



VANTLERS

ORBITING FUJI
by CHARLES EMERSON

Touring exhibition available as contemporary companion to Ashmolean Museum's 'Hiroshige's Japan: Views of Mount Fuji'.

Exhibition Summary

Orbiting Fuji is British artist/ photographer Charles Emerson's response to Mount Fuji, inspired by the work of Ukiyo-e artists Hiroshige and Hokusai.

Presented as six large scale photographs printed on a matt 'Somerset Photo' paper. Four of the final pieces focus individually on the four faces of Mt. Fuji. These four works, North, South, East and West were each photographed with a large format film camera with multiple exposures of other details and elements from Charles trip to Japan such as; city lights, cherry blossom, Fuji-Q pleasure park, concrete sea defences, mouth of a cave, cigarette vending machine, Aokigahara forest, convenience store lights, lanterns at sengen shrine.

The two remaining works were designed to reflect on the idea of the 'journey'. Fuji - North, South, East, West. was created by shooting the four individual faces of Mt. Fuji, which were then layered in to a composite image, a complete portrait of Mt. Fuji. The act of journeying around Mt. Fuji multiple times was in itself an important part of the making of the work. The artists own personal pilgrimage and homage to the deity Fuji.

The final work in the show sees Mt. Fuji from one view point photographed over the course of one day with the images layered upon one another, creating an ethereal, impressionist image. Impressionist painters are a strong inspiration for much of Charles's work; in this particular piece he wanted to make that apparent. The relationship and cross-pollination between Western and Eastern art worlds, namely the influence Ukiyo-e had on Impressionism, resonated with Charles's own practice. This piece updates, to modern times, the Ukiyo-e viewpoint of the everyday social scene, the comings-and-goings of a globally ubiquitous car park at the base of Mt. Fuji. This piece is about the happenings of one specific day yet simultaneously about the timeless quality of Mt. Fuji, who itself appears in the same form as in the Ukiyo-e masterpieces.

Charles researched the work of Hiroshige through studying the collection at Shizuoka City Hiroshige Tokaido Museum of Art and this informed the work he made. Some parallels drawn include: -

- A fascination with Mt. Fuji, the journey and ritual of traveling around the site repeatedly photographing Mt. Fuji from different viewpoints.
- The reworking multiple times into the same material only seeing the resulting image at end of process (Hiroshige carving in to the same wood block to print each colour layer of his prints, Charles by photographing over the same sheet of film only seeing the resulting image when processed).
- Compositional elements such as gradients, an example being the lights of the convenience store used to reference the heavy pink and blue gradients often seen in Ukiyo-e.

Biography

Born in Devon in 1982, Emerson earned a Photography BA (Hons) at Falmouth College of Art. He currently lives and works in Bristol, UK.

Emerson's fine art work has been exhibited internationally and featured in a number of awards, most notably AOP, Sony World Photography and the Creative Review Photography Annual.

Time, Mondial, Intelligent Life and Wired Magazine have all recently featured Emerson's mountain works. In 2013, Editors used Emerson's Flower works for their album and single artwork for the record The Weight of Your Love.

Commissioning Partners / Funders

'Orbiting Mt. Fuji' is the product of a 2016 commission from Antlers Gallery in partnership with Shizuoka City Hiroshige Tokaido Museum of Art, Japan and ICN London, UK with funding from Daiwa Anglo Japanese Foundation and The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.

Size

- Five prints at 90 x 110 cm (portrait), one print at 110 x 86 cm (landscape) [Six works total]
- Minimum Wall Size - 1010 cm wide (gives 90 cm gap between prints)

Events

- Artist Charles Emerson and Producer / Curator Jack Gibbon are available for Tours, Talks and In conversation Events. Charles can also give age specific workshops for a range of audiences.
- In Shizuoka Charles gave a 30-minute talk and demonstration through an interpreter, in London Charles and Jack used the 'In conversation' format to give insights in to the project.

Tour Dates

- Shizuoka City Tokaido Hiroshige Museum of Art, Japan / November 2016 - 29 January 2017
- White Conduit Projects, London, UK / 11 - 29 January 2017

Antlers

- Antlers is an art gallery and creative producers based in Bristol working with artists and venues to produce projects and exhibitions.

Date Available

- From 1/3/17 onwards.

Hire Fee

- Available upon enquiry.

Contact

- Jack Gibbon - jack@antlersgallery.com - 07780 503 180



Shizuoka City Tokaido Hiroshige Museum of Art, Japan.



White Conduit Projects, London.



White Conduit Projects, London.



Jack and Charles in conversation.



Fuji – South.



Fuji – East.



Fuji – 06:30 12:20 18:20 23:10