

10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY

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HONG KONG



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ATTENTION ART EDITORS

For Immediate Release

### ***TSUMARI STORY***

**A solo exhibition by artist duo RongRong & Inri**



RongRong & Inri, *Tsumari Story No.12-4*, Silver Gelatin Print, 50.6 x 61cm, 2014

**Opening Reception with the artists:** Thursday, December 1, 6.00-8.00pm

(Members of the press are invited to attend the opening reception)

**Artists' Talk:** Saturday, December 3, 11.00am-12.00pm

(RSVP Essential: [rsvp@10chancerylanegallery.com](mailto:rsvp@10chancerylanegallery.com))

**Exhibition:** December 1, 2016 – February 4, 2017

(15 NOVEMBER, 2016) HONG KONG-

10 Chancery Lane Gallery is pleased to present *Tsumari Story*, an exhibition of selected photographs by the influential husband-and-wife artist duo RongRong & inri from December 1, 2016 - February 4, 2017. Produced over a period of two years, from 2012-2014, the *Tsumari Story* series began when the artists were invited to participate in the 2012 Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial in Niigata Prefecture, Japan and depicts their experiences and emotional journey living in a unique and rural area with their three sons.

Recipients of the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award as part of the 2016 Sony World Photography Awards exhibition, RongRong & inri have played a key role in the development of contemporary photography in China. Since their collaboration began in 2000, their work has focused on their daily lives, and more specifically their

lives together in harmony with their surrounding environments. A cohesion of cross-cultural aesthetics, (RongRong is from China, and Inri is from Japan), the artists are best known for their critically acclaimed series of works such as *In the Great Wall, China* (2000) and *In Fujisan* (2001) where the artists photographed their naked bodies in the natural environment, at one with the elements surrounding them.

Inspired by the harsh climates and isolation of the Echigo-Tsumari region, the photographs capture the water, snow and ice in the landscape, through the shifting seasons. Produced as silver-gelatin prints, the scenes captured are at once nostalgic and imaginary, with both artists appearing within the photographs, separately or with their children, either in full traditional Japanese attire, or unclothed. A selection of the photographs are taken inside an abandoned 200 year-old traditional wooden house, which was modified by Kurakake Junichi and around 3000 Nihon University College of Art Sculpture students for the 2009 Triennial.

*“Our original intention for this series was to reflect a worldview based on the image created by the origin of the name of this area, “Tsumari” and its local legends. We wandered through the snow-covered maze with no clear objective, imagining a story of a man and woman who are seized by extreme emotions while living within Tsumari’s harsh natural environment.”* (RongRong & Inri)

#### About the artists

RongRong (China) (b.1968) and inri (Japan) (b.1973) have been working together since 2000. Their works reflect the intimate world that they have created together, while pushing the boundaries of traditional black-and-white darkroom techniques. Their past critically acclaimed series of works, such as *Mt. Fuji*, *In Nature*, *Liulitun*, and *Tsumari Story* focus on the beauty of the human body in nature and the urban environment. Their recent work brings attention to the beauty and value of new beginnings in their shared life and surroundings, especially amidst a rapidly changing world.

In 2007, RongRong & inri established the Three Shadows Photography Art Centre in the Caochangdi art district of Beijing, the premier platform for international communication. They also started the annual Three Shadows Photography Award to discover and encourage China's most promising photographers. RongRong & inri received the Outstanding Contribution to Photography prize at the 2016 Sony World Photography Awards.

**For press enquiries and to arrange interviews, please contact Bo Kim on [bo@10chancerylanegallery.com](mailto:bo@10chancerylanegallery.com) or +852 2810 0065.**

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