

Press Release

# Poetry of Place

Curated by Rebecca Marcus-Monks and Wyllie O Hagan

The Koppel Project, 93 Baker Street, London W1U 6RL

17 August - 16 September 2017

Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm, free entry

*Place is security, space is freedom.*

[...]

*When space feels thoroughly familiar to us, it has become place.*

Yi-Fu Tuan

Presenting artworks by Japanese and British printmakers, *Poetry of Place* illustrates an intercultural dialogue inspired by the experiences of the artists travelling throughout Japan and Europe respectively.

The exhibition explores the theme of *place* as the site of memories, and the bonding that occurs between individuals and their environments. Real or imagined, physical or symbolic, coming from the past, the present, or the terrain that lies between, places are depicted in diverse geographical and temporal locations, sharing a visual language that runs through different printmaking processes from lithography, etching, aquatint, to relief and serigraphy.

*Poetry of Place* features, amongst others, the postwar creative print movement of *sōsaku-hanga*. This philosophy of total engagement enables artists to perform all aspects of production instead of consigning their designs to the carvers and printers employed by the publisher as was seen in the *ukiyo-e* movement used for much of the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This lyrical journey reveals various interpretations of *the sense of place* and offers visitors diverse experiential perspectives based on the personal visions and practices of the exhibited artists. A selection of song lyrics and poetry excerpts that are meaningful to the artists can be heard throughout the exhibition.

Artists included are Margaret ASHMAN, Yuriko MIYOSHI, Sara BEAZLEY, Masato NAGAI, Eleanor HAVSTEEN-FRANKLIN, Miyuki OKAWA, Michael KENNEDY, Yasuyoshi TOKIDA, Ros MORLEY, Yoshie UCHIDA, Stephen MUMBERSON, Kanako WATANABE, Clare O HAGAN, Katsutoshi YUASA, and Denise WYLLIE.



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