

transient



by Sayuri Ichida

29 January 2025 – 7 March 2025

Monday – Friday | 9:30 am – 5:00 pm | Admission Free

The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation is delighted to present **Sayuri Ichida's** first solo exhibition in the UK, **transient** ('transient').

This exhibition offers an opportunity to discover Ichida's two photography series, '**Absentee**' (2020-2021) and '**Ctrl Shift + J**' (2023-). Drawing from personal experiences of loss, grief, and life abroad, Ichida's works explore the ephemeral nature of life and existence. Through these series, she revisits and processes the past, reflecting on the complex ways we experience time – distortion, repetition, and regression – when memories intertwine with the present. Showcasing over 30 pieces, the exhibition invites viewers to immerse themselves in her delicately processed monochromatic images that integrate her emotional landscapes across multiple temporal dimensions.

Private View

Tuesday 28th January 2025, 6 – 8 pm

Admission free, and [booking essential](#)



Artist Talk

*Sayuri Ichida in conversation
with Fiona Rogers*

Tuesday 4th March 2025, 6 – 7 pm

Admission free, [booking essential](#)



Daiwa Foundation Gallery

Daiwa Foundation Japan House
13/14 Cornwall Terrace, Outer Circle, London, NW1 4QP



‘The past still exists as ever-present inside me while the future remains uncertain.’

‘**Absentee**’ (2020-2021), displayed in the **Park Side Gallery**, comprises portraits and landscapes Ichida created during the Covid lockdown in New York, where she previously lived. The uncertainty of the Covid pandemic, coupled with the early loss of her mother, heightened her awareness of life’s fragility, awakening her profound sorrow. In this series, Ichida conveys her intense emotional state and desire to escape from reality by merging fragmented images of her body with natural and industrial landscapes taken in her neighbourhood. By photographing herself and often pairing these photographs with other snapshots, Ichida elevates her physical presence into a personal refuge, blurring the boundary between her inner self and the outer world. The juxtapositions of these positive and negative images communicate her sense of ‘belonging nowhere’, achieving a brooding and desolate undertone. The contrast between the soft curves of her body and the stark lines of industrial materials, such as a factory wall and fractured timber, create a visual tension that projects her emotional turmoil – a dichotomy of the desire to accept the painful memories of the past and her inability to escape their hold. Printed on *Kōzōshi* (Japanese light-weight paper made of mulberry) and voile, and presented as wall displays and a photobook, ‘**Absentee**’ narrates the internal struggle between the past and present within Ichida’s mind.

‘I constantly wonder where I truly belong.’

‘**Ctrl Shift + J**’ (2023-), exhibited in the **Mews Side Gallery**, is Ichida’s ongoing project through which she encapsulates alienated feelings shaped by years of frequent relocation from Fukuoka to Niigata, Tokyo, New York, London, and eventually Margate. The title references the keyboard shortcut she uses to switch between English and Japanese, symbolising her continuous need to adapt and switch between identities. A recent DNA test revealing her great-great-grandfather’s emigration from the UK to Japan further inspired her to explore her sense of belonging, photographing images from sources reminiscent of ‘home’. While some images have personal links to Ichida’s past, such as the landscapes from where she once lived and her grandfather’s passport photo, others include those she coincidentally encountered and felt oddly familiar with, including anonymous vintage photographs from Japan discovered in Margate. Each image was carefully transformed to alter the light level or incorporate geometric lines and shapes through cutting, drawing, and folding as she reimagined the past and projected her inner state of ‘not fitting in’ onto the graphics. Ichida then rephotographed and processed them using polymer photogravure. Mounted with passe-partout frames, the final pieces create visual illusions, inviting viewers to engage in her layered mindscape from a distance.

Sayuri Ichida is a Japanese artist based in Margate, UK, specialising in photography. Born in Fukuoka, Japan, in 1985, her work explores themes of self-identity, personal memories, and life experiences, often focusing on the human form and sculptural objects to create thought-provoking images.



Image: *Untitled* (2023)
© Tomasz Laczny

Ichida’s work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, including solo shows at PhMuseum Lab (Bologna), IBASHO Gallery (Antwerp), Unseen Amsterdam, and the InCadaques International Photography Festival (Cadaques) in 2022. Her work was presented by IBASHO Gallery at Art Paris in 2023 and 2024, and at Paris Photo in 2024. That year, she also participated in the BredaPhoto Festival and the SPARK Art Fair in Vienna. Her artworks are held in the collections of Museum Voorlinden and SAMMLUNG VERBUND, and her book *Absentee* was named one of the ten best photobooks by the Prix Nadar in 2022. She was an artist-in-residence at Light Work in 2023, and her latest work, *Ctrl Shift + J*, was shortlisted for the Grand Prix Images Vevey 2023/2024 and received the Benrido Award as part of the Hariban Award 2023. She also received a DYCP grant from Arts Council England in 2023 and was awarded the Jerwood/Photoworks Award 5 in 2024. Ichida graduated from Tokyo Visual Arts College in 2006 and completed an MA in Photography Arts at the University of Westminster in 2022.

This exhibition has been presented with the generous support of **IBASHO Gallery**, Antwerp.
This exhibition is curated by **Nanaka Kishi** (Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation).