

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2023

ESTHER OKADA ART GALLERY

Tsunehiko Momose

tatouage

solo show

June 8 – July 2, 2023

Open on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

(If you would like to visit the gallery outside of business hours, please contact us.)



Esther Okada Art Gallery is pleased to present for the first time Tsunehiko Momose with his series titled “Tatouage”. The series is about traditional Japanese tattoos (irezumi) and the people who choose to have those on their skin.

Japanese tattoo culture has a long history that it is thought to have existed even in the ancient Jomon era. The tattoo culture flourished during the Edo period while it was banned later in the Meiji era and started to have negative images in modern society. Momose is known as a photographer who took portraits of Mother Teresa. Unlike his previous subjects, he was attracted to the culture of irezumi that has a negative

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connotation in Japanese society but still maintained a very high level of artistic quality. He spent good amount of time and energy to create this Irezumi series that portray people who choose to have Irezumi on their skin. His works are printed on Japanese traditional papers (Washi) specifically from Echizen. He colors his works using Japanese pigments so every work is a unique piece.

Tsunehiko Momose

Born in 1947 in Nagano, Japan. Lives and works in Tokyo. Graduated from Musashino Art University with BA in Design. Worked as a freelance photographer mainly for magazines. His subjects are often human portraits and the daily lives of people around the world. He prints photographs using traditional Japanese papers (Washi) and he layers colors on his images to create one-of-a-kind works. He calls his style “picto-photo”.

Artist's website : <https://www.momosetsunehiko.com>

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