

## Press Release

2024.2.14

### Takuma Ishikawa

#### *Tragedies and Colors*

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March 2 - March 24, 2024

Talion Gallery is pleased to present the solo exhibition by Takuma Ishikawa, "Tragedies and Colors."

Takuma Ishikawa has been creating and producing works by capturing the critical nature of the media itself, which lies between fact and fiction, documentation and expression in photography and video. The artist, who has been showing photographs that evoke the origins of films and classical paintings, and in recent years, especially video works in which a series of photographs are connected as a single frame of a video, has returned to photography since 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. Ishikawa, who says that the transformation of his behavior and consciousness during the COVID-19 pandemic has made him reevaluate the relationship between his life and his work, is reconsidering how the medium of "photography", with its characteristics like a memorandum that fragments time and thought, affects him and how it can be effective in art.

This exhibition is titled "Tragedies and Colors" and deals with images using subjects from the personal living area. It consists mainly of a new series of works that connect to social narratives through the construction of their visual effects and allegories. During the exhibition, two artists who are familiar with Ishikawa's practice, Motohiro Tomii and Aya Momose, will be invited to give a talk titled "The Right of Passivity".



Takuma Ishikawa | Tragedy and color I | 2023 | Inkjet print | 50.8x33.8cm (set of 2, each)

## Artist's Statement

*The image is inherently unreal. It is in this point that the power of the image lies. In other words, in its resistance to giving substance to its content. The incarnation is the giving of flesh, not the giving of a body. In the incarnation, the substance is absent. — Marie-José Mondzain*

1

Each tragedy has its own unique color. They are not always dark monochromes. Harshness may lend saturation to a tragedy, and cold tragedy may exist in sweet candy colors. It may be rarer to feel monochrome. Just as tragedies exist even in the most beautiful landscape, and just as tragedies contain human existence, each has its own individual colors.

2

The world was turned upside down and paralyzed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people died every day, their activities and outings were restricted. It was dark and closed. During that period, there was a moment when I thought I could not bear to be any more serious. So, color was necessary. To give color to tragedies is to perceive the seriousness of the world and at the same time to escape from it.

Then I decided to go back to making photographs. Photography as an art form is already in a place of being left behind, as if abandoned. This was a condition that allowed me to create as if I were breathing.

3

The world is full of tragedies, from gossip to serious news. New wars, disasters, incidents caused by discrimination, and so on are daily appearing on the timelines of social networking sites. My photographs do not convey the news of the world, nor do they inspire any kind of action.

As a creator, I am not a party to anything, nor do I go anywhere. It's not about being a victim; it's about being privileged. However, the news from around the world and the attention economy that is inseparable from it have an obvious impact on the production. So I decided to observe my own passivity, which I feel through the medium of photographic production, in my daily life when various news pops into my mind.

4

Tragedies and colors were the subject matter of Abstract Expressionist painters such as Barnett Newman and Mark Rothko. I imagine Rothko and color in particular. My work, however, is far from their sublime or heroic gestures. My passivity is hyperactive, light and small.

Takuma Ishikawa

## Takuma Ishikawa

1979 Born in Chiba, Japan  
2004 M.A. Musashino Art University, Tokyo

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 "I in the Novel" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)  
2017 ALLNIGHT HAPS 2017 "I Operation of Contact" directed by Kohei Takahashi, HAPS (Kyoto)  
2016 "Lessons and Conveyance" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)  
"Including Vacuum" Aomori Contemporary Art Centre (Aomori)  
2014 "Ethan Hunt's Flashback" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)  
2012 "The World and Solitude" Gallery X (Tokyo)

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022 "Suppose it as your home (reaching)" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)  
2020 "Room and Garden - The Form of Distance" Musashino Art University Museum (Tokyo)  
2018 "The thing of grabbing clouds" switch point (Tokyo)  
2017 "To Die in Vain (or Not)" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)  
"The Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions 2017"  
"Multiple Future" Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (Tokyo)  
2016 "responsive/responsible" teco gallery (Aomori)  
2015 "Camera Knows Everything" Yumiko Chiba Associates (Tokyo)  
2014 "Fuku Fuku Line" Gendai Heights (Tokyo)  
2013 "From the Ground" GALLERY SIDE2 (Tokyo)  
"Imago Mundi" Fondazione Querini Stampalia (Venezia, Italy)  
2012 "Similarity and Unsimilarity" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)

### SELECTED CURATIONS & PROJECTS

2023-2024 "Redevelopment of Development" gallery aM (Tokyo)  
2021 Curated by three figures "Future of Art" Shibuya Hikarie 8/CUBE 1,2,3 (Tokyo)  
2015 "The Camera Knows Everything" Yumiko Chiba Associates, TALION GALLERY, HAGIWARA PROJECTS (Tokyo)  
2013 "I've Been Dreaming for a Long Time." TALIO GALLERY (Tokyo)  
Prologue of the Exhibition Curated by Takuma Ishikawa "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant" TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)

### SELECTED COMMENTARIES & WRITINGS

2023- "Critical Seeing : For Insight into New Society" Tokyo Art Beat  
2023 "Interview for Activity Support Student Vol.49 Miyuki Oka "War and One day — What can be seen by changing observation conditions" I Kuma Foundation Web article (Interviewer)  
"Photographs of David Hockney Photocollage / Cubism / Conservation and Restoration of Memories" Bijutstecho, October 2023  
"Transcending Realism and Gaze of Drawing : Dialogue about Egon Schiele's Sketches" Eureka, February 2023  
2022 "Fourteen "novels" against the larger narrative. "Seven/Seven: The Fraught Landscape"" Tokyo Art Beat



"Suppose it as your home (reaching)"  
Installation view at TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)  
2022 | Photo : Keizo Kioku



Buried things are removed out! 2022  
Inkjet print | 25.4x20.3cm



"Lessons and Conveyance" Installation view at  
TALION GALLERY (Tokyo)  
2016 | Photo: Shizune Shiigi



Crossing the border | 2015 | video

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[ Exhibition Informations ]

Title "Tragedies and colors"  
Artist Takuma Ishikawa  
Date March 2 - March 24, 2024 11 am - 7 pm  
Closed on Monday, Tuesday and Holidays  
Venue TALION GALLERY (2-2-1 B1, Mejiro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo)  
Directed by Tsuyoshi Ueda (TALION GALLERY)

[Gallery Talk "The Right of Passivity"]

Date March 2, 2024 17:00-19:00  
Guests Masahiro Tomii, Aya Momose, Takuma Ishikawa  
Venue TALION GALLERY 2-2-1 B1, Mejiro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo  
Capacity 30  
Admission Free (Reservation only)  
Reservation Please email us to [info@taliongallery.com](mailto:info@taliongallery.com) with your name, number of participants, email address, and phone number.

[ Inquiries ]

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