



Alfo Maeta Photography

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People discussed about the Aether theory from the 17th century to the 19th century. The theory assumed that there was a substance in every empty space for propagating lights and gravity. Now, the discussion became unimportant. Because of the development of the theory of relativity, we don't need to postulate the existence of the Aether.

In 2007, I moved to Yamagata prefecture in Tohoku from Tokyo. When I left the big city and started the new life in the nature-rich countryside, I felt the difference in air. The air in Yamagata is so fresh. I have been unconscious of the air before though I got to re-realize how important the air was. Vaguely, I became to think that I want to take pictures of the 'air'.

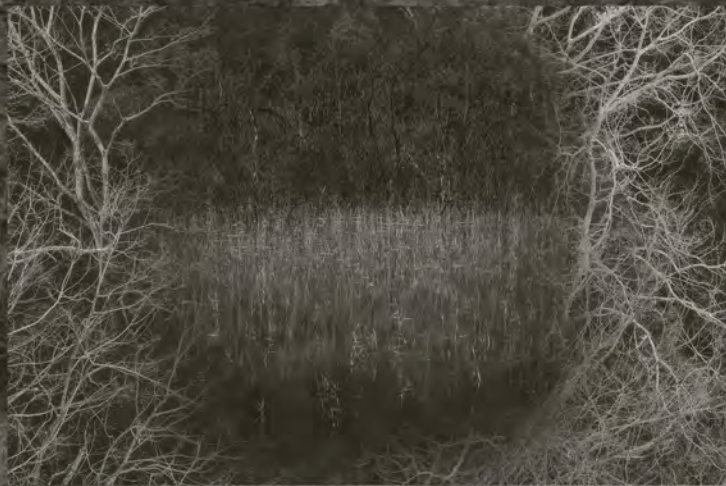
For starters, I tried to see the 'air' itself. Obviously, focusing on the midair was really difficult.

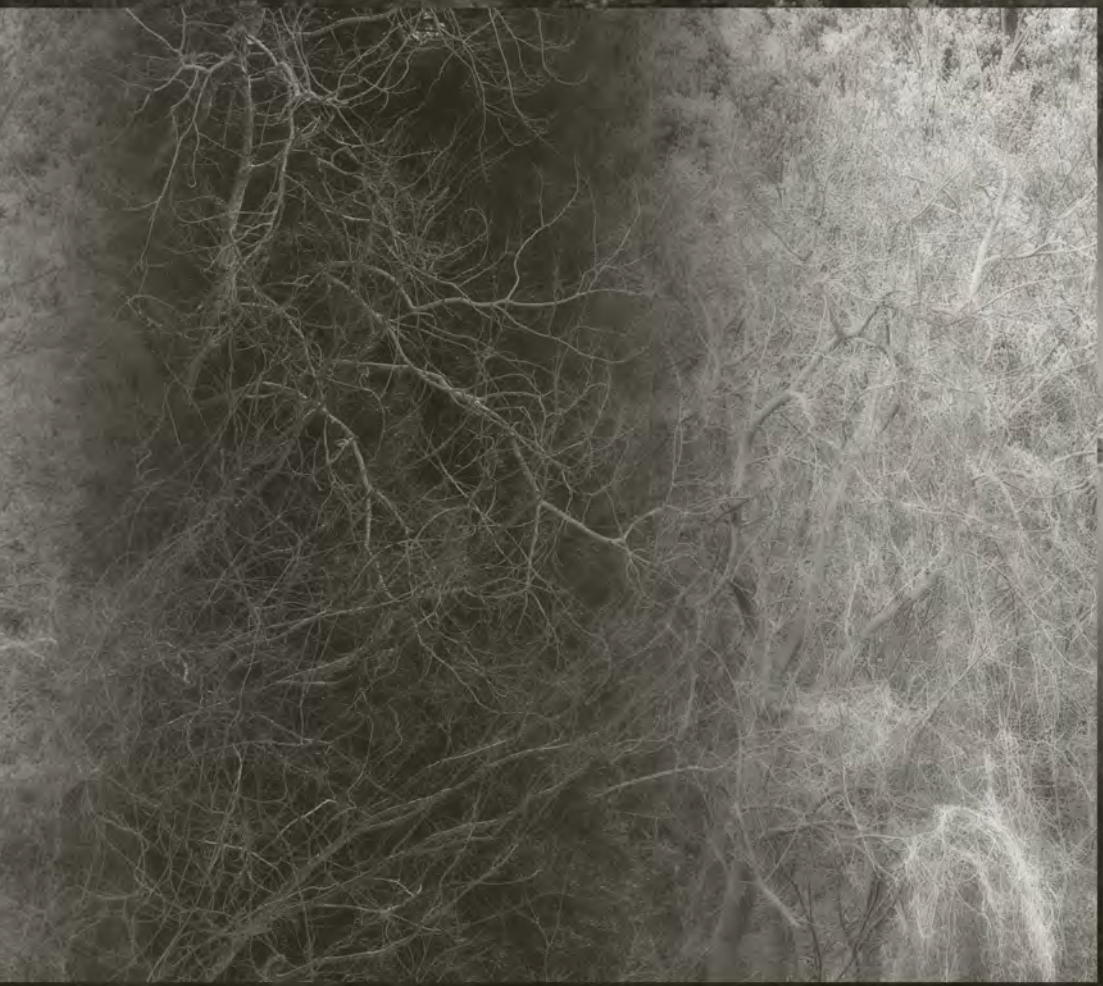
Soon after, I got to be attracted with shoji, a sliding paper door in my house in Yamagata.

Shoji is a Japanese traditional sliding door, covering wood frames with thin hand-made Japanese paper. They have commonly been used in traditional Japanese architecture since the late 12th century. We enjoy seeing through to outside from half-opened shoji or feeling the sun light sheering gently from outside. Naturally, we have been aware of inside and out dividing by shoji. Having it in our lives, we have grown our love for four seasons in Japan. On the process of making one work from two pictures, I used the concept of shoji in my photographs this time. In the photo, there is one piece of Washi, Japanese paper with which separated inside and out. When I took pictures I focused on the air instead of Washi. Generally, when people see pictures, their eyes and consciousness go to one focus. But I put two different focuses in my photos. By doing this, I can configure an aspect in my head and it will be easier to focus on the midair. I tried to make my works be seen like that.

As I found out how fresh the air was, I got to be conscious about the 'air'. Normally we can't see it. Even though there seems nothing exist out there, there sure is the 'air' in everywhere. Now we are struggling and fighting with the fear of invisible radiation after the Great East Earthquake. It's time for us to concern about something invisible. I tried to express the 'air' in my photographs because I wanted people to think of the invisible things and think how to deal with them more.







# Profile / Alfo Maeta



1974 born in Tokyo, Japan  
1994 enter department of physics, Keio Univ.  
2007 Moved to Yamagata Tohoku from Tokyo.  
2011 The Tohoku earthquake.

A member of...

JAPAN



**SAMURAI FOTO**  
JAPAN FINE ART PRINT CLUB

We make the original print work is recognized in the world Art market. Shoot on the basis of a clear concept, and continue to make a series of photographs were printed boutwith one's own hands. The intention while holding a photo exhibition in Japan and abroad, Japanese photos are recognized widely as art work. It is a conception of founding SAMURAI FOTO.



## Contact Information

Alfo Maeta

Yamagata pref., **Japan**

email : alfo@mac.com / a.maeta@samurai-foto.jp

<http://aircushion.jp/>

<http://maeta.samurai-foto.jp/>