

The Sea and the Mirror - Hiroshi Sugimoto

8th May – 3rd September 2017



Château La Coste is proud to announce that the new Renzo Piano Photography Pavilion will be inaugurated with 'The Sea and the Mirror', a photography exhibition by the Japanese artist Hiroshi Sugimoto

Curator Philip Larratt-Smith has carefully selected eight large-format works from the artist's iconic Seascapes series to create a resounding and poetic presentation in dialogue with Piano's architecture.

Hiroshi Sugimoto is one of the most important photographers from the past 40 years, celebrated for, in equal measure, his technical virtuosity and his conceptual rigour. Since 1980, Sugimoto has reinvented the genre of classical photography in what is perhaps his best-known series, the Seascapes. The concept behind the series is deceptively simple: the primordial landscape of sea and sky is photographed at various locations around the world. Sugimoto is a master craftsman, able to capture subtle shifts in light quality and a rich range of tonalities through the perfection of his photographic prints. When installed in series, the cumulative effect of the Seascapes becomes even more powerful. The result is an open-ended and on-going body of work that constitutes a veritable atlas of light and water.

Time is one of Sugimoto's favourite subjects, and the artist himself has stated that he was inspired to make images that would have been recognizable to the primitive man. In doing so, he holds up a mirror to our own identity in present time. In Larratt-Smith's words: "by blurring the line between human history and eternity, representation and abstraction, Seascapes takes its place in the history of nature photography even as it achieves the status of a sublime contemporary piece."

Sugimoto's Seascapes take on special resonance in Piano's Photography Pavilion. Situated amidst the vineyards that make up the rich domain of Château La Coste, the Photography Pavilion opens with a narrow corridor that widens out into a triangular space between walls of rammed-earth. The play of elements in Piano's architecture joins together with the mixture of archaic and contemporary in Sugimoto's art. The Sea and the Mirror represents a unique dialogue between two contemporary masters.



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Press Contact
Agence Claudine Colin
Alexis Gregorat – alexis@claudinecolin.com