

# Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

Press Release 2017/09/07

## Keiichi Tahara: Photosynthesis with Min Tanaka

September 9 (Saturday) – December 24 (Sunday), 2017



[1] *Bordeaux-11*, 1980 105×159 cm ©Keiichi Tahara

In 1971, at the age of 20, Keiichi Tahara went to France. Fascinated by the light in Europe, the quality of which was unlike any he had seen in Japan, he made the nature of light itself a focus of exploration, and with Paris as his base, went on to win high acclaim for his photographic work. Min Tanaka, on the other hand, began his activities as a modern dancer during the 1960s. His career took off in 1974 with the development of a unique new style of dance expression that attracted wide attention.

By chance during the autumn of 1978, the two artists met and decided to explore the relationship between physical light and the human body. In photo shoots that continued from 1978 to 1980, the photographer captured on film images of the dancer reacting to different kinds of light, atmospheres and seasons within various urban and natural environments in Europe, America, and Japan, images that were stowed away unseen over the years. In 2016, after a hiatus of 36 years, the two decided to "return to their origins," to resume their photo sessions and begin making new work again. They also published the photo book *Photosynthesis 1978 - 1980*.

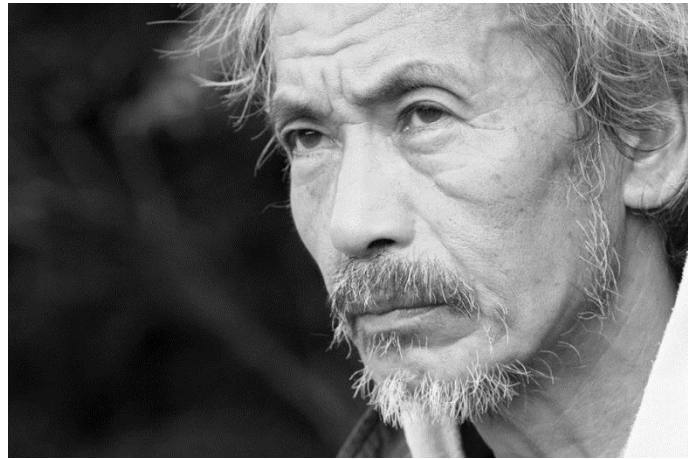
Until his passing due to illness this past June, Tahara had been making preparations for this exhibition which will present 46 carefully selected photographs (all black-and-white), 41 of which were taken during the '78 - '80 period and 5 in the year 2016. To mark the culmination of his collaboration with Tahara, Min Tanaka will hold several dance performances over the course of the exhibition, providing a rare chance to view this legendary artist who first danced at the museum in the Fifth Hara Annual exhibition in 1985.

An exhibition catalogue for this show will be published by SUPER LABO.

## ■ Profiles



Keiichi Tahara ©T. Minamoto



Min Tanaka ©Madada Inc.

### **Keiichi Tahara**

Born in Kyoto in 1951, Tahara was a recipient of many awards, including the Grand Prix des Jeunes Photographes in Arles, France (1977), the Kimura Ihei Prize in Japan (1985) and the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in France (1993). In recent years, he had expanded his activities into the fields of sculpture and environmental art as an extension of his exploration of light. In 2004, he held the solo exhibition *Keiichi Tahara - Light Sculptures* at the Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum, and in 2017, the solo exhibition *Photosynthesis 1987-1980* at the National Gallery in Prague, Czech Republic. He passed away in 2017.

### **Min Tanaka**

Born in Tokyo in 1945, Tanaka studied classical ballet and modern dance and started his activities as a dancer in the 1960s. In the 1970s, he developed a unique style of dance of his own, garnering critical acclaim both in Japan and abroad. In 1978, he moved to a mountain village where he began and continues to explore dance through a farming life. He is also an actor, first appearing in *Twilight Samurai* directed by Yoji Yamada in 2002. His many awards include the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, France (1990). He is also the author of such books as *I Was Naked All The Way* (2011) and *Conscious Body, Contagious Mind* (2013).

## ■ Related Events

### **Min Tanaka Dance**

After a long hiatus, Min Tanaka returns to the Hara Museum to give three dance performances. As the dances will occur outdoors in the museum's courtyard garden, they have been scheduled to allow the artist to take full advantage of the seasonal changes.

1st Performance: September 30 (Saturday) Reservations accepted from 11:00 am on September 12 (Tuesday).

2nd Performance: November 18 (Saturday) Reservations accepted from 11:00 am on October 31 (Tuesday).

3rd Performance: December 23 (Saturday/national holiday) Reservations accepted from 11:00 am on December 5 (Tuesday).

\* Information for All Performances

Venue: The Courtyard Garden at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

Venue opens at 6:00 pm (Guests may view the current exhibition prior to curtain time. Please note that the museum will be closed to the public between 5:00 and 6:00 for preparations.)

Performance starts at 7:00 pm

Ticket Price: ¥ 3,000 per person (includes museum admission); ¥ 2,000 for Hara Museum members and up to one accompanying person.

How to reserve: Please apply by email to: [event@haramuseum.or.jp](mailto:event@haramuseum.or.jp). Write the date of the performance and "Min Tanaka Dance" on the subject line, followed in the body by your name, contact number and number of accompanying persons. Hara Museum members should also include their membership number. Reservations will be confirmed by return mail.

※Requests will be processed on a first come, first served basis until the seating capacity is reached.

※Please send a separate request for each performance you wish to attend. A single request for multiple performances will not be accepted.

※The performances will take place outdoors (in the courtyard garden) regardless of the weather conditions. Please note that the performances will be standing room-only (no seating will be provided).

**Exhibition Details**

**Title:** Keiichi Tahara: Photosynthesis with Min Tanaka

**Dates:** September 9 (Saturday) – December 24 (Sunday), 2017

**Venue/Organizer:** Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

4-7-25 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-0001 Tel: 03-3445-0651

E-mail: [info@haramuseum.or.jp](mailto:info@haramuseum.or.jp) Website: <http://www.haramuseum.or.jp>

Mobile site: <http://mobile.haramuseum.or.jp> Blog: <http://www.art-it.asia/u/HaraMuseum>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/haramuseum> (in Japanese only / account name: @haramuseum)

**Cooperation provided by:** L'ATELIER MATSUDAIRA, Shashin Kosha, Top Art Kamakura Ltd.

**Special cooperation provided by:** BUILT Ltd., SUPER LABO

**Hours:** 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, Wednesdays until 8:00 pm (5:00 pm if a national holiday)(last entry 30 minutes before closing)

**Closed:** Mondays (except September 18 and October 9), September 19 and October 10

**Admission:** General 1,100 yen; Students 700 yen (high school and university) or 500 yen (elementary and junior high); Free for Hara Museum members, students through high school every Saturday during the school term; 100 yen discount per person for groups of 20 or more

**Directions to the museum:** 5 minutes by taxi or 15 minutes on foot from JR Shinagawa Station (Takanawa exit); or from the same station take the No.96 bus, get off at the first stop (Gotenyama), and walk 3 minutes

**Guided tours:** Free Japanese-language tours are given by a museum curator every Sunday and national holiday, starting at 2:30 pm and lasting about 30 minutes. No reservation is required. Free mini-tours in English are also available on a periodic basis. Please enquire at the admission counter on the day of your visit.

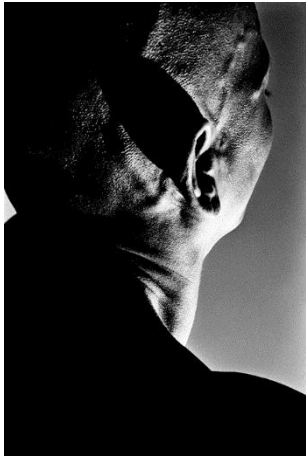
## Images for Publication

\*Plate 1 (on page 1) constitutes the main visual. When requesting multiple images, please use the numbers below to refer to the images.

\*Photo credit for all images: ©Keiichi Tahara

\*Please include the credit along with the respective caption.

\*Please do not trim or alter the images. Putting text over the images is prohibited.



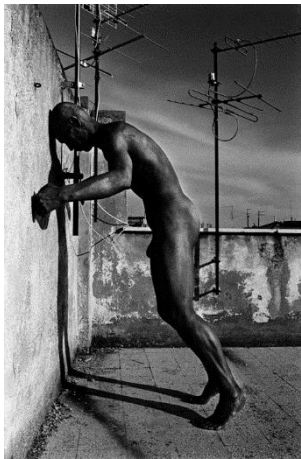
[2] *Island-11*, 1980 159 x 105 cm



[3] *Paris-4*, 1978 31 x 47 cm



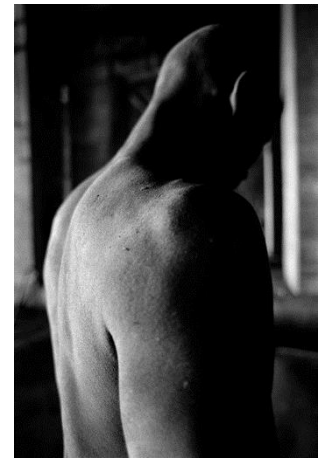
[4] *Akikawa-5*, 1980 47 x 31 cm



[5] *Rome-5*, 1979 159 x 105 cm



[6] *Bordeaux-5*, 1980 31 x 47 cm



[7] *Bordeaux-6*, 1980 159 x 105 cm



[8] *New York-1*, 1978 31 x 47 cm



[9] *Bordeaux-13*, 1980 31 x 47 cm

\*[1][2][5][7] Archival pigment print      [3][4][6][8][9] Gelatin-silver print

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