

## Chi-Wen Gallery

### **INFINITE DANCE**

Solo Exhibition by **Noritoshi Hirakawa**

**Exhibition Dates:** February 22 – March 29, 2014

**Opening Reception:** Saturday, February 22, 3-6pm

Chi-Wen Gallery will present works by internationally acclaimed artist Noritoshi Hirakawa. In addition to his *S-Series* photographs, his video *Lei Lenka - Yuriko* will be shown.

Noritoshi has always been aware of hidden structures in society, his artworks liberate and redirect the viewer into other aspects of “what it means to be a human.” The exhibition title “Infinite Dance,” has been chosen by the artist to create a discourse on the issue of life and death.

**Noritoshi Hirakawa (b.1960)** originally studied Applied Sociology and works today with photography, film, installation and performance. His works have been described as erotic, intimate and challenge mainstream views of sexuality as well the assumption that male desire is inherently exploitative, objectifying and oppressive towards women. The artist believes that human activities forms the culture in which we live today and proposes to push the boundaries of perception in order to expand the culture. In particular, he identifies the camera as “a very good excuse to connect men’s and women’s desires.”

Hirakawa’s work has been exhibited over 300 times, including at the Venice Biennale, Venice; Istanbul Biennale, Istanbul; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt; Centre Pompidou, Paris; MoMA PS1, New York; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich and Taka Ishii Gallery, Kyoto. The artist has also collaborated with poets, musicians, choreographers and architects and presented his work at Das TAT, Frankfurt; Danse Montpellier; and Fondation Cartier, Paris.

### **Chi-Wen Gallery**

台北市大安區106敦化南路一段252巷19號3樓 3F/No.19/ Lane 252 / Tun-Hua S. Road / Sec. 1 / Taipei / Taiwan  
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### ***Lei Lenka – Yuriko***

In Japanese *Lei* means spirit and *Lenka* means the poetic link between humans. *Lei Lenka* express this link between people and spirit, by the innocence and aesthetic value expressed in the movement within 'real life' by people. This lifts people out of the limitations of social and private importance. It is a dance we all do everyday and it holds poignant aesthetic, poetic and sensual meaning - whatever we do. In this work, the mundane with Will becomes spiritual as shown in Quantum Physics.

A 'meaningless' gesture or posture holds endless meaning; captured by video and photography it is offered to the viewer for interpretation. Over three thousands years, the ball game in Mayan culture or the basket ball in this contemporary society has been indicating the infinite cycle of our spirits that has never been diminished or disappeared. Endlessly the spirits is moving around like a basket ball goals in and the moment the game starts again by dropping down the ball passing through the goal's net as if our death that means losing our clothes of spirit and then appear again by getting another clothes for the same spirit. The rhythm of this cycle that we are living as "Infinite Dance."

*Noritoshi Hirakawa, 2012*

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### **S-Series**

Death exists next to life. There is no clear line between them, and death is provided as one of the alternatives to living. Once one lets his/her body reply on this alternative, there is no way back. Thus death is a highly valid individual right, and functions as a conduct which should be respected as a human's privilege.

People find some kind of fantasy in this conduct. It is probably because everyone consciously imagines what it would be like, more than once, and experiences regret that s/he couldn't make up his/her mind.

A vicarious experience of "death" which could be aesthetic, started as I visited ten famous suicide spots in Switzerland, fixed the point one-meter away from the place where the suicider stepped out, and decided the range of viewing scope for images toward the direction of gravity. The scene, which one sees there, is the place which welcomes a person's death, and probably is the gate to the last prelude from "life" to "death" which no one has ever talked about.

Those who have already knocked on this door do not have the means to talk about how beautiful is the scenery from the door to the last prelude. However, my photo series sadistically mesmerizes the viewer into wandering into the moment when s/he flies into the air and becomes vacuumed by gravity right after taking the first step.

*Noritoshi Hirakawa, 1997*

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*Lei Lenka – Yuri* by Noritoshi Hirakawa, Single-channel Video, 3min7sec, 2012



*S Series - Pont du Gottéron*, Silver Gelatin Print, 30.5x46 cm, 1997

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