

## Artist profile

### SHIHOKO OGAWA, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF THE DAIWA ANGLO JAPANESE FOUNDATION, ON THE WORK OF AKIKO TAKIZAWA

#### *Tell us a bit about Akiko Takizawa*

Akiko Takizawa was born in Fukuoka, Japan in 1971 and completed her MA in printmaking at the Royal College of Art in 2006. Her interdisciplinary practices involve not only photography but also filming and performing art. Her work was selected for the Bloomberg New Contemporaries in 2006 – a UK organisation which provides a critical platform for new and recent fine art graduates – and as a result it has been shown from Liverpool to London. As well as having her work shortlisted for one of the most prestigious photographic competitions in Japan, the Hitotsubo Award, she has also been awarded the University of Abertay Visual Arts Prize in 2002 and the Printmaking Today award in 2000.

#### *Can you describe her forthcoming exhibition in Marylebone?*

Takizawa says she feels her camera acts as an aerial to detect signals carrying urgent messages. While wishing her artworks to be chance encounters in a familiar environment, her portraits and landscapes show the disappearing scenery of the everyday. You can see the



Osorezan – People #1 by Akiko Takizawa

distinctive switch to a more positive tone in the atmosphere she captures in her latest works compared to her old series of works.

#### *How did you first come across her?*

We noticed her work while she was studying at the RCA and have been planning her exhibition for two years. The last five years gave a new direction and development to her works. This will be the first time we have presented her works at the gallery. We've been privileged to present many first time solo shows in London for young Japanese artists.

#### *Where are her photos taken?*

Her most recent photographs showcase a series of shots taken in Osorezan, Aomori, a region in the centre of the remote Shimokita Peninsula of Japan, where people go to talk to their deceased family members through a medium. It is an area where families and neighbours live in a close-knit society in order to survive in the severe natural environment.

#### *What is it you like about her work?*

From Takizawa's images one can detect the now rapidly disappearing traditional

attitude of the Japanese towards their families and their communities.

#### *What sort of artistic techniques does Takizawa use?*

She uses a unique technique called collotype, printed on special Washi (traditional Japanese paper) for the series.

#### *Why does Takizawa suit the Daiwa Anglo Japanese Foundation gallery so well?*

We try to introduce Japanese culture and Japanese artists to a UK audience to promote stronger ties in the contemporary art world of the two countries. Takizawa looks at traditional aspects of contemporary Japan with third-person eyes, as if she were not Japanese herself. The objectivity and proximity of her own culture will be somehow strange and intriguing for a British audience.

**Akiko Takizawa: Over the Parched Field**  
18 January – 1 March

**Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation**  
13-14 Cornwall Terrace  
020 7486 4348  
dajf.org.uk