

MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO

16 September- 25 October 2006

Opening on Saturday 16 September from 6pm to 8pm

“COLORS OF SHADOW”

Marian Goodman Gallery is very pleased to present for the first time recent work by renowned artist Hiroshi Sugimoto. The exhibition will open to the public on Saturday 16 September and will be on view through Wednesday 25 October 2006.

We are showing *Colors of Shadow*, 2004-2006 a series of photographs, recently on view in a retrospective at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Washington, DC., depicting empty architectural interiors with pristine white walls contrasting with a wooden floor. The subtle play of light and shadow as well as spatial composition are central in this work as the artist explains:

”I've learned many things from using my hands. While I'm still not sure about the nature of light—whether it's waves or particles—I've learned something about shadows. Trying to devise a way of observing shadows, this project escalated into a major undertaking, requiring an entire hilltop penthouse in a Tokyo apartment.

When surfaces receive light, the light effects vary according to the angle of exposure. Selecting three distinct angles—90°, 55°, and 35°—I had the walls surfaced using traditional Japanese *shikoku* (plaster finishing), which absorbs and reflects light most evenly. In the morning light, the shadows play freely over the surfaces, now appearing, now vanishing. On rainy days, they take on a deeper, more evocative cast. I've only just begun my observations, but already I've discovered a sublime variety in shadow hues.”

Hiroshi Sugimoto

Colors of Shadow is the first series entirely photographed in color and shows the artist continuous interrogation of photography's intrinsic nature; of light entering into a darkened or “dimmed chamber”, however, the light source remains out of view. As in the artist's previous series of “Seascapes”, the work is minimalist in nature. The photographic field is emptied of any superfluous detail, allowing stillness for meditation.

Colors of Shadow seem also to mirror the white cube, the gallery space, in its perpetual rhythm to lay bare its white walls to receive the work of art. Here the works reflect its surroundings; the detail is focused on what the viewer's eye does not generally pay attention to. Brought into focus are the corners of the space, its ceiling and walls with different hues of whites due to the slightest alteration in lighting, and their cast shadows.

Born in Tokyo in 1948, Sugimoto left Japan in 1970 to study art in Los Angeles, at a time where minimalism and conceptualism were predominant in the art world, choosing photography as his medium. On moving to New York in 1974, he undertook his first series of black-and-white photographs that explore the themes of time, memory, dreams, and the history of representation. His major series include *Dioramas* and *Theaters* (1975 -), *Seascapes* (1980-), *Chamber of Horrors (Wax)* (1994 -1999), *Sea of Buddha (Sanjusangedo)* (1995), *Architecture* (1997-), *In Praise of Shadows* (1998), *Portraits (Wax)* (1999), *Pine Trees* (2001), and *Conceptual Forms* (2004). In addition, Hiroshi Sugimoto was commissioned to design and build a Go-Oh Shrine for the Naoshima House Project at Naoshima Contemporary Art Center in Japan

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(*Appropriate Proportion* 2002). Taken as a whole, the underlying theme of his work lies in the examination of the nature of life.

Sugimoto has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the 2001 Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography. One-person exhibitions of his work have been held at numerous institutions around the world including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Serpentine Gallery, London, and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (2004). In 2005-2006, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C. and the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, have co-organized the first major survey of Sugimoto's work. The exhibition features approximately 120 photographs from 1976 to the present, encompassing the entirety of this artist's thirty-year career, travelling to The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth from September 17, 2006 through January 21, 2007.

Upcoming solo exhibitions will be presented at the Atelier Brancusi, Centre Pompidou in Paris from 25 October 2006 until 12 February 2007 and at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, K20, in Düsseldorf from July 2007.