

PRESS RELEASE

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Tadasu Yamamoto
Falling Water

McCaffrey Fine Art, New York
June 19–July 31, 2008

McCaffrey Fine Art is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of photographs by Tadasu Yamamoto in the United States. “Falling Water” will be on view at the gallery Monday to Friday from 10.00 A.M. to 6.00 P.M., June 19th to July 31st, 2008.

The metaphorically rich subject of water has been Yamamoto’s principle photographic subject throughout his career. Still water, ice, water in motion, steam, and falling water—all different natural manifestations of this universal requisite for the support of life—form an equally widespread source for personal reflection and contemplation.

Tadasu Yamamoto, like his peers Hiroshi Sugimoto and Toshio Shibata, emerged from art school in the mid 1970’s with a more detached photographic style than the personal, urgent, gritty, camera-on-the-run images of Daido Moriyama, Shomei Tomatsu, et al.

The earlier generations’ very direct and engaged involvement with the people, events, and alleyways of Japanese cities is acutely apparent in photographs that show a resolve to record every moment of passing time. Yamamoto et al. prefer to work within self-defined conceptual and stylistic confines and make use of cumbersome large format cameras, which allow their creative concerns to register on the negative in a more contemplative, unmediated way.

Beginning in 1989, Yamamoto began what is now a series of 32 large scale black and white photographs of waterfalls that capture the spiritual and physical power of falling water in images that are simultaneously dynamic and still. Each work has a consistent format of two different exposures separated by a black boarder through the center. Yamamoto’s formal structure results in the recurrence of parts of the waterfall’s rock structure in the second exposure that functions much like a memory of the past in the present, while the water continues to fall and move down stream.

Representing continuity and change within the relentless passage of time, Yamamoto’s Falling Water photographs make us quietly aware of our own transience. Born in 1950 in Kagawa Prefecture, Japan, Yamamoto received a B.F.A. in 1974 from Musahino Art University. He has been exhibiting his work consistently in Japan since 1979, and his work is held in major Japanese museums and private collections.

For further details and images please contact
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