes of fleeting moments of all living things such as plants and flowers about to wither, streams of flowing water, or shadows cast by trees. Using a handy Hasselblad camera, he began a new body of work in five parts. *Utsuroi - Evanescence: Forest, Field, Lotus, Garden and Landscape*.

As Shikama’s thoughts of the forest grew, he ventured out from Japan, expanding his vision to capture new locations and landscapes, working in America and in Europe. He added new series *Yosemite* and the *Pacific Northwest* in *Mori no Hida - Silent Respiration of Forests*.

Also, his gaze projected on manmade nature in metropolis created a new series : *Urban Forests - New York City’s Central Park, Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris, Milan and Barcelona*.

While preserving a continuity with his first opus *Mori no Hida - Silent Respiration of Forests* and echoing *Utsuroi – Evanescence* series , Takeshi Shikama’s new photographs constitute an alternate body of work, *Kansyo - Contemplation* which are the images given from once-in-a-life time encounters. Currently they are in 16 parts, *The Netherlands, Ancient Stones, Isle of Skye, Great Britain, Galicia, France, Dolomiti, Kyoto, Ise, Yukawa vallery, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Germany, Ireland, Nara and Japan*.

In addition, his travels inspired another series, *Bi no Tani - Valley of Beauty* which were photographed in Spain and Italy. And *Il Giardino Segreto (Seacret Garden)* was born from his visit to Berlin in Germany and Bomarzo in Italy.

Garden of Memory - Animals, Plants, Seeds, Stones are the creation which he began in 2008. Conceived like a contemporary Noah’s Ark, he has been photographing the images of stuffed animals in the natural history museums and the taxidermy shop, also greenhouse plant specimens, dried seeds and stones. Then, in 2016 and 2017, he created the prints wishing to hand those portraits over to the future generations. The most recent project has started using an antique finger bowl he discovered at the flea market in Paris in 2019. Through the magic of a 100-year-old spherical glass, he explores a surrealist approach to image making. *Reminiscences* are the scenes which remain imprinted in his mind.

Shikama’s work has been shown internationally throughout Great Britian and Europe, in the United States, and consistently in Japan. His work is in public and private collections around the world.