



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 14
20-23 MARCH 2024
WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

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THOUGHTS FROM THE SET:
NINAGAWA MIKA

Japanese director and photographer, **Ninagawa Mika**, will be a guest at the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival**, presenting the Italian edition of her autobiography *Becoming Ninagawa Mika*, published by Cue Press. The book, translated by Corrado Cucchi, is edited by festival director Roberta Novielli and Francesco Vitucci. During the event, film producer and distributor, **Kusakabe Keiko**, will talk with Ninagawa about the most significant moments of her artistic career.

Ninagawa Mika, whose influence also extends to the worlds of film, fashion and music, is considered the first photographer to achieve pop icon status in Japan. She has been interested in photography since her childhood and has always been fascinated by the way this artistic medium manages to combine emotions with what is photographed. A *graphic design* graduate from Tama Art University, she made her debut in the late 1990s as part of the "Onnanoko shashin" movement that consisted of photographs taken by young women depicting scenes of everyday life. Known for her vivid, psychedelic colours and dreamlike atmospheres, Ninagawa's subjects mainly focus on the natural world, particularly cherry blossoms and female figures. Her work has a powerful visual impact and won her the prestigious Kimura Ihei Prize at the age of only twenty-nine. Since her international debut in France in 1997, her photographs have continued to fascinate the public with various exhibitions and installations such as *Mika Ninagawa: Earthly Flowers, Heavenly Colors, Three Rooms* and the more recent *Eternity in a Moment*: an impressive immersive installation that aims to embody the artist's creative approach.

A multifaceted artist, her distinctive use of colour has also become a iconic feature of her work as a film and music video director. She combines visual research with depth of meaning and made her debut in 2007 with the film *Sakuran*, followed in 2012 by *Helter Skelter*. Based on a manga by Okazaki Kyōko, the film delves into the obsessive search for beauty and raises questions about the objectification of women in contemporary Japanese society. In 2019, she released *Diner* and *No Longer Human*- the latter an adaptation of Dazai Osamu's novel- and the Netflix series, *Followers*, came out the following year. Her latest film is *xxxHolic* (2022), another adaptation of a famous manga. Ninagawa has made several music videos, most famously, AKB48, and published numerous photography books.