

This is the portrait of the artist as a young man. Shingo Yoshida was born in 1974 (nineteen hundred and seventy-four) - the same year a group of people chose to carry a giant stone to the highest peak of Mount Fuji, the "Emblem of Japan" that has been revered since ancient times. This symbolic gesture executed by the artist's father – and grandfather – was as reckless as the young artist's decision 23 (twenty-three) years later to leave his country of birth and to move to France.

His artistic work is from the beginning largely autobiographical, the long list of travels and exhibitions describes accurately the process by which a young man reaches maturity and self-awareness. But the exhibition shows something more, this is an invitation "au voyage".

Shingo Yoshida is not walking alone, we are always on his side, travelling with him carefully in the movement of the images, we are freezing with him as he climbs to the top of Mount Fuji, we are starving with him, then resting together - with him and with the ghosts. We are looking out over the wide sea of clouds, we are walking in the night with him and abandoning our fears in the darkness...

Like Dedalus, the genius artist and fictional alter ego of his creator, the Irish poet James Joyce, Shingo Yoshida is "A man of genius (who) makes no mistakes. His errors are volitional and are the portals of discovery". Like Deadalus, the famous figure of Greek mythology and father of Icarus, Shingo Yoshida bravely ventures into the labyrinth of landscapes and cities, and we are following him to the exit, gently climbing to the summit of the mountain and/or wandering through the gallery space. Shingo Yoshida is also this impressionist painter, thirsting for panoramas and freedom. He is this photographer who paints and draws with light, he is literally that camera man who continuously fixes everything throughout his journeys, his body is a photo tripod, his head the camera and his eyes the lens, he can't help but think of the world in artistic and poetic frames.

Since this first mile-stone, lead by his forefathers, the artist travels the world in search of the marvellous, he represents the ability to wander, detached from the society with no other purpose than to be an acute observer of the particular.

Strolling through the cities of the world, Shingo Yoshida is a Flâneur, an urban explorer but he can also contemplate a landscape, look at a stone, peruse a forest or walk over the clouds. But listen carefully, the artist is talking and this is not a

monologue. His language is a vocabulary of images, it is also a language coloured with lights.

"Summit" – the name of this exhibition does not only mean the peak of a mountain, it also means a meeting, and this is exactly what happens tonight. We are here – attentive viewers – reunited to celebrate the artist Shingo Yoshida and his own vision of the world. And we are here – attentive listeners – reunited with Shingo Yoshida, exactly 23 (twenty-three) years after he left to live his dreams.

Pierre Granoux, artist-curator

(started in Gibraltar, finished in Berlin, Jan 28 — Feb 4, 2020)