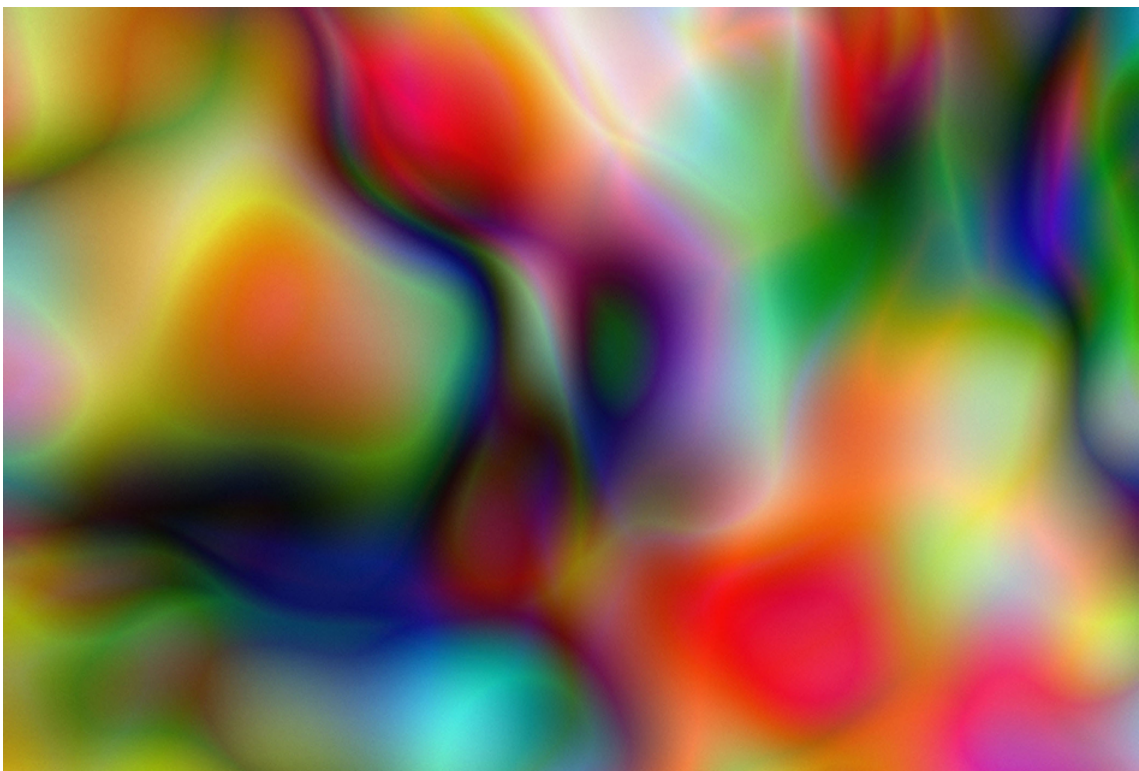


GALLERY KOYANAGI

PRESS RELEASE

30
years of
collaboration

Thomas Ruff | Two of Each
2025.10.18 (Sat) - 12.13 (Sat)



Thomas Ruff, *Substrat 41 III*, 2009

KOYANAGI BUILDING 9TH FLOOR, 1-7-5 GINZA CHUO-KU TOKYO JAPAN 104-0061
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We are pleased to announce that Gallery Koyanagi is holding the solo exhibition *Two of Each* by Thomas Ruff from Saturday, October 18, to Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Ruff, who studied under Bernd and Hilla Becher at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, is a figurehead of German photography. While following the typological perspective that characterizes the Becher School, Ruff's practice demonstrates diverse approaches, from the act of pressing the shutter himself to the reconstruction of existing images, all threaded together by a questioning of the essence of photographic expression.

The name Thomas Ruff may have become familiar to many in Japan as a result of his first retrospective in the nation, held in 2016 at The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, but in fact, his first solo exhibition here was held by Gallery Koyanagi 27 years ago, in 1998. At that time, we displayed his first series, *Interieurs*, as well as *Sterne*, which utilized negatives from official astronomical photography, and *Nächte*, in which urban scenes were captured with a special night-vision lens - a project that was widely discussed. Since then, we have continued to hold various exhibitions by Ruff, an artist who is always, in each show, challenging the possibilities of photography as a medium, including *Substrate* in 2002 and *cassini + cycles* in 2009.

This exhibition is part of a project commemorating the 30th anniversary of the opening of Gallery Koyanagi, and it is the first exhibition here by the artist for 11 years, since *ma.r.s and negatives* in 2014. From the various significant series by Ruff that the gallery has shown, *Substrate* and *negatives* are on display again, alongside *flower.s* and *untitled#*, both of which are exhibited for the first time in Japan.

Ruff's *Substrate* was used as one of the main visuals for the opening exhibition of the Mori Art Museum in 2003, and it attracted a great deal of attention. The vivid colors were actually created by multiplying images taken from Japanese adult comics and anime graphics, and digitally manipulating them with other images, in a process Ruff considers the dismantling of "image." *flower.s* is a project that the artist began after acquiring photograms of flowers by Lou Landauer, a German female photographer of the 20th century. Digitally shooting plants laid on a light table and using a solarization process on a computer to reverse negative and positive, this series attempts to broaden the horizons of traditional photographic technique through digital technology in a similar way to his *Photogram* series. Meanwhile, for the recent series *untitled#*, Ruff picked up a camera for the first time in a while and shot long exposure images of wire structures spinning and shaking. The expression of experimental photography that was often pursued in the 1950s-60s is brought into the contemporary time, reflecting the play of light and shadow in lines.

As the title *Two of Each* suggests, two pieces from each series are shown in pairs. Once, Ruff said, "There have to be at least two copies of a photograph, otherwise it is not a photograph." The format of presenting two pieces simultaneously emphasizes both repetition and contrast in each work, endowing the images with a heightened ambiguity. In the tension and space created between the two pieces from each series, we aim to offer an opportunity to explore Ruff's questioning of "what is photography?" once again.

From 5-7pm on Saturday, October 18, the artist will be present in the gallery for the reception. The viewing room will also be open, and a piece from the series *nude* will be exhibited in Gallery Koyanagi for the first time. We hope that you are interested in the opportunity presented by covering this exhibition.

For inquiries related to references and images, please contact the gallery.
Please notify us when the exhibition is covered by your outlet.

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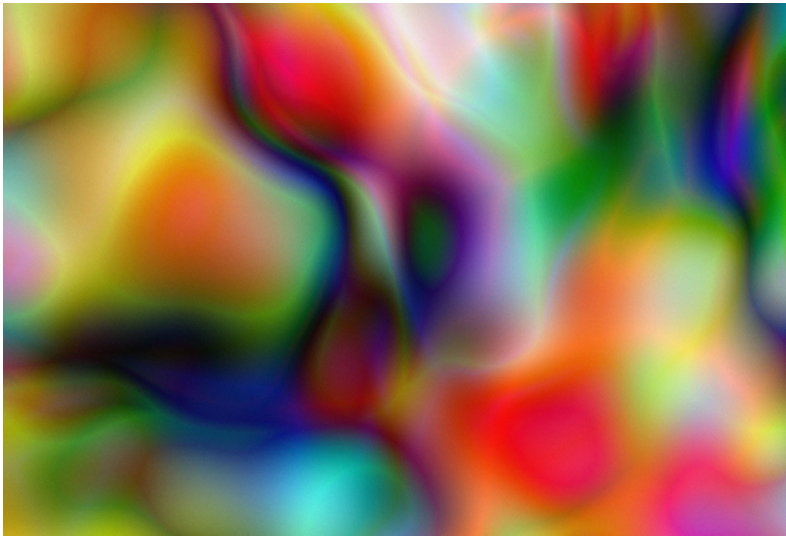
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[Image 1]



[Image 2]



[Image 3]



G A L L E R Y K O Y A N A G I

[Caption 1]

Thomas Ruff

Substrat 41 III

2009

chromogenic print

130 x 182 cm

[Caption 2]

Thomas Ruff

flower.s_07

2018

chromogenic print

139 x 119 cm

[Caption 3]

Thomas Ruff

untitled#14

2022

chromogenic print

120 x 100 cm

[Shared credit for 1-3]

© Thomas Ruff / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

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[Exhibition Outline]

Artist: Thomas Ruff

Exhibition Title: Two of Each

Exhibition Period: Saturday, October 18 - Saturday, December 13, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 18, 2025, 17:00-19:00

Opening Hours: 12:00-19:00

*During ART WEEK TOKYO, between Friday, November 7 and Sunday, November 9, the opening hours change to 10:00-18:00.

Closed on Sundays, Mondays and Holidays, except Sunday, November 9.

Address:

Gallery Koyanagi

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Tokyo 104-0061, JAPAN

Access:

Tokyo Metro: Ginza, Hibiya, and Marunouchi line Ginza Station, Exit A9 /

Yurakucho line Ginza 1-Chome Station, Exit 7

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Press inquiry: please contact us to mail@gallerykoyanagi.com for further information

Thomas Ruff

1958 Born in Zell am Harmersbach, Germany
 1977-1985 Staatliche Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf
 Lives and works in Düsseldorf

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 Thomas Ruff, Malkastenforum, Düsseldorf
 2023 Thomas Ruff, d.o.pe., Schaulager, Basel
 2022 Dark Matter: Thomas Ruff and James Welling, Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Germany [two-person exhibition]
 Thomas Ruff: Méta-Photographie, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole (MAMC), France
 2021 Thomas Ruff: after.images – Works 1989-2020, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung
 2020 Thomas Ruff, K20 – Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf
 National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
 2019 Photophilia, Museum of Recent Art, Bukarest
 MARE/Museum of Recent Art, Bukarest
 2018 Tripe | Ruff, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
 2017 Thomas Ruff, ARARIO Museum, Jeju Island, South Korea
 Thomas Ruff, Etablissement d'en face Projects, Brussels
 Thomas Ruff, National Portrait Gallery, London
 Thomas Ruff, Whitechapel Gallery, London
 Thomas Ruff : Machine & Energy, Mast Foundation, Bologna
 2016 Thomas Ruff, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
 Thomas Ruff: Object Relations, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
 2015 Gesichter, Neues Museum, Nuremberg
 2014 Inbox: Thomas Ruff, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
 Thomas Ruff: Lichten, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent, Belgium; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf
 Thomas Ruff: ma.r.s. and negatives, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 Thomas Ruff: photograms, TOLOT/heuristic SHINONOME, Tokyo
 2013 Thomas Ruff: Series, Sala Alcalá 31, Madrid
 2012 Kunsthalle, Mannheim
 Thomas Ruff, Haus der Kunst, Munich
 Stellar, Landscapes, LWL-Landesmuseum, für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, Münster
 2011 Thomas Ruff: ma.r.s., Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain
 MCA DNA: Thomas Ruff, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
 Thomas Ruff: Stellar Landscapes, LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, Münster
 2010 Thomas Ruff, Palazzo Buonamici; Biblioteca Comunale Istituto Culturale e di Documentazione Lazzerini; Dryphoto arte contemporanea, Prato, Italy; Biblioteca

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- Comunale Bartolomeo Della Fonte, Villa Giamari, Montemurlo, Italy; Spazio d'arte
Alberto Moretti/Schema Polis, Carmignano, Italy
- 2009 Thomas Ruff: cassini + zycles, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Thomas Ruff: Schwarzwald.Landschaft, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, Germany
LehrerInnenführung: Thomas Ruff. Oberflächen, Tiefen, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
Thomas Ruff, Castello di Rivoli – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin
Landscapes / Tenerife, TEA Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Santa Cruz, Teneriffa, Spain
- 2008 K4 forum, HBKsaar, Saarbrücken, Germany
Thomas Ruff: A Retrospective, Múcsarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest
- 2007 Thomas Ruff: Jpegs, Moderna Museet, Stockholm
Thomas Ruff: The Sprengel Project, Sprengel Museum, Hanover
- 2006 Thomas Ruff: The Grammar of Photography, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice
- 2005 Kunstverein Heinsberg, Germany
- 2004 Thomas Ruff: Les Oeuvres de la Collection Pierre Huber, Musée d'Art Moderne et
Contemporain, Geneva
- 2003 Thomas Ruff: Hans-Thoma-Preis 2003, Hans-Thoma-Museum, Bernau, Germany
Thomas Ruff: Nudes und Maschinen, Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover
Thomas Ruff, Pusan Metropolitan Art Museum, Pusan, South Korea
- 2002 INTERIEUR-PORTRÄTS-HÄUSER, Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany
Thomas Ruff: Identificaciones, Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City
Thomas Ruff: Substrate, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
l.m.v.d.r., Sagacho Shokuryo Building, Tokyo
- 2001-2004 Thomas Ruff: Photographs 1979 to Present, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden,
Germany; Museet for Samtidskunst, Oslo; Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany;
Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin;
Artium Centro-Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain; Museu
Serralves, Porto, Portugal; Tate Liverpool, England; Centre for Contemporary Art
Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
- 2001 Thomas Ruff, Chabot Museum, Rotterdam
Thomas Ruff, Malkasten, Düsseldorf
- 2000 Thomas Ruff: l.m.v.d.r., Museum Haus Esters, Haus Lange, Krefeld, Germany;
Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin; Galeria Estrany de la Mota, Barcelona
close up, Kunstverein Freiburg im Marienbad, Freiburg, Germany
- 1998 Thomas Ruff, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 1997 Thomas Ruff: Oeuvres 1979-97, Centre national de la photographie, Paris
Thomas Ruff, Goethe Institut, Paris
Thomas Ruff – Kleine Porträts, Dryphoto, Prato, Italy
Wolfgang Laib et Thomas Ruff, Lieu d'art contemporain, Sigean, France [two-person
exhibition]
- 1996 Thomas Ruff, Kunstverein Oldenburg, Germany
Thomas Ruff, Rooseum Center for Contemporary Art, Malmö, Sweden
Zuspiel, Sprengel Museum, Hanover, Germany
Thomas Ruff: Über den Wolken – unter den Sternen, Kunsthaus Kaufbeuren, Germany [two-person exhibition with Thomas Emde]

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- 1995 Thomas Ruff. Andere Porträts + 3D, German Pavilion, Venice Biennale [with Katharina Fritsch and Martin Honert]
- 1992 Thomas Ruff, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt
- 1991 Thomas Ruff, Kunstverein Bonn, Germany; Kunstverein Arnsberg, Germany;
Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany; Galerie der Stadt Sindelfingen, Germany
Thomas Ruff: Portraits, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago
- 1990 Des Portraits, des Maisons, des Étoiles. Porträts, Häuser, Sterne, Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Magasin Grenoble, France; Kunsthalle Zurich
- 1989 Thomas Ruff: Junge Leute, Goethe Institut, Munich
Thomas Ruff: Porträts, Häuser, Sterne, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Le Magasin –
Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble, France; Kunsthalle Zürich
Thomas Ruff, Cornerhouse, Manchester, England
Thomas Ruff, Fondation de Appel, Amsterdam
- 1988 Thomas Ruff, Porträts, Museum Schloß Hardenberg, Velbert, Germany; Portikus,
Frankfurt