

GREAT BEAUTY SPEAKS NOT: A Solo Exhibition by Arashi Tanaka

Exhibition dates 18 September–1 November, 2025 (Viewing by appointment only)

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Venue 70 Square Metres, G/F, 41 Hengshan Road, Shanghai, China

SHANGHAI—70 Square Metres is pleased to present *Great Beauty Speaks Not*, a solo exhibition by Arashi Tanaka, who is the fourth artist in our residency programme. The exhibition's title, from Zhuangzi's “天地有大美而不言”, reflects Tanaka's artistic philosophy. During his residency in Shanghai, the quiet presence of nature, such as the dappled light in the residency studio, spring rain, and humid air, inspired a deeper meditation on how beauty speaks without words. Like classical Taoism, Tanaka's crystals materialise silently, their forms shaped by the quiet rhythm and unseen vibrations.

Blending photography, sculpture, and organic chemistry, Tanaka's work crystallises the invisible poetry of existence—from heartbeats, rainfall, and memory—into tangible forms. His process begins with photographic portraits or landscapes, which are then submerged in a solution in which sound waves from the individual's pulse or ambient recordings guide the growth of crystals across the image. The resulting works exist as frozen dialogues between humanity and nature, preserving ephemeral moments as lasting beings.

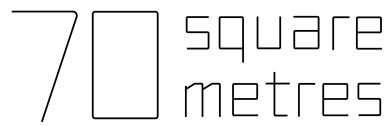
In his *Portrait* series, the crystalline growth is guided by human heartbeats, translating intimate rhythms into visual topography. In his *Seascape* series, the coastal atmospheres are preserved through seawater-infused solutions and submerged sound recordings.

“To work with crystals is to capture a silent beauty that dissolves into the everyday,” says Tanaka. “Within each piece, there are subtle images that emerge—traces, atmospheres, and a quiet presence. The viewer is invited to follow these impressions sensorially, encountering the unseen: a sound, a memory, a breath. It is within this silent resonance with nature that my work finds meaning.”

About the Artist

Born in 2000 in Fukuoka, Japan, Arashi Tanaka obtained a Graduate Diploma in Fine Art at the University of the Arts London in 2024. Currently, he lives and works in Tokyo, Japan.

Tanaka has developed his artistic practice primarily through crystallisation, sometimes integrating photography and architecture. His works leverage the phenomena and inherent characteristics of nature to explore expression while investigating and pursuing the ephemeral and pure beauty of nature. This inspiration stems from his deep connection with nature, beginning with surfing from the age of three, which has shaped his sense of distance and his appreciation for the beauty of nature.



About 70 Square Metres

70 Square Metres is a new gallery space in Shanghai by gallerist Pearl Lam that houses artist residency programmes and provides an opportunity for emerging non-residency artists to exhibit their work. Located in the historic former French Concession, the space represents Lam's ongoing dedication to nurturing creativity and promoting underrepresented voices while fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. The residency programme underscores the gallerist's ongoing commitment to strengthening connections between the East and West, as well as other areas of the world such as Africa. Lam believes that art transcends borders with its power to communicate with people of all cultures and nations.

Pearl Lam, Founder of 70 Square Metres, says, "By welcoming artists from various countries, disciplines, and stages in their careers, we create a vibrant environment where ideas and different perspectives flourish. This initiative not only enriches our community but also contributes to the broader cultural landscape. We provide residents with the time, space, and resources they need to dive deeply into their work, explore new mediums, and create innovative and expressive works."

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