

EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

FOTO-CARE GALLERY PRESENTS:

DIVING INTO THE COLORS OF HOLI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TAKEHIKO YAGI

GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF THE 4TH ANNUAL
NIKKEI NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO PRIZE



Vrindavan, India, 2014 / © Takehiko Yagi

**OPENING RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 6:30-8:30PM
EXHIBITION ON VIEW: SEPTEMBER 22 – 28, 2016**

**Foto-Care Gallery
43 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010**

“I cannot wait for spring. When it comes, I can dive into those bright colors again.”
--Takehiko Yagi

Foto-Care Gallery in New York is honored to present *Diving Into the Colors of Holi*, a solo exhibition by Takehiko Yagi, one of Japan’s emerging stars in the field of photography, and the recently announced Grand Prize Winner of the 4th Annual Nikkei National Geographic Photo Prize. This marks Yagi’s first exhibition in the United States.

The show will feature 27 photographs, including 4 large-scale works, which capture the magic of Holi, the world famous spring festival in the Hindu religion that has been celebrated all over India since ancient times. Holi is known as the festival of colors and marks the joyous transition from the cold, dark days of winter to the warmer, brighter springtime. It takes place on the last full moon day of the lunar month Phalgun (February/March).

Yagi’s luminous portraits and crowd scenes pulsate with the vibrant colors of Holi and the elation and love present in the faces of the rhapsodic festivalgoers. Yagi describes his experience shooting Holi: “Red, yellow, green fistfuls of intense colors fly in all directions before my eyes and colored powder fills the air all around ... Men, women, grownups, and children, all wholeheartedly enjoy the explosion of color. I feel overwhelmed, my heart races, and as I hold my camera at the ready, I feel a surge of power filling my entire body.”



Vrindavan, India, 2014 / © Takehiko Yagi

Yagi first became fascinated by the colors of Holi nine years ago when he was a high school student and saw the festival on television. At the time he described himself as “living a colorless life” burdened with the pressures of being a good son and student. “The bright color of Holi had a potent effect,” he said.

When Yagi discovered photography he began to take pictures of Holi, and the experience filled him with joy and confidence. He said: “While shooting, I could forget the me that I did not like. I have been shooting ever since to live authentically and to like myself. Photography is already a part of me ...”



L-R: Vrindavan, India, 2014; Jaipur, India, 2013 / © Takehiko Yagi

The concluding shot in the exhibition is fittingly a night landscape with a full moon. Yagi is looking forward to returning to photograph Holi in the spring of 2017 and beyond. “With each dive, I am more and more mesmerized by this festival full of vivid colors and life energy, and find myself inseparable from it.”

Nikkei National Geographic Photo Prize

In January 2016 it was announced that Takehiko is the fourth Grand Prize Winner of the prestigious Nikkei National Geographic Photo Prize. The prize package includes one million yen in cash from Nikkei National Geographic, and camera equipment donated by Canon Marketing Japan. Nikkei National Geographic is the publisher of the Japanese edition of *National Geographic*, the first foreign language edition of the world famous magazine that since 1888 has harnessed the power of photography to help inspire people to care about our planet. Yagi’s photographs will be published in the September 2016 issue of the Japanese edition of *National Geographic*.



L-R: Vrindavan, India, 2014; Vrindavan, India, 2016 / © Takehiko Yagi

Nikkei National Geographic Inc., a joint venture of The National Geographic Society and Nikkei founded in 1994, sponsors the Nikkei National Geographic Photo Prize. The mission of the prize is to raise the profile of promising photographers from Japan through the New York exhibition and media coverage worldwide. Prize entrants can submit work under the categories of the “natural world” or “people and communities”. The work is judged for its aesthetic appeal, and most importantly, the photographer’s knowledge of his subject and ability to communicate it through the medium of photography in a manner that evokes a sense of wonder and discovery, excitement and inspiration to a diverse audience internationally.



L-R: Vrindavan, India, 2014; Barsana, India, 2016 / © Takehiko Yagi

Yagi was born in 1988 in Fukuoka. He graduated from Tamagawa University College of Agriculture, department of Bioenvironmental Systems, in 2011. In 2013 he picked up a camera to shoot the Holi festival and discovered his true passion. He hasn’t stopped photographing since. His first solo exhibition, *Holi: Prayers to the Gods of INDIA*, was shown at the Canon Gallery in Tokyo, Sendai, Fukuoka, and Osaka. Yagi was a runner-up in the National Geographic Photo Prize in 2014, and the Grand Prize Winner in 2016.

For more information about Foto-Care, go [here](#).

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