

## out of the ordinary / extraordinary: japanese contemporary photography

Pregnant men posing in a fertility clinic; strangers photographed from outside the windows of their homes; a young woman dressing up in various fashion trends of Japanese teenagers, exploring the superficial concept of "youth". Through their photographic works 11 Japanese artists, mostly from the younger generation, try to give a new form of expression to the complexities of our ever-changing world and the instability of Japanese society behind the façade of economic prosperity. They question the very things in their own world and society that they have long accepted as 'obvious' and attempt to validate and reconstruct them by a process that reassesses the 'relationship' between the artist and these diverse elements. With such diverse values and viewpoints, the artistic expression of these artists might appear too subtle to notice, but their work undoubtedly contains some 'premonition of the future'.



Yokomizo Shizuka,  
*Stranger No.23*, 2000



Sawada Tomoko, from the  
series "*OMIAI ♡*", 2001



Sugiura Kunié, Yayoi Kusama  
*A ρ*, from the series "*The Artist  
Papers*", 2003

### List of Artists:

Miyako Ishiuchi, Hiroko Okada, Yuki Onodera, Tomoko Sawada, Kunie Sugiura, Ryudai Takano, Yo Mi Chin, Shunsaku Hishikari, Shizuka Yokomizo, Keizo Motoda, Tomoko Yoneda

### Host venues 2009-2010:

Gallery Oldham, Oldham – 24<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Millais Gallery, Southampton – 16<sup>th</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, Rugby – 13<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Oriel Wrexam, Wrexham – 5<sup>th</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Civic, Barnsley – 19<sup>th</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010



out of the ordinary / extraordinary on display at the Civic (left) and Rugby Art Gallery and Museum (right)