



Shen Chao-Liang Photography Exhibition Floating Voyage: Unfinished Island Magic

浮航：未竟的島嶼魔幻

Exhibition Period: Friday, November 20, 2026 – Monday, March 1, 2027



STAGE #121 Kaohsiung, Taiwan. 2022

■ Overview

This exhibition presents the works of Shen Chao-Liang, one of Taiwan's leading photographers.

The people of Taiwan, who have experienced successive changes in rule and the movement of people and cultures, have embraced diverse cultural traditions. The social landscape resembles an island floating on a history that is still unfolding, rocked by waves and seemingly anchored nowhere, yet continually seeking to chart its own course.

This exhibition focuses on three representative photographic series by Shen Chao-Liang that offer a deep exploration of Taiwan's folk culture. In STAGE (2006–2023), Singers & Stages (2005–2008), and Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes (2005–2023), Shen photographs the fold-out, mobile stage trucks that appear at temple ceremonies, weddings, funerals, and local festivals across Taiwan. Through many years of field-work, these works capture not only the stage trucks but also the daily lives of the performers who live alongside them, traveling from place to place. These large vehicles, which suddenly appear on the streets and instantly transform the city into a colorful and lively stage, embody the energetic culture of Taiwan—a culture deeply intertwined with its history and daily life.

Furthermore, taking the early representative work Tsukiji Fish Market (1993–2023) featured in this exhibition as its starting point, the exhibition will travel from Tokyo to South Korea and Brazil. We hope this traveling photo exhibition, carrying the still-unfinished history of the island, will spark new dialogue among people who have lived through different histories.

We kindly request that you feature this exhibition in an article in your publication.



■ General Information

Title	: Shen Chao-Liang Photography Exhibition: Floating Voyage – Unfinished Island Magic
Venue	: GALLERY A ⁴ (A-quad) , 1-1-1 Shinsuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo 136-0075
Period	: Friday, November 20, 2026 – Monday, March 1, 2027
Opening Hours	: 10 : 00—18 : 00 (17 : 00 on Saturdays and the final day, and 20:30 on November 20 (Fri.) and January 22 (Fri.))
Closed	: Sundays, national holidays, and December 26 (Sat.) to January 3 (Sun.)
Admission	: Free
Organizer	: Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Gallery A ⁴
Cooperation	: Ministry of Culture, Taiwan
Support	: Koto Ward
Contact	: Gallery A ⁴ Office Tel. 03-6660-6011
E - m a i l	: gallery_PR@a-quad.jp
Official Website	: https://www.a-quad.jp

■ Highlights

Along with three representative series capturing Taiwanese popular culture, this exhibition introduces the artist's early masterpiece, Tsukiji Fish Market. With over 160 works on display, this marks the first large-scale exhibition of Shen's work in Japan.

1 Tsukiji Fish Market 1993–2023

An early series of photographs that Shen began during his time studying in Japan. At Tsukiji Market, which he has visited frequently from 1993 to the present, he documented the auctions and distribution processes—which have since disappeared—as well as the people who worked there. This exhibition features 39 platinum prints from the series.

2 STAGE 2006–2023

Shen photographed the fold-out, mobile stage trucks used in temple rituals and for weddings, funerals, and other ceremonial occasions, capturing them in fields and temple forecourts at dusk, far from the frenzy of lively performances. The moment the stage is opened, this apparatus temporarily transforms the spatial order of an ordinary landscape.

3 Singers & Stages 2005–2008

Portraits of singers touring various regions are juxtaposed with the mobile stage trucks that serve as their workplaces. From a detached, documentary-like perspective, the series examines the relationship between the stage apparatus and the performers working within it, bringing to light the connections between people, labor, the stage, and local communities.

4 Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes 2005–2023

Through long-term fieldwork, Shen captured the performers' daily lives—changing costumes, eating meals, and caring for children—portraying how they live while navigating the balance between making a living and family life.



■ Profile

Shen Chao-Liang

Shen Chao-Liang, born in 1968 in Tainan, Taiwan, was graduated from the Graduate Institute of Applied Media Arts at the National Taiwan University of Arts. He has held various positions, including a photojournalist and Deputy Convener for the Liberty Times, Resident Artist at the Central University, adjunct associate professor at the National Taiwan University of Arts and Taipei National University of the Arts, Convener of the Photo ONE Taipei International Image Art Festival, and a member of the Board of Directors of the 9th & 10th National Culture and Arts Foundation, Taiwan. Currently, in addition to his involvement in image education, creation, review, research, and promotion of international exchanges, he is also invited to host workshops and curate exhibitions. He serves as a professor in the Photography and VR Design Department at Huaan University.



In 2001, he released the "Reflections of Nan-Fang-Ao" series for the first time, followed by the publication of several major photography works, including "YULAN Magnolia Flower" (2008), "Tsukiji Fish Market" (2010), "STAGE" (2011), "Singers & Stages" (2013), "Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes" (2016), and Shimmering Lights in the Dark: Historical Sites from the Authoritarian Period - Ankang Reception House / Xindian Military Prison (2024). He has received numerous awards for his photography, including the Golden Tripod Awards in the Magazine Photography category from the Government Information Bureau and the Ministry of Culture in 2000, 2002, and 2012, the Japan Sagami-hara Photography Asian Awards in 2004, the Best Foreign Photographer Award at the Donggang International Photo Festival in South Korea in 2006, Artists Wanted: The Year in Photography Award in New York in 2011, the First Prize in the Professional Book Documentary Category at the International Photography Awards (IPA) in the United States in 2012, the Wu San-Lien Award in 2015, and the 2024 International Award of Photographic Society of Japan.

■ Related Events

□ Talk Show "Floating Voyage: A Magic of Shen Chao-Liang"

- Date** : Friday, November 20, 2026, 18:30 - 20:00
- Panelists** : Shen Chao-Liang (Photographer, Professor,
Department of Photography and VR Design, Huaan University)
Ito Toshiharu (Art Historian)
Minato Chihito (Photographer)
- Moderator** : Okabe Michio (Director, Gallery A⁴)
- Venue** : Toyochi green+ 2F Hall (2-5-14 Minamisuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo)
- Admission** : Free
- Capacity** : 100 people Application required (first-come, first-served)
- Application** : From 10:00 on Monday, October 19 on the official website

□ Talk Show "The Photography of Shen Chao-Liang: Subjects and Approaches"

- Date** : Friday, January 22, 2027, 18:00 - 20:00
- Panelists** : Shen Chao-Liang (Photographer, Professor,
Department of Photography and VR Design, Huaan University)
Suganuma Hiroshi (Curator, Professor at Musashino Art University)
Kobayashi Sayuri (Researcher, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo)
Shen Yu-Rung (Critic, Assistant Professor,
Department of Photography and VR Design, Huaan University)
- Venue** : Toyochi green+ 2F Hall (2-5-14 Minamisuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo)
- Admission** : Free
- Capacity** : 100 people Application required (first-come, first-served)
- Application** : From 10:00 on Monday, October 19 on the official website





■ 広報用画像



1. Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo, Japan. Jul, 1994



2. Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo, Japan. Nov, 1995



3. Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo, Japan. Feb, 2006



4. Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo, Japan. Jan, 2009



5. Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo, Japan. Oct, 2023



6. Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo, Japan. Feb, 2006



7.



8.

7. Tsukiji Fish Market,
Tokyo, Japan. Jun, 1994

8. Tsukiji Fish Market,
Tokyo, Japan. May, 1994



9. STAGE #121 Kaohsiung, Taiwan. 2022



10. STAGE #99 Chiayi, Taiwan. 2009



11. STAGE #21 Tainan, Taiwan. 2009



12. STAGE #97 Taichung, Taiwan. 2011



13. STAGE #68 Tainan, Taiwan. 2008



■ 広報用画像



14. Singers & Stages
Singer Angel Tainan, Taiwan. 2008



15. Singers & Stages
Stage #34, Yunlin, Taiwan. 2008



16. Singers & Stages
Singer Kao Ya Tainan, Taiwan 2008



17. Singers & Stages
Stage #41 Taichung, Taiwan 2008



18. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
Song and dance performance takes place within a crowded night market, where pedestrians and vehicles navigate the narrow space.
New Taipei, Taiwan. Sep. 2020



19. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
Condolence wreaths in the light of dawn.
Chiayi, Taiwan. Dec, 2008



20. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
A group pole-dance performance.
New Taipei, Taiwan. Mar. 2006



21. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
A kid sits on his dad's shoulder attentively watching her performance.
New Taipei, Taiwan. Feb. 2006



22. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
A pole dancer returns backstage to rest after finishing her performance.
Taipei, Taiwan. Feb. 2012



23. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
Worshippers on the edge of a city hold umbrellas in a country field waiting for deities to pass by.
New Taipei, Taiwan. May, 2006



24. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
A professional mourner kneels in front of the coffin in the house of a family in mourning.
Chiayi, Taiwan. Jul, 2008



25. Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes
A pole dancer hangs in the air with the strength of her legs.
Taipei, Taiwan. Dec, 2005