

RINKO KAWAUCHI

Born 1972, Shiga, Japan. Lives and works in Tokyo.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

M/E, Umi no Scole, Nagahama, Shiga (Japan)

M/E, Langhe Photo Festival, Langhe (Italy)

M/E, Meessen Brussels (Belgium)

a faraway shining star, twinkling in hand, Fotografiska Shanghai, Shanghai (China)

At the edge of the everyday world, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol (UK)

2024

Tomorrow is another day, MA2 Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

a faraway shining star, twinkling in hand, Fotografiska Stockholm, Stockholm (Sweden) / Fotografiska Tallinn, Tallinn (Estonia)

2023

Illuminance Aila Utatane, PRISKA PASQUER PARIS, Paris (France)

M/E, Fondazione Sozzani, Paris (France)

HERE AND NOW, Daidai Bookshop, Kumamoto / Gallery Trax, Yamanashi, POST, Tokyo, THE BOOK END, Kobe (Japan)

Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition 2023, Somerset House, London (UK)

Rinko Kawauchi: M/E - On this sphere Endlessly interlinking, Shiga Museum of Art, Shiga (Japan)

2022

Rinko Kawauchi – A Retrospective, Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich (Switzerland)

Rinko Kawauchi: M/E - On this sphere Endlessly interlinking, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

2021

as it is, gallery trax, Yamanashi (Japan)

A DROP, TEATON / PHAETON, Kanazawa (Japan)

M/E, Nihombashi Mitsukoshi Contemporary Gallery (Japan)

2020

as it is, RAURAUJI gallery, Osaka (Japan)

as it is, POST, Tokyo (Japan)

2019

Days about Atelier Yamanami, HOTEL ANTEROOM KYOTO (GALLERY 9.5), Kyoto / Gallery TUTUMU, Shiga (Japan)

When I was seven., agnès b. galerie boutique, Tokyo (Japan)

2018

Someday for Sure, Gallery TUTUMU, Shiga (Japan)

A New Day, POST, Tokyo / Orange, Kumamoto (Japan)

Halo, foto-forum (Italy)

2017

Halo, Morioka Shoten, Tokyo (Japan)

Halo, POST, Tokyo (Japan)

Halo, Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich (Switzerland)

lebenswelt / life-world, Alexander Tutsek-Siftung, München (Germany)

2016

The river embraced me, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels (Belgium)

The rain of blessing, gallery 916, Tokyo (Japan)

The river embraced me, Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto (Japan)

Someday for sure, Orange, Kumamoto / gallery trax, Yamanashi (Japan)

Till The Day, Noma t.d. store, Tokyo (Japan)

2015

Let's sing a song our bodies know, Gucci Shinjuku (Japan)

Illuminance, Kunsthaus Wien, Vienna (Austria)

2014

Illuminance and Ametsuchi, Fotomuseum, Antwerp (Belgium)

Light and Shadow, Colissimo, Hyogo (Japan)

Ametsuchi, Main Gallery Lesley University College of Art and Design, Cambridge (USA)

New Pictures 9: Rinko Kawauchi, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis (USA)

2013

Ametsuchi, Galerie Priska Parquer, Cologne (Germany)

Light and Shadow, KAGIYA Building 4F Gallery, Hamamatsu (Japan)

Ametsuchi, Aperture Gallery, New York (USA)

Light and Shadow, msc Gallery, Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts, Kyoto (Japan)

Ametsuchi, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica (USA)

Illuminance, curated by Elio Grazioli, Palazzo Casotti, Reggio Emilia (Italy)

Illuminance, Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich (Switzerland)

2012

Light and Shadow, Silencio, Paris (France)

Illuminance, Ametsuchi, Seeing Shadow, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo (Japan)

Light and Shadow, TRAUMARIS, Tokyo (Japan)

2011

A Glimmer in Silence, FO.KU.S Kunst Stadtforum, Innsbruck (Austria)

Illuminance, FOIL GALLERY, Tokyo (Japan)

Illuminance, Gallery at Hermès, New York (USA)

murmuration, Rose Gallery, Los Angeles (USA)

2010

the eyes, the ears, Kunstverein Augsburg, Augsburg (Germany)

A Glimmer in Silence, Galeria Priska Pasquer, Cologne (Germany)

AILA, Seian University of Art and Design, Shiga (Japan)

Iridescence, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels (Belgium)

Rinko Kawauchi: Transient Wonders, Everyday Bliss – Photography, Video and Slides, ARGOS Centre for Art and Media, Brussels (Belgium)

2009

Condensation, Mountain Fold Gallery, New York (USA)

a pause, GALLERY TRAX, Yamanashi (Japan)

2008

Rinko Kawauchi, presente par Antoine de Vilmorin, Paris (France)

Cui Cui, The Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka (Japan)

Semear, FOIL GALLERY, Tokyo (Japan)

UTATANE, Galeria Pepe Cobo, Madrid (Spain)

2007

Cohan and Leslie, New York (USA)

Semear, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo (Brazil)

AILA + the eyes, the ears, Fotografins Hus, Stockholm (Sweden)

AILA + the eyes, the ears, Hasselblad Centre, Göteborg (Sweden)

2006

AILA + the eyes, the ears, FOTOGRAFISK CENTER, Copenhagen (Denmark)

Galerie Priska Pasquer, Cologne (Germany)

AILA + the eyes, the ears, Galeria Carla Sozzani, Milan (Italy)

Rinko Kawauchi, The Photographers' Gallery, London (UK)

2005

AILA + Cui Cui + the eyes, the ears, Fondation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain, Paris (France)

AILA, Kanazawa Forest of Creation, Fukui (Japan)

AILA, Cohan and Leslie, New York (USA)

Cui Cui, QUATRE, Firenze (Italy)

2004

AILA, California Museum of Photography, UC Riverside (USA)

UTATANE, Cohan and Leslie, New York (USA)

AILA, Little More Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

2003

HANABI, white cube, Kyoto (Japan)

HANABI, Little More Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

Blue, Rocket Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

Rinko Kawauchi, 4F Gallery, Los Angeles (USA)

Wacall photo exhibition, Spiral Garden, Tokyo (Japan)

UTATANE, Vonrot gallery, Berlin (Germany)

2002

HANABI, Little More Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

UTATANE, Colette, Paris

2001

UTATANE, Parco Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

HANABI, Gray, Tokyo (Japan)

HANAKO, Little More Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

HIBI, Aki-Ex Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

2000

HITOIKI, Light Works, Kanagawa (Japan)

1998

UTATANE, Guardian Garden, Tokyo (Japan)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026

From Our Windows, Rencontres d'Arles, Arles (France)

A Place Just to Be Yourself, Nonaka Hill, Shiga (Japan)

Slippery Slope-Vol.04, Andermatt (Switzerland)

2025

Sacrées Lumières, Chappelle de la Madeleine, Arles (France)

2024

Les Rencontres d'Arles *I'M SO HAPPY YOU ARE HERE*, Palais de L'Archevêché, Arles (France)

Half-Century of Cartier in Japan and Beyond: an Everlasting Dialogue of Beauty and Art, Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo (Japan)

A dialogue between Rinko Kawauchi and Tokuko Ushioda, KYOCERA Museum of Art, Kyoto (Japan)

2023

Two-person exhibition, Gallery Trax, Yatsugatake, (Japan)

Walking Through the Darkness, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne (Australia)

MEMORY STORAGE FOR THE FUTURE, Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto (Japan)

It knows: When Forms Become Mind, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Japan)

2022

Wabi Sabi, Japanmuseum SieboldHuis (Netherlands)

I have not loved (enough or worked), The Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA) (Australia)

Des Oiseaux, Galerie Le Château d'Eau, Toulouse (France)

Rinko Kawauchi and Yamanami Kobo, evam eva Yamanashi, Yamanashi (Japan)

Art & New Ecology, THE UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM, Tokyo (Japan)

Nobuyoshi Araki y Rinko Kawauchi, Fundación Texo, Asuncion (Paraguay)

How the Bitter Orange Bore Fruit, Rainy Day Bookstore & Café, Tokyo / Bookshop Title, Tokyo /

Daidai Bookshop, Kumamoto

Flower of Life" Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka (Japan)

HOMO FABER 2020 'The Ateliers of Wonders, Basilica di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice (Italy)

Yamanami, umi no schole, Shiga (Japan)

Rinko Kawauchi and Yamanami Kobo, Higashi Osaka City Art Center, Osaka (Japan)

2021

Thailand Biennale Korat 2021, Korat (Thailand)

Prix Pictet 2021: Fire, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo (Touring more than 12 other spaces) (Japan)

WAYS OF TELLING, Tokyo Shibuya Koen-dori Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

CHIBA FOTO, Chiba Chuo Community Center, Matsunami, Chiba (Japan)

Les Citoyens: Uno sguardo di Guillermo Kuitca sulla collezione della Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Milano (Italy)

Past and Present, Positions of Japanese Photography, Mönchehaus Museum Goslar, Goslar (Germany)

2020

Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival 2020 'Insights into a Time: Japanese Photography Now, Jimei (China)

Our Duty is to Experiment - 20 years Galerie PRISKA PASQUER, Galerie Priska Pasquer, Cologne (Germany)

The Sense of Wonder into another garden, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum (Japan)

Timeless Conversations 2020: Voices from Japanese Art of the Past and Present, The National Art Center, Tokyo (Japan)

2019

CAMK Collection Exhibition, Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto (Japan)

Miffy's Field of Flowers: The World of Dick Bruna Picture Books, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka (Japan)

TOP Collection, Reading Images: The Time of Photography, TOP MUSEUM, Tokyo (Japan)

Lianzhou Foto Festival 15th Edition (China)

2018

Forever (and again), IZU PHOTO MUSEUM, Shizuoka (Japan)

A Matter of Light, PALAZZO REALE, Milan (Italy)

Asama International Photo Festival, Nagano (Japan)

A Beautiful Moment, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

25th Anniversary in Gallery Trax vol.1, gallery trax, Yamanashi (Japan)

Incognito: The Eye in Search, The 6th SIFP 2018 Festival, Singapore (Singapore)

TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2018, National Portrait Gallery, London (United Kingdom)

The Unending Gift, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels (Belgium)

2017

Prix Pictet, V&A Museum, London (United Kingdom)

Seize the Uncertain Day, Chinretsukan Gallery, The University Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo (Japan)

Somewhere I Have Never Travelled, URANO, Tokyo (Japan)

2016

Somewhere I Have Never Travelled, URANO, Tokyo (Japan)

Japanese Photography from Postwar to Now, SF MOMA, San Francisco (USA)
Seize the Uncertain Day, Chinretsukan Gallery, The University Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo (Japan)

2015

In the Wake, Japanese Photographers Respond to 3/11, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (USA)

2014

Homo Ludens, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels (Belgium)

Inaugural exhibition, Sherrick & Paul Biwako, Shiga (Japan)

Paraty en Foco en festa, Paraty (Brazil)

Rinko Kawauchi×*NOMA t.d.*, gallery trax, Yamanashi - TRAUMARIS, Tokyo - rizm, Hyogo (Japan)

Landskrona Fotofestival 2014, Landskrona (Sweden)

Photography will be, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya (Japan)

VIVID MEMORIES, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (France)

2013

Exhibition of the 29th Higashikawa Award Winners, Higashikawa Bunka Gallery, Hokkaido (Japan)

The Aesthetics of Photography - Five Elements Collection Exhibition 2013, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo (Japan)

Fotografia Europea, Reggio Emilia (Italy)

2012

Daegu Photo Biennale 2012, Daegu (Korea)

Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2012, The Photographers' Gallery, London and Co Berlin, Berlin (Germany)

To Wander a Garden, The Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka (Japan)

Visible / Invisible, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi (Japan)

2011

FotoGrafia - Festival Internazionale di Roma, Roma (Italy)

Fotofestival Mannheim Ludwigshafen Heidelberg, Mannheim (Germany)

Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal, Montréal (Canada)

Colloquy and Soliloquy, Mountain Fold Gallery, New York (USA)

Bye Bye Kitty!!! Between Heaven and Hell in Contemporary Japanese Art curated by David Elliott, Japan Society, New York (USA)

2010

The 6th Lianzhou Photography Festival, Lianzhou (China)

Brighton Photo Biennial 2010 New Documents curated by Martin Parr, Brighton (UK)

Summer Loves, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Kassel Fotobook Festival 2010, Documenta Halle, Kassel (Germany)

2009

Touch the World Borderless, Art Museum NO-MA, Shiga (Japan)

Photography Now China, Japan, Korea San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco (USA)

Parrworld (touring), Jeu de Paume, Paris (France) touring to BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (UK)

FotoGrafia Festival International in Roma Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome (Italy)

Verdure! New Acquisitions and Related Works of the Collection, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi (Japan)

2008

Blooming: Brazil-Japan Where You Are, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi (Japan)

Urban Future #2, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Parrworld, Haus der Kunst, Munich (Germany)

2007

Curator's Choice '07: Museum Dialogues, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo (Japan)

2006

A to Z by Yoshitomo Nara + graf, Yoshii Brick House, Aomori (Japan)

PHotoEspaña 2006, Madrid (Spain)

Collection of the Fondation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain, Museum Contemporary Art, Tokyo (Japan)

Whisper not!, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

2004

Lonely Planet, Art Tower Mito Contemporary Art Center, Ibaraki (Japan)

AILA & UTATANE, Rencontres d'Arles Photographie (France)

2003

Love Planet, The 41st Okayama City Arts Festival Program, Okayama (Japan)

HOPE, Laforet Museum, Tokyo (Japan)

FOIL, Litte More Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

2002

Kimura Iehei Award Winners Exhibition Minolta, Photo Space Shinjuku, Tokyo (Japan)

2000

Hinata Kanata, Landmark Tower Gallery, Kanagawa (Japan)

AWARDS

2023

Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award 2023

2013

The 29th Higashikawa Award, Domestic Photographer Award

Art Encourage Prize for New Artist from the Ministry of Education

2009

ICP 25th Annual Infinity Award, Art Category

2002

Winner of the 27th Kimura Ihei Award

The Photographic Society of Japan, the Rookie of the Year Award

1997

Grand Prix Prize, The Guardian Garden's 9th Hitotsubo Award

COLLECTIONS

The Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka

Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo

Fondation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain, Paris

Huis Marseille, Amsterdam

Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco

Montréal Museum, Montréal

Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

MONOGRAPHS

2024

Here and Now (torch press)

2022

Rinko Kawauchi: M/E On this sphere Endlessly interlinking (torch press)

2021

Illuminance: The Tenth Anniversary Edition, 2021 (Aperture, NY)

Des oiseaux (On birds) (Editions Xavier Barral, Paris)

2020

Sonnaufuu (Nanarokusha)

as it is (Chose Commune)

2019

When I was seven. (HeHe)

2018

A New Day (Kyuryudo)

2017

Halo (Aperture, NY / HeHe, Tokyo / Editions Xavier Barral, Paris)

2016

The river embraced me (torch press)

2014

Gift with Terri Weifenbach (IMA Photo Books)

2013

SHEETS (Kominek)

Ametsuchi (Aperture, NY / Seigensha, Kyoto)

2012

Light and Shadow (Rinko Kawauchi Office)

Illuminance, Amtsuchi, Seeing Shadow (Seigensha, Kyoto)

2011

Illuminance (Aperture, NY / FOIL, Tokyo)

2010

Murmuration (Photoworks, UK)

2007

Semear (FOIL, Tokyo)

Majun (FOIL, Tokyo)

2006

Rinko Diary (FOIL, Tokyo)

Rinko Diary (FOIL, Tokyo)

2005

Cui Cui (FOIL + Foundation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain + Actes Sud)

the eyes, the ears, (FOIL, Tokyo)

2004

AILA (FOIL, Tokyo)

2003

blue (Petit Grand Publishing, Tokyo)

2001

UTATANE (Little More, Tokyo)

HANABI (Little More, Tokyo)

HANAKO (Little More, Tokyo)

EDUCATION

1993

Graduated Seian University of Art and Design (ex Seian Women's College)