

Summary of Three Gallery Talks in English

Three Gallery Talks at Cyg art gallery
Naoko Chiba Solo Exhibition 'My Father's House'

Gallery Talk by Ms. Naoko Chiba
With Mr. Takumi Sato, curator of the gallery

Naoko Chiba Solo Exhibition
My Father's House

Date: April 27th – May 15th, 2022
Venue: Cyg art gallery (Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan.)
Supporting grants from: Ogasawara Toshiaki Memorial Foundation

Gallery Talk:
1st: April 29, 2022
2nd: May 5, 2022
3rd: May 14, 2022
<https://cyg-morioka.com/archives/1552>

(Text by Naoko Chiba)

The solo exhibition "My Father's House" at Cyg art gallery in Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture was held from April 27th to May 15th, 2022. During the exhibition period, we had undertaken three gallery talks with Mr. Takumi Sato, curator of Cyg art gallery. The talk was uploaded on YouTube channel of the gallery. The talks were done in Japanese, so I summarized them briefly in English.

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The First Gallery Talk



The first half of the talk (Japanese text)

https://note.com/cyg_morioka/n/na754df96713c

The video of the second half of the talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCR97v5U760>

On the first gallery talk on April 29th, I talked about the memorable and important stories that made me start taking pictures. Also, I talked about what encouraged me to take photos of my father's old house for over 20 years. The new works that I exhibited this time show the time connecting the past and the present in this depopulated area of Iwate.

(* The first part of this talk video has not been uploaded because the voice couldn't be heard. Please read the texts that were transcribed in the interview. The second half of the talk video has been uploaded on Youtube of Cyg art gallery).

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The Second Gallery Talk



The video of the second gallery talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dlGciVCXyc>

On the second talk on May 5th, I read aloud the introduction part of my new essay entitled, “My Father’s House 2022”. Also, I explained about the mountains behind the house, the lives of our ancestors’ relationship with the rich nature, and the reason why this place has become a depopulated area since the 1970s.

Additionally, I talked about my work, “Seaside Town”, which I continue taking photographs of the present Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the tsunami, and the nuclear power plants disaster in 2011.

I explained about the similarities between the houses and people in the depopulated areas of Iwate, and the houses I saw near the nuclear power plants in Fukushima. From this work, I could feel the anguish of those who had to leave their land for some reasons and the influence of the times that have a great impact on the land, the inhabitants, the culture, and environment of the area.

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The Third Gallery Talk



The video of the third gallery talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UbutX12s8>

On the third talk on May 14th, I read aloud a part of my new essay collections entitled, “A Winter House”, which is one of the essays in “My Father’s House 2022”. I introduced some photographs of winter sceneries using the technique of gelatin silver prints, and the cyanotype prints that were photographed when I started taking pictures in Iwate between 1998 and 2006.

In addition, I also showed some images about the important photographic processes of taking pictures, developing in my darkroom, and printing on the photographic paper.

I also mentioned that from the pictures I took, I could feel the true essence and discovered what appears there, history of lands, our memories, and something we are forgetting today after they were being developed. It is like a feeling of bridge between past moments and us.

I would like to make an effort to publish this work “My Father’s House” as a photo book including some essays in the near future.

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I would like to thank the curator, Mr.Takumi and everyone at the gallery for giving me this opportunity. Thank you so much to everyone who came to listen to the talk. I would also be happy if you could watch them on YouTube.

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