



TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY

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TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY ANNOUNCES
MIZU (WATER)
AN EXHIBITION OF NEW WORK BY JAPANESE ARTIST TOMOHIRO MUDA

Exhibition Dates: 7 May – 13 June 2021

Taylor Piggott Gallery is pleased to present *Mizu (Water)*, a selection of photographs by Tokyo-based artist Tomohiro Muda, on view in Jackson Hole from MAY 7th through June 13, 2021. Well known for images inspired by sites of religious devotion and pilgrimage, artist Tomohiro Muda (b. 1956) turns his lens on the natural world with a selection of photographs of earth's most precious resource: *Water (Mizu)* in Muda's native Japanese).

Muda's atmospheric depictions of the seemingly omnipresent yet also fragile liquid reflect an individual aesthetic that conforms to international trends in fine-art photography and builds on traditional Japanese sensitivity to mankind's environment, inflected with a sense of reverent awe at the sacred energy of natural forces. Conceived as the first in series of five exhibitions devoted to the traditional Asian Five Elements of *Chi* (Earth), *Sui* (Water), *Ka* (Fire), *Fuu* (Wind), and *Kuu* (Sky), *Mizu (Water)* features black and white photographs that explore water in all its aspects, from the mirror-like surfaces of a lotus pond to dynamic compositions of spray and steam. Muda eschews the merely literal in pursuit of an approach to his subject that almost conveys a three-dimensional effect expressing his bodily experience of water. As noted by leading art-historian and critic Yūji Yamashita, with this exhibition he "seems to be aiming toward a grand summation" of all his previous practice.

One exhibited scroll depicts a waterfall named 'Nachi' located in Wakayama Prefecture. This waterfall has been an object of worship since ancient times. Believed to house a kami called Hiryū Gongen worshiped at Kumano Nachi Taisha, it is part of the 'Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range' UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tomohiro Muda is a photographer based in Tokyo and was born in Nara Prefecture in 1956. In 1980, he graduated from Waseda University, and in 1982 began living in and photographing a Sherpa village in the Himalayas. Since presenting his 1988 solo exhibition *The Land of Sherpa*, he has searched far and wide for the 'primordial connection between humans, nature and space,' and a variety of other phenomena, releasing them in exhibitions and books. His works have been exhibited widely in Japan and abroad. The *Icons of Time* exhibition was shown in 2016 at the Japan Foundation Gallery, Sydney, Australia as part of Art Month Sydney, in 2014 at The Shoto Museum of Arts, Tokyo and in 2013 at Mitsuo Aida Museum, Tokyo.



Tomohiro Muda

Mizu 01, 2011

Inkjet pigment print

Image size 31 1/2 x 47 1/4 inches

Framed size 32 3/4 x 48 1/2 inches



Tomohiro Muda

Mizu 17, 2007

Inkjet pigment print

31 1/2 x 47 1/4 inches

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Specializing in modern and contemporary art, Tayloe Piggott Gallery expresses a sharp appreciation for exceptional aesthetic vision. Based in Jackson, Wyoming, the gallery showcases sophisticated, unique artworks in a modern setting. Always interested in artistic discovery, the gallery expanded to create The Project Space: a collaborative place for the local and global community to share ideas, showcase work, host events, and expand artistic concepts. Mindful and thought-provoking, Tayloe Piggott Gallery aims to enrich cultural dialogue by bringing remarkable artists into an already flourishing arts community.

From first time buyers to seasoned collectors, our gallery assists a wide range of clients with the intricacies of collecting contemporary art. Our staff has the knowledge and expertise to facilitate art acquisitions, advise collection management, and curate the interiors of private spaces.

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