

Press Release
For immediate release

OTANI NIEUWENHUIZE - Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine Museum



OTANI NIEUWENHUIZE / Dazaifu

C-prints on Canson Photo Rag paper, 40x30cm each, mounted on Dibond with protective coating, on maple wooden beam.
©2016 Courtesy Shinji Otani and Johan Nieuwenhuize

OTANI NIEUWENHUIZE

The Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine is pleased to announce the first museum solo exhibition of OTANI NIEUWENHUIZE, a new collaborative photo project by Japanese photographer Shinji Otani (1972) and Dutch photographer Johan Nieuwenhuize (1980). The exhibition will take place at the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine Museum at Dazaifu Tenmangu, Shinto shrine, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan, from October 29th till December 18th 2016.

Shinji Otani and Johan Nieuwenhuize recognize a similar state of mind in each other's work. They share a large overlap in working methods, but their concepts and fascinations differ a lot. Both lens-based artists walk the city and take their images instinctively and continuously. Both work from their own image archive and combine images made in different cities and from different periods. Otani works from a documentary perspective, Nieuwenhuize deals with his subject in an abstract manner.

The transactive memory theory shows us that people working in duo's or groups build up a larger collective memory than do two individuals. When two friends walk a city they remember things selectively, subconsciously depending on the other to remember the other things for them.

The artists investigate the collective memory developing between the two of them, when they photograph the same subject at the same day.

With their project 'OTANI NIEUWENHUIZE', the artists look into Japanese and Dutch culture and into cultural tourism. Behaving as tourists themselves they photograph places where culture is being "consumed". In the Netherlands they visit the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and De Efteling in Kaatsheuvel. In Japan they visit the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine and the historic site of the former Dutch trading post Dejima in Nagasaki. The fifth location is amusement park Huis ten Bosch in Nagasaki, which represents both Japanese and Dutch culture.

After the solo exhibition of the project at POST, Tokyo in September 2016, 'OTANI NIEUWENHUIZE' at the Dazaifu Shrine Museum will be the very first opportunity for us to grasp the entire project. Almost 30 works containing 60 photographs will be unveiled.

A new publication accompanying the exhibition will be published by Tique art publications. Edited by Shinji Otani and Johan Nieuwenhuize, designed by Welmer Keesmaat. It comprises five magazines, one magazine dedicated to each location, contributions by neuropsychologist Robin van Emden and writer and researcher on photography, Taco Hidde Bakker.

English edition, five bundled magazines, 196 pages in total, print run 400.

Special limited edition in handmade Japanese wooden box includes two handprints, signed and numbered by the artists. Both editions will be available during the exhibition.

Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine Museum

The Shinto shrine of Dazaifu Tenmangu has been located in Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan since 905. In 1928 the shrine celebrated the 1,025th anniversary of the death of the deity, Michizane Sugawara, and built the shrine museum. This museum has many notable collections of the shrine's art and historical objects. Several of which are designated as national treasure and important cultural property.

The museum mainly shows its permanent collections, but has been dedicated to international design events such as the Finnish textile art exhibition in 2012, Danish flower artist Nicolai Bergmann's floral exhibition in 2014 / 2016 and the upcoming exhibition of world renowned potter Kagoshima Makoto in 2017.

Since 2006 the museum runs its internationally recognised 'Dazaifu Tenmangu Art Program'. This program recently included Ryan Gander's 'You have my word', 2011, Simon Fujiwara's 'The Problem of the Rock', 2013 and Takashi Homma's 'Seeing Itself', 2015.

Exhibition Information

Period: October 29th - December 18th 2016

Open hours: 9:00 – 16:30 (Ticket available until 16:00) Closed on Mondays

Venue: Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine Museum, Special Exhibition Room
4-7-1 Saifu Dazaifu Fukuoka 818-0195 Japan

Admission: Adult ¥400 (300) / University, College and High school Student/
¥200 (100) Junior and Junior High School Student ¥100 (50)

Publication: ¥3400 / €30

Special edition: ¥28500 / €250,00

* () Price for a group over 30 people

*Half fare by showing disabled certificate up to one attendant.

www.dazaifutenmangu.or.jp/en

www.otaninieuwenhuize.com

This exhibition is organized by the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine

OTANI NIEUWENHUIZE is made possible by the Dazaifu Shrine Museum, the Shareholders, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tokyo, Dutch Culture, Fonds Kwadraat, Mondriaan Fund and Stroom Den Haag and is part of the Holland Kyushu / Japan program