



Taka Ishii

Gallery

6-5-24 3F Roppongi Minato-ku Tokyo #106-0032, Japan  
tel +81 (0)3 6434 7010  
fax +81 (0)3 6434 7011  
web www.takaishiigallery.com  
email tig@takaishiigallery.com

**Ikko Narahara “Rose Sélavy”**

**Dates: Nov 1—Dec 21, 2019**

**Location: Taka Ishii Gallery Tokyo viewing room**

Taka Ishii Gallery is pleased to announce “Rose Sélavy,” an exhibition of works by Ikko Narahara, from Nov 1 to Dec 21, 2019. In the 1970s, Ikko Narahara was commissioned by Shuzo Takiguchi to photograph Marcel Duchamp’s “The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass)” in the Philadelphia Museum of Art’s Collection. The resulting series of photographs, which captured the transparent glass work amidst the shifting natural light that fills the exhibition room, was published in 1991 as *Duchamp’s Large Glass and Shuzo Takiguchi’s Cigar Box*. This exhibition features the photographic portfolio *Rose Sélavy* (1991), which was constituted by seven of the most representative images from *Duchamp’s Large Glass and Shuzo Takiguchi’s Cigar Box*.

*Ikko Narahara was determined to never shoot any photographs in museums or restaurants. Commanded, however, by Shuzo Takiguchi’s unrealized dream to write a book with images of Marcel Duchamp’s “Large Glass,” Narahara entered the legendary premises of the Philadelphia Museum of Art one fall day in 1973. Luckily, the fountain, which could be seen through the window that had replaced a wall, but often stopped, begun to spout.*

*Looking back on what had brought him to this day, the photographer said that he had been a drop of water landed on a mountain top. Having traveled on a dark underground road, it arrived at the root of a tree, which sucked it up and brought it into one of its leaves. He thought of the “Large Glass” as a leaf and his photographs of it as a drop of water.*

*That whole day, the drop of water devoted itself to watching the changes in light over time as it passed through the cracked glass. After many years underground, that drop of water has now been revived as crystal prints, waiting to splash in a brilliant, mesmerizing coincidence.*

Takashi Hiraide, ‘Dispersal of a Drop,’ text written for Ikko Narahara’s portfolio *Rose Sélavy*

The *Rose Sélavy* (1991) portfolio features seven photographs from Narahara’s “Large Glass” series, which had not been published as his work at the time. Narahara’s close friend Mitsuo Katsui designed the portfolio and the images, which were selected by another close friend the artist Kazuo Okazaki, were printed on crystal photo paper to emphasize transparency and vividness. The *Rose Sélavy* portfolio not only provides occasion to reexamine Narahara’s photographic work but also evokes the various relations that shaped the work, between the artist, Katsui, and Okazaki, as well as that between Duchamp and Takiguchi.

**【Portfolio details】**

Ikko Narahara, *Rose Sélavy*

Published by NARAHARA IKKO ARCHIVES + Tokyo Publishing House, 2018

Design and production cooperation: Mitsuo Katsui, Kazuo Okazaki, Top Art Kamakura Co., Ltd.

7 lambda crystal prints

Image size: 52.2 x 37 cm / paper size: 61 x 50.8 cm

Box size: 61.2 x 52.7 x 5.5 cm

Edition of 7

Ikko Narahara was born in 1931 in Fukuoka Prefecture. He enrolled in a Master's program (Art history) at Waseda University and in 1955 joined Jitsuzaisha [Real Existence], an avant-garde artist group together with Masuo Ikeda and Ay-O. At this time, Narahara socialized with artists such as Tatsuo Ikeda and On Kawara as well as Shuzo Takiguchi. During the same period, he met Shomei Tomatsu, Eikoh Hosoe, and together they set up an independent agency named VIVO (dissolved in 1961). Narahara had actively travelled the world, shifting his base of research and practice from Paris (1962-65) to New York (1970-74), holding numerous exhibitions throughout the course of his career. He has published a diverse number of photography books, and thus continues received high international acclaim. Narahara's major solo exhibitions include, "Human Land," Matsuya Gallery (Tokyo, 1956), "Ikko Narahara," Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris, 2002-2003), "Mirror of Space and Time: Synchronicity," Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography (2004). Major awards include the Japan Photo Critics Association Newcomer's Award (1958), The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture's Art Encouragement Prize (1968), the Mainichi Arts Award (1968), the Photographic Society of Japan Annual Award (1986) and The Medal with Purple Ribbon (1996).

For further information please contact:

Exhibition & Press: Marie Okamura

6-5-24 3F Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032

tel: 81-3-5575-5004 fax: 81-3-5575-5016 e-mail: [tigpf@takaishiigallery.com](mailto:tigpf@takaishiigallery.com) website: [www.takaishiigallery.com](http://www.takaishiigallery.com)

Gallery hours: 11:00-19:00 Closed on Sun, Mon and National holidays



Ikko Narahara

"Rose Sélavy", 2018

Published by NARAHARA IKKO ARCHIVES + Tokyo

Publishing House

Edition of 7, all copies are numbered

7 lambda crystal prints, mounted on aluminum

Image size: 52.2 x 37 cm

Print size: 61 x 50.8 cm

Box size: 61.2 x 52.7 x 5.5 cm



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