

From Our Windows Rinko Kawauchi & Tokuko Ushioda

Presented as part of the Rencontres d'Arles, within the 'Arles Associé' program



Untitled, from the series "as it is", 2020 © Rinko Kawauchi



Tokuko Ushioda From the series *My Husband* ©Tokuko Ushioda, Courtesy PGI

Two major figures of Japanese photography come together in this dual show, exploring each artist's rumination on home, family, and the everyday.

Dates:

6 July to 20 September 2026

Time:

Open every day

9:30 to 19:30 (6 July – 30 August)

9:30 to 19:00 (31 August – 20 September)

Venue:

**VAGUE (Arles) France,
14, rue de Grille 13200 Arles**

Scenography:

**Hiromitsu Konishi
(miso)**

About the Exhibition

*“Looking through the camera’s viewfinder feels like peering into a window of sorts. We can share the world we are peering into with the viewers of our works. The title of this exhibition, *From Our Windows*, derives from this.”*

Rinko Kawauchi

From Our Windows is a dual exhibition that debuted two years ago at KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival 2024. Upon being invited to exhibit at the world-renowned event, Rinko Kawauchi chose to share her exhibition space with Tokuko Ushioda, a photographer 32 years her senior. Though shaped by different eras, the artists share an affinity for the gentle rhythms of everyday life.

Kawauchi’s series *as it is* traces her daughter’s early years against the seasonal landscapes of their rural home, weaving cycles of birth, growth, and loss into a tender visual poetry. Ushioda, meanwhile, turns to a box of photographs unearthed while clearing out her studio of forty years, which had also served as a home for her young family for seven years. Taken in the 70s and 80s, the images documented the daily routines that punctuated life in the small apartment she shared with her husband and newborn daughter.

Presented in dialogue, each of their shows capture the passage of time as told through the spaces and people they hold most dear. Since its warm critical reception in Kyoto, *From Our Windows* has since travelled to Japan House São Paulo in 2025, and will arrive at the Rencontres d’Arles this summer.

Taking place in the heart of the city at VAGUE, the exhibition marks KYOTOGRAPHIE’s third consecutive year participating in the Arles Associé program, marking the festival’s growing international presence and commitment to bringing Japanese artists to the world stage.



“From Our Windows” Rinko Kawauchi & Tokuko Ushioda
KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival 2024
Photo by Takeshi Asano

Rinko Kawauchi

as it is

Rinko Kawauchi is internationally recognised for her simple yet sublime portrayal of the everyday. She has published over 30 photobooks, often capturing transitory moments in the lives of animals, landscapes and objects while ruminating on the relationship between life and death.

This project, *as it is* (2020), marked a profound shift in Kawauchi's artistic practice and personal life. In 2016, a new arrival transformed her future forever. "The birth of my child profoundly changed the path I was following," says Kawauchi. Motherhood brought both the tenderness and fragility of life into sharper focus. "Without any particular intention of showing these images to anyone, I continued to accumulate photographs of my family, day after day."

The resulting photobook, published in 2020 by Chose Commune in collaboration with Torch Press, presents candid snapshots from her daughter's formative years against the verdant landscape that surrounds their home in Chiba prefecture. A master of light, the artist processes a special ability to draw beauty out of the simplest scenes – a bright blue sky, a blade of grass, or a tiny frog glued to a window against fresh droplets of rain.



Untitled, from the series "as it is", 2020 © Rinko Kawauchi

"My own pregnancy and childbirth shifted the path I had been walking on with significant impact. Living with a young child comes with a great deal of responsibility, but amidst those burdens, there are joys and discoveries that lightly brush away this stress, encouraging me, who had not necessarily been proactive about living, to channel my attention towards life."

Rinko Kawauchi

"I grew up in a family I had not chosen, and today I live with a family I created of my own will. The days spent with both have been, and continue to be, accompanied by trivial disputes and small moments of shared joy. These moments come and go like the seasons, and perhaps one day my daughter, too, will create her own family."

Rinko Kawauchi



Untitled, from the series "as it is", 2020 © Rinko Kawauchi



Untitled, from the series "as it is", 2020 © Rinko Kawauchi



BIOGRAPHY

Rinko Kawauchi (b. 1972 in Shiga, Japan) entered the world of photography in 2001, when she simultaneously published a series of three photobooks: *Utatane*, *Hanabi*, and *Hanako*. The following year, she received the prestigious Kimura Ihei Award. Her most notable series include *Illuminance* (2011), *Ametsuchi* (2013), and *Halo* (2017). Recent publications include *M/E* (2022) and *Inhabiting Lights* (2025), co-authored with philosopher Masatake Shinohara. Rinko Kawauchi's work has been the subject of numerous exhibitions in Japan and around the world, including her major retrospective *Rinko Kawauchi: M/E* at Tokyo Opera City Gallery (2022) and Shiga Museum of Art (2023).

Tokuko Ushioda

ICE BOX + My Husband

In March 2019, Tokuko Ushioda was clearing out an apartment she had rented as a studio for over 40 years. The space had also been her home, where she lived with her husband and daughter as a family of three from 1978 to 1985. In the depths of a dusty wardrobe, she unearthed a box of forgotten photographs, taken in the 70s and 80s, capturing the daily routines that played out within their small one-room Western-style apartment.

At the centre of these photographs was an unlikely protagonist: an old Swedish refrigerator, which Ushioda has likened to a “polar bear”. Her husband found it for sale at an American military base. It was far too large for their tiny apartment, but rather than resent it, Ushioda turned her lens on it. Mounting a six-by-six camera on a tripod, she compulsively photographed the hulking appliance, tracing the passage of time through its contents, as well as the keepsakes tacked to its doors, and the friends and family who gathered around it.

Exhibited alongside those images is *My Husband*, a series that provides a closer look into Ushioda’s family life. These photos document the seemingly ordinary moments shared with her partner Shinzo Shimao, also a photographer, and their young daughter. Life is messy. We see cluttered surfaces, impromptu gatherings, and DIY haircuts. It is a true family album – both beautiful and honest in its ordinariness.



From the series *My Husband* ©Tokuko Ushioda, Courtesy PGI

“I want people to be amused by the trivial and ridiculous things they see in my work”

Tokuko Ushioda

“I found myself drawn to the emotions I had felt then, in a way that went beyond simple nostalgia.”

Tokuko Ushioda



Setagaya, Tokyo, 1983
From the series *ICE BOX*
©Tokuko Ushioda, Courtesy PGI



BIOGRAPHY

Born in Tokyo in 1940, Tokuko Ushioda studied under Kiyoji Otsuji and Yasuhiro Ishimoto at the Kuwasawa Design School, from which she graduated in 1963. She taught there, as well as at Tokyo Zokei University, from 1966 to 1978. She has worked as a freelance photographer since 1975. In 2018, she received the Domon Ken Award for her series *Bibliotheca*, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Photographic Society of Japan, and the Japanese Photographer Award from the Higashikawa International Photography Festival. The following year, she was awarded the Kuwasawa Special Award. Among her major works are *ICE BOX* (1981–ongoing), a series of refrigerator portraits, and *My Husband* (1978–1985), whose accompanying book received a Special Jury Mention at the Paris Photo–Aperture Foundation PhotoBook Awards in 2022.

KYOTO
GRAPHIE

international
photography festival

ARLES
ASSOCIÉ 2026
LES RENCONTRES
DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival

KYOTOGRAPHIE is an international photography festival based in Kyoto — a city that garners global attention as a centre of culture and the arts in Japan. Each spring the festival unfolds as an immersive celebration of photography. More than just an exhibition, KYOTOGRAPHIE offers unique experiences where traditional and contemporary expressions intersect. As a platform for encountering diverse worldviews, it fosters new forms of dialogue, and invites audiences to discover new perspectives on the city.

Unconstrained by conventional boundaries, KYOTOGRAPHIE is known for an innovative approach to scenography and thoughtful installations. The experiences crafted by the festival reshape conventional formats, connecting audiences with new ways of perceiving both the work and the spaces around them. It is a multifaceted experience that could have only emerged in Kyoto. KYOTOGRAPHIE is about bringing people together, creating moments where difference is celebrated, and genres are encouraged to converge. As a space for the unexpected to emerge, the festival embraces possibilities: building, dismantling, reimagining, and reconnecting — always evolving.

www.kyotographie.jp/



Les Rencontres d'Arles

Founded in 1970 by photographer Lucien Clergue, Les Rencontres de la photographie d'Arles (Les Rencontres d'Arles) is the world's oldest and largest photography festival, celebrating its 57th edition this year. Known for inspiring KYOTOGRAPHIE, the festival features complex exhibitions using historical landmarks from the Roman era. It attracts photographers, curators, journalists, and fans from around the globe, serving as a major hub for discovering talents and fostering cross-disciplinary exchanges.

Arles Associé is an official satellite program of Les Rencontres d'Arles.

<https://www.rencontres-arles.com/en>

**ARLES
ASSOCIÉ 2026**
LES RENCONTRES
DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

Venue: VAGUE

Vague is a gallery with two homes: a spacious 1930s former bank in Kobe, a port city nestled between mountains and sea in western Japan, and a sunlit stone building on a quiet street in the ancient city of Arles, in the south of France. Named after the French word for wave, Vague relates to the spatial expression of its founder Teruhiro Yanagihara's design philosophy — an in-between space for creativity and a laboratory for experimental ideas. Through a fluid range of collaborative projects, from exhibitions, workshops, and food pop-ups to material research, modern crafts, and residencies, Vague connects the creative dots between Japan and the world.



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