



**Aperto 18**  
**GU Kenryou**  
**Intervals of**  
**the afterimage**

2023.4.8 (Sat) -  
9.18 (Sun)

**Up-and-coming photographer GU Kenryou unveils new large-scale series  
Afterimages of forests produced with his original technique of  
“digital weaving” deliver novel viewing experiences**

Exhibition Title	Aperto 18 GU Kenryou Intervals of the afterimage
Period	Saturday, April 8, 2023 – Monday, September 18, 2023
Closed	Mondays (except July 17, September 18), May 14, July 18
Hours	10:00-18:00(until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Long-term Project Room
Admission	Free
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa [Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation]
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**About  
the Exhibition**

GU Kenryou employs an original technique known as “digital weaving,” in which multiple photographs are woven together at a pixel level to create photographic works with a textural quality resembling fabric, expressing the latent context underlying the images. This exhibition will feature a new series of large-scale photographs taken with a high-resolution camera in forests around the world, including the primeval forests of Fujian Province in China. As a result of their size, the images as a whole are not compressed or reduced to the framework of “flatness,” but rather trigger active movement of the viewer’s eye, evoking the sense of awe experienced and the ghostly murmurs heard in the shadows of a forest. Meanwhile, the artist’s distinctive method of weaving multiple images together manually in repeating rows and columns of pixels, one by one, generates fluctuations on an unconscious level that transcend the artist’s intentions, confining the natural spatial and temporal scale of the earth within the works in a complex fashion. Gu’s art stimulates our common planetary memory, and by imprinting the multi-temporal, multi-lingual, and multi-locational nature of the forest on our minds like an afterimage, brings about changes in the sensibilities of the contemporary viewer paralyzed by an accelerating deluge of visual information.

**Exhibition  
features****Photographer GU Kenryou unveils new large-scale series with theme of forest**

GU Kenryou (b. 1994 in Kyoto, raised in Shanghai) studied contemporary art and photography at Kyoto University of the Arts and Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie d’Arles in France, and is now an up-and-coming photographer based in Kyoto, working prolifically while adopting global perspectives and themes. Gu explores original modes of expression by transforming and reconstructing data on various landscapes and images, accumulated through his travels around the world, into works of art by expanding photographic equipment’s range of applications. In this exhibition, Gu will present a new series of large works featuring forests that he has documented in various locations around the world.

**Focus on the context of the works, in which multi-temporal spaces are interwoven with the original method of “digital weaving”**

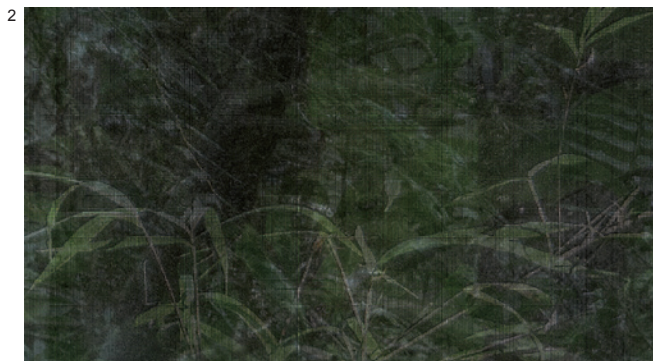
GU Kenryou works with a unique technique known as “digital weaving,” in which multiple images are woven together in repeating rows and columns of pixels, one by one. The weaving process is carried out entirely by hand, even for large works several meters in width. This enormously time-consuming process of meticulously weaving spaces together gives the works a certain illusionistic quality, like a tapestry or painting, and illuminates the unknown context lurking behind the photographed images.

**Huge, high-density images of forests deliver novel visual experiences in today’s image-saturated environment**

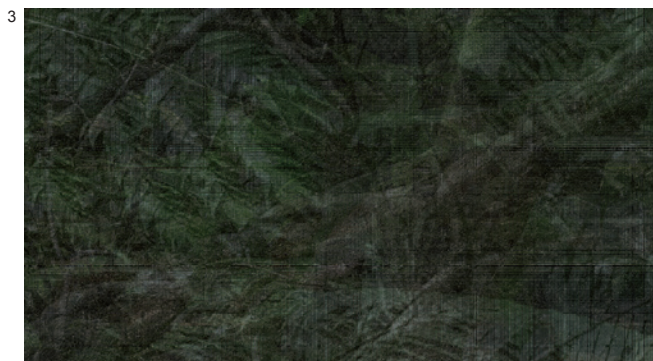
This exhibition presents a new series of large-scale images, shot with a high-resolution camera, of forests around the world, including a primeval forest in Fujian Province in China. In the gallery, enormous images of forests, some as much as five meters high and nine meters wide, present a layered appearance, overwhelming the viewer with a volume of data that cannot be processed by the human brain. The scale of the works and the afterimages of the vast forests, which evoke awe of nature, beckon the viewer into unprecedented visual experiences.



GU Kenryou, *Mori, Shades\_dw\_001*, 2023  
© Kenryou Gu  
courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates



GU Kenryou,  
*Mori, Shades\_dw\_001* (detail), 2023  
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GU Kenryou,  
*Mori, Shades\_dw\_001* (detail), 2023  
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courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

## Artist's Profile

**GU Kenryou**

GU Kenryou was born in Kyoto and raised in Shanghai, and now lives and works in Kyoto. He earned his BFA in Photography at Kyoto University of the Arts (formerly Kyoto University of Art and Design), studying abroad at the École nationale supérieure de la photographie in Arles, France. Gu's work captures at once the sensations of the body moving through space as well as the accumulation of sights and scenes, then uses photography as a device through which to transform and reconfigure this information in wide-ranging ways. Solo exhibitions include *A Part of There is Here* (Yukiko Mizutani Gallery, Tokyo), *15972 Sampling* (SFERA, Kyoto, Kyotographie 2019), *Utopia* (Gallery Water, Tokyo, Tokyographie 2018), *霧羅 / Wu-Mai* (Wacoal Study Hall Kyoto Gallery, Kyoto), *Utopia* (Former Junpu Elementary School, Kyoto). Awards include Grand Prix, KG+ Award (2018) and Grand Prix, sanwacompany Art Award / Art in the House (2019).



Photo: Yosuke Kamiyama

## Related programs

**Artist's Talk**

Date: April 8 (Sat), 2023 14:00-16:00

Venue: Lecture Hall, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Speakers: GU Kenryou, YAMAMOTO Hiroki (Lecturer, Kanazawa College of Art)

Moderator: KUROSAWA Seiha (Assistant Curator, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)

Capacity: 90 people

Admission: Free

## About the "Aperto" Series

The exhibition series "Aperto" introduces up-and-coming young artists in a solo exhibition format. As an art museum actively engaged with the contemporary world, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa looks closely at new trends now in the process of forming. Artists and curators collaborate in creating occasions for exhibiting works and act as an intermediary between today's creation and that of the future. This exhibition series looks at individual artists who possess sufficient creative motivation to command a solo exhibition and who are expected to make a significant impact in the future. Artists are selected without regard for their nationality or expressive media by the curator at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. Note: "Aperto" is Italian for "open."

## Images for Publicity

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