

MICHAEL HOPPEN GALLERY

ONLINE EXHIBITION

SOHET NISHINO DAY DRAWINGS

AN ONLINE EXHIBITION

Since 2003 Sohei Nishino has been making large-scale photo collage's of the world's cities. He spends months walking the city streets compiling hundreds of rolls of film. Once back in his studio in Tokyo he assembles them into re-imagined versions of that city in the form of a Diorama Map. These maps have been exhibited all around the world and are now found amongst the most prestigious art collections.

The Day Drawings are an extension of these works. The speckled white lines that you see delicately meandering across jet black backgrounds plot the path walked by Sohei on that day. The course he takes is determined by the form and shape of the city he is photographing. That fundamental action, reduced to its essence, is the subject matter of these Day Drawings. The lines evolved from individual data points of tracked movement through a city as he moved about and photographed. The Day Drawings are a visualisation of that accumulated data, charting his movement, and rendering another profile of the cities that serve as the subjects of his diorama maps.

This act of walking lines across a terrain can draw comparisons to the LAND artists such as Richard Long and his epic walks across natural landscapes. However Richard seeks to leave his mark on the earth by walking bold straight lines, Sohei leaves no physical trace of his journey through the city. Sohei digitally records his instinctive twists and turns as he looks to capture the essence of the city on camera.

"Walking - as art - provided a simple way for me to explore relationships between time, distance, geography and measurement. These walks are recorded in my work in the most appropriate way for each different idea: a photograph, a map, or a text work. All these forms feed the imagination." – Richard Long



PRESS ENQUIRIES daisy@dh-pr.com / press@michaelhoppengalelry.com

WORKS ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY ONLINE FROM 12TH APRIL

EXHIBITION PREVIEW www.michaelhoppengallery.com

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"For the past 13 years I have been working on my 'Diorama Map' series. Walking around these great cities with my camera, I gradually realised that they have been composed and created by the paths humans have taken over a long period of time. I became very interested in this movement, these primordial walks from ancient times. The 'Day Drawing' series depicts my personal movement through a city. Choosing to filter out the noise of others and focus on my personal every day journey.

Since 2014, I have been recording the data of my movement with GPS. For the 'Day Drawing' series, I pick different dates and locations from my records, then I trace over the GPS line and punch holes in the paper with a pin following that line. After that, I bring the paper into the dark room and expose light from the backside of the paper and photograph the light which is coming through the holes in the paper. By observing the earth and myself from the GPS data, which is a very objective and transcendent point of view just as God in ancient times, I try to visualise this physical act as a single line.

Each of these tiny lights which compose the lines that appear in the photograph reflects every moment of my movement and the accumulation of my steps in one day. By visualising and abstracting my movement as a single line, I convert the physical movement into a universal visual form. These lines, which can only be recognised from objective GPS data signifies my act of drawing on the earth."

- Sohei Nishino



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