

New Pictures 9: Rinko Kawauchi, 'Illuminance'

FEBRUARY 20–AUGUST 10, 2014

Perlman Gallery (368) | Free exhibition



Rinko Kawauchi, Japanese, born 1972
Untitled, 2009
Chromogenic print

MINNEAPOLIS, FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Rinko Kawauchi, one of Japan's most important and celebrated contemporary photographers, opens her first museum exhibition in the United States at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA). It features a unique installation of 42 photographs selected from her series, *Illuminance*. Kawauchi's photographs capture ordinary, fleeting moments of light and daily life and transform them into something extraordinary. On view February 20 through August 10, the exhibition is the latest installation of the museum's contemporary photography series, "New Pictures."

The *Illuminance* series mingles light and dark, beauty and sadness, and life and death in momentary scenes—from a solar eclipse, to refracting light, to a deer struck by a car. Widely recognized for nuanced, lushly colored images, Kawauchi views the world with a curiosity that is thought provoking, at times playful, critically detached, but always empathetic. Her distinctive style of presenting everyday scenes shot in a way that illuminates the wonderment of life has distinguished her work since her critically acclaimed debut in 2001.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Shiga, Japan, in 1972, Rinko Kawauchi lives and works in Tokyo. She discovered photography while studying at Seian Junior College of Art and Design. In 2001 she simultaneously released a series of three photographic books—*Utatani*, *Hanabi*, *Hanako*—which created an overnight sensation in the photography world in Japan. To date, she has published 15 photo books, including two 2012 publications: *Light and Shadow* and *Illuminance*, *Ametsuchi*, *Seeing Shadow*. Her works have been shown in individual exhibitions all over the world, including at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Sao Paulo Museum of Modern Art, and the Foundation Cartier pour l'art in Paris.

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ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Home to over 80,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country—Rembrandt to van Gogh, Monet to Matisse, Asian to African—the MIA links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration. The 2013 fiscal year marked the highest attendance—679,357 visitors—in the nearly 100-year history of the MIA.

General admission to the MIA is always free. Some special exhibitions, including “Matisse: Masterworks from The Baltimore Museum of Art,” have a nominal admission fee.

Museum hours: Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Monday closed. For more information, call (612) 870-3000 or visit artsmia.org.