

Local Photographer Jan Kessel Featured in 21st Japan International Art Exchange Exhibition

Seattle, WA—April 8, 2022—Seattle area-based nature photographer Jan Kessel was selected to show three photographs in the prestigious 21st Japan International Art Exchange Exhibition, The USA Exhibition, beginning April 10. The Japan International Art Exchange Exhibition is an invitation-only art show at the [Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum](#), the country's oldest public art museum.

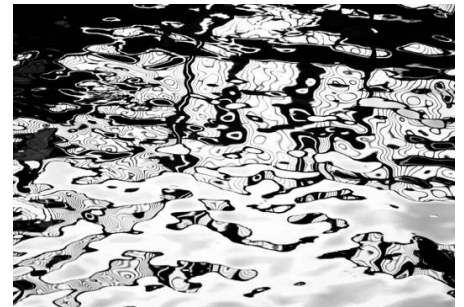
Kessel's photographs on display include: **The Purple Field**, a tulip field photographed in springtime in the Skagit Valley; **Wild Sea**, a shot of the Pacific coast off Monterey, CA, following a storm; and **Inside Water**, a study in abstract reflections. They are a part of the show's USA Exhibition, curated by Julienne Johnson, which includes 147 artworks and the art of 64 artists: paintings, sculptures and photography, representing a broad range of American work.



The Purple Fields



Wild Sea



Inside Water

"I'm thrilled to be selected to show my photographs at such a prestigious international exhibition," said Kessel. "The idea of The USA Exhibition is to capture the spirit of American art, and my photographs aim to capture the beauty and magic of the world around us—particularly the Pacific Northwest. It's such an honor that my work will represent our collective culture."

Born in Los Angeles, Kessel began photography at a young age, winning the UNICEF Child of the Year international competition. She studied at the University of California in Los Angeles and Art Center College of Design before relocating to the Pacific Northwest. Her photographs capture the natural world in unexpected ways—whether up close or amid movement.

Kessel is especially interested in using photography as a component in healing, and her work can be found in medical and non-medical spaces around the world. Her photographs are included in the Los Angeles Artists Association Open Show, juried by Peter Frank, December 2021, and the 21st Japan International Art Exchange Exhibition at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, curated by Julienne Johnson, April 2022.



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ABOUT “THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXCHANGE EXHIBITION”: This is an annual “INVITATION ONLY” art and cultural exchange exhibition that has taken place in Japan since 2000 – excepting in 2020, due to pandemic lockdowns.

ABOUT THE CHAIRMAN: KATSU SHIMMIN is a multifaceted artist who holds various positions within the Fine Arts including: Xin Min Art Gallery Director; Art Researcher-Bukkyo University, Kyoto, Japan; Visiting Professor, Anhui University, Anhui Province, China; Distinguished Professor, Renmin University, Beijing, China; Committee of Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association; Visiting Scholar in Traditional Chinese Painting, Central Academy of Fine Arts – China’s more renowned art academy – turning away 90% of its applicants. His work can be found throughout the world in permanent museum and corporate collections. Katsu Shimmin produces exhibitions and residencies world-wide.

ABOUT THE USA CURATOR: JULIENNE JOHNSON is a multi-disciplinary artist who has been engaged professionally in a variety of creative disciplines including music, design and poetry. As a songwriter she was nominated for Grammy and Dove Awards, among other honors, and her award-winning poetry has been widely published in anthologies and on recorded albums. Despite success in these arenas, Johnson’s most profound connection is with the visual arts – her most direct form of communication. “The USA Exhibition” at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art is her 4th curatorial assignment and her 3rd museum curatorial project.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN ART MUSEUM

21ST JAPAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXCHANGE EXHIBITION

APRIL 2022

THE USA EXHIBITION

CURATOR - PRODUCER, JULIENNE JOHNSON / USA
 julienne johnson is sponsored by IAA/USA in official partnership with UNESCO
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