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ä, ä / Unmoving

This is the first personal exhibition by the thirtysomething photographer Chuang Kun-ju. After ten years of creative effort, images like poetry tell of the emotional world of æœunmovingâ€• plants.

November 22 (Saturday) to December 4 (Thursday), 2008  
Hong-Chong photo gallery Taipei  
Taipei City, DaAn District, RenAi Road, Section 4, No. 396-1  
Daily from 10:00-18:00, closed Mondays.

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Opening: November 22, 2008 at 14:30.

Multimedia slide show: November 22, 2008 at 16:30. (Live classical guitar performance by Tsou Shih-Lieh .)

Lecture: November 29 at 14:00, "The Beauty of Taiwan's Environment" by the Society of Wilderness.

~... No congratulatory flowers please, save the planet!

Note: All the black and white photos in this exhibit were enlarged personally by the photographer using fiber-based paper. All proceeds from this exhibition, after deducting costs, will be donated to the Society of Wilderness.

### Creative Concept

Since the issue of global warming has entered the spotlight, people have started to pay attention to the importance of CO2 emissions.

Plants, which have been growing on this planet for millions and millions of years, absorb CO2 and transform it into the oxygen that animals need. In this collection of photographs, I try to show the life and death of the land's plants. Presenting a dialectical relationship, I investigate whether plants are "moving" or "unmoving." Should we use a con- time experienced by animals (seconds)? Or should we take the perspective of plants (years)? I hope that this series of photos will be able to express a cycle of life and death similar to that of animals, rather than the stereotype of "unmoving" that most people have.

The photos provide a "slice of life," an incision into, an autopsy of, this "unmoving," whether it be the roots that have clambered up the walls of Fort Zeelandia in Tainan, or the contours of grass portrayed on floor tiles. The marks that Time leaves on plants are this deep, it's just that people have been slow in realizing it.

If people are blind to the secrets of plants' slow motion, incapable of taking note of their small changes, then how are we to truly understand that they, like us, are living beings and that we are ultimately part of the same life community?

Time is fixed by film. Plants that lived at some moment in the past are already very different plants today.

Some may have withered and died. Others may have grown two centimeters. Still others may have spread unchecked to cover human ruins.

I think that in 10 million years time mankind will have long gone extinct. But these unmoving life forms will still sprout shoots.

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