

## ‘Tokyo Gardens’

A photographic exhibition by Naoto Ijichi

The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents an exhibition by Japanese photographer Naoto Ijichi, entitled ‘Tokyo Gardens’ at The Japan Foundation Gallery at Central Park. The exhibition runs from 6 May to 30 May in conjunction with Head On Photo Festival.

‘Tokyo Gardens’ takes the viewer on a visual tour of Tokyo’s gardens captured throughout the four seasons in a collection of colour and black-and-white photographs. The series features 14 gardens spanning 400 years of history, the oldest of which was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



Stone lantern in Kyu-Furukawa Gardens, Photograph by Naoto Ijichi

Visually, Ijichi aims to provide a historical perspective by photographing the gardens in a way that evokes the past. Through his photography he attempts to travel back as close as possible to the times these gardens were created and showcase the traditional beauty within them.

As the cityscape changed, particularly after World War II, Tokyo started losing its distinctive traditional style in favour of a more urban and contemporary aesthetic. The gardens of Tokyo became an increasingly important feature of the metropolis, providing tranquil natural spaces and a sense of connection with Japan’s rich tradition.

Ijichi shares that, “One of my goals in photographing the gardens of Tokyo was to document Japanese cultural attitude towards landscape design. Through a kind of trip into the past, I tried to capture the essence of Japanese aesthetic which we can find within the different gardens.”

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## Gallery hours

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 8pm

Friday: 10am – 6pm

Select Saturdays (23, 30 May): 10am – 3pm

Closed Sundays & Public Holidays

<b>Venue:</b>	<b>The Japan Foundation Gallery</b> The Japan Foundation, Sydney Level 4, Central Park 28 Broadway Chippendale NSW 2008
<b>Admission:</b>	Free
<b>Enquiries/RSVP:</b>	<a href="mailto:reception@jpf.org.au">reception@jpf.org.au</a> / 02 8239 0055
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.jpf.org.au">www.jpf.org.au</a>

## ABOUT NAOTO IJICHI



Naoto Ijichi is a Sydney-based photographer who was born in Kyoto. He picked up photography while studying Visual Communication Design at the Kyoto College of Art and at Seika University in Kyoto. He has exhibited in various locations around Japan, as well as internationally in Spain and China. His photographs revolve around the social relationship between culture and nature, tradition and contemporary society.

## ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.



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For more information, images and interviews please contact:

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