

Chika & Ichio Usui_CV

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- Chika was born in 1988, in Fukuoka Prefecture. Ichio was born in 1983, in Yamagata Prefecture. Both graduated from the Department of Photographic Fine Arts at the Japan Institute of Photography and Film. In 2016, the couple started collaborative production as Chika & Ichio Usui. They are based in Kansai, Japan.
- Following a six year career in the field of prosthetics and orthotics, Chika became inspired to become a photographer and entered a photography college. Chika is the only "Scarecrow Photographer - Creator" in the world, and is also active as a goodwill ambassador for Okuharima Scarecrow Village in Japan, famous for its scarecrow populations.

In 2019, Chika was invited to exhibit her works at WonderFotoDay in Taiwan, as part of the Taipei International Photography Arts Exchange Festival.

In 2020, Chika was selected for the second time in a row to participate in the KG+ "Select 10 Artists" exhibition, part of the annual KYOTOGRAPHIE international photography festival in Kyoto, Japan.

- Ichio worked as a sales and systems engineer at a system integrator, then transferred to a web company and started photography at the same time. While continuing his work, he attended photography school to learn more about photography. Upon graduating, he changed his career to become a serious photographer. In 2015, Ichio held a solo exhibition entitled "Kiseki - The Miracles," at the Wide Gallery & Studio in Kobe, Japan. He has received many other awards, both in Japan and overseas.
- As the collaborative duo, "Chika & Ichio Usui," they were included in the KG+ "Select 12 Artists" category, and held a solo exhibition in Kyoto during the 2019 KYOTOGRAPHIE international photography festival. Afterwards, they were selected to receive the Paris Gallery First Floor Award, from more than 200 participating artists included in the KG + "Select 12 Artists" category, as well as the entire KG + exhibition. In November 2019, they held a solo exhibition in the Saint-Germain-des-Prés district in Paris, France.

- Solo Exhibitions -

2019 "Communities bound together by a common destiny" (BERGONZO FIRST LOOR, Paris)

2019 "運命共同体 - Communities bound together by a common destiny -"
(KYOTOGRAPHIE KG+SELECT, Kyoto)

- Group Exhibitions & Art Fair -

2019 "KG+ IN TOKYO" (Art-U room, Tokyo)

2019 "fotofever" (Carrousel du Louvre, Paris)

- Awards -

2019 KYOTOGRAPHIE KG+SELECT 2019 12Artists, and 2019 Paris Gallery First Floor Award