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September 03, 2008

**Thursday: Blue Star breaks sake barrels to open Japanese photography exhibit**



Photo by Eikoh Hosoe

(Courtesy Blue Star)

Expect an international crowd at the ceremonial smashing of sake barrels for the opening at 6 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 4) for "Counter-Photography: Japan's Artists Today" at the **Blue Star Contemporary Art Center**, 116 Blue Star, (210) 227-6960.

Among the distinguished guests will be Tsutomu Osawa, Consul-General of Japan in Houston, along with County Judge Nelson Wolff, Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez and Commissioner Tommy Adkisson. They'll be cutting a ribbon, to be followed by the traditional breaking of the sake barrels.

Curated by Yuri Mitsuda of the Shoto Museum of Art in Japan, the exhibit surveys 11 Japanese artists who use photography to capture the invisible world, from microorganisms to internal psychology. The exhibit is divided into two sections labeled "To Distill: Another Appearance," which features artists who try to extract the essential "spirit" of the subject, and "To Reverse: Another Relationship," with artists who take a more social approach, exploring relationships with self, others and nation.

"The works in this exhibition are not intended to serve as documentary evidence for any particular reality," Mitsuda writes in his catalog essay. "Rather, they are intended to reveal an aspect of reality that has become invisible, namely, 'spirit.' These works constitute an attempt to present new realities and alternative ways of looking at the world."

"Counter-Photography" runs through Oct. 19.

Also going on view will be Leslie Raymond's "Landscapes," with nine video loop compositions on flat-screen monitors by the UTSA faculty member, and Patrick Zeller's photo essay based on his 2006 motorcycle trip through Iran.

—Dan R. Goddard



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