

Press Release: August 2024

## **RINKO KAWAUCHI : AT THE EDGE OF THE EVERYDAY WORLD**

19 October 2024 to 16 February 2025



*Image 1. Untitled. From the series M-E. © Rinko Kawauchi*

Celebrating over twenty years of extraordinary practice, internationally acclaimed Japanese photographer Rinko Kawauchi will be showing at Arnolfini as part of Bristol Photo Festival in Autumn 2024, marking her first major UK exhibition.

Kawauchi's photographs often focus on finding beauty in the ordinary moments of everyday life. Her work is characterised by a poetic, dreamlike quality that imbues mundane scenes and objects with a sense of wonder and transcendence.

Centred around the series *M/E* – letters which stand for both ‘Mother’ and ‘Earth’ and ‘Me’ – the exhibition moves between explorations of the natural world’s fragile beauty to the gentle rhythm of domestic scenes, capturing the connections and continuity of life on this ‘planet we call home’.

Kawauchi began shooting *M/E* in 2019, drawing upon images shot on location of Iceland’s volcanoes and ice floes and Hokkaido’s snowy landscapes, alongside scenes of everyday home life from the COVID-19 pandemic, inviting visitors to reconsider what we think we know about the workings of human life and our relationship with nature.

*At the edge of the everyday world* highlights the small, personal movements within our lives that go on to create larger, universal journeys, bringing together photographic prints, text and video works from latest *M/E* and earlier seminal series *Ametsuchi* and *A/LLA*, alongside the film installation *Illuminance*, an eternally unfinished work revealing Kawauchi’s astonishing oeuvre.

A showcase of Kawauchi’s photobooks, which encompass over thirty titles, creates a further journey through her long career, exploring her work through both imagery and text.

Kawauchi’s poetic photography finds a lyricism within our ordinary lives, grounded within explorations of care, identity and environmental sustainability – which also lie at the heart of Arnolfini’s programme – inspiring audiences to reconsider our fragile relationship to the universe, ecology and time, whilst drawing micro and macro connections between the everyday and profound moments that constitute our lives.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a new publication, including newly commissioned texts and images of exhibited works drawn from *M/E*, *A/LLA*, *Ametsuchi* and *Illuminance*.

*At the edge of the everyday world* is part of Bristol Photo Festival an international biennial of contemporary photography. The exhibition and publication are kindly supported by The Japan Foundation.

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For further information please contact Sara Blair | [sara.blair@arnolfini.org.uk](mailto:sara.blair@arnolfini.org.uk)

Additional images are available [here https://bit.ly/RinkoKawauchiArnolfini](https://bit.ly/RinkoKawauchiArnolfini)

[@ArnolfiniArts](#) Instagram / Threads / [Linkedin](#) / [Facebook](#) /  
[www.arnolfini.org.uk](http://www.arnolfini.org.uk)

#### LISTING:

Rinko Kawauchi : *At the edge of the everyday world*

19 October 2024 to 16 February 2025

Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm. Free, donations welcome.

Internationally acclaimed Japanese photographer Rinko Kawauchi will be showing at Arnolfini as part of Bristol Photo Festival, marking her first major UK survey exhibition in 18 years. *At the edge of the everyday world* moves between explorations of the natural world's fragile beauty to the gentle rhythm of domestic scenes, capturing the connections and continuity of life on this 'planet we call home'.

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

[arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk) [@ArnolfiniArts](#)

Images here <https://bit.ly/RinkoKawauchiArnolfini>

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Rinko Kawauchi

Rinko Kawauchi (born 1972) is a renowned Japanese photographer lives and works in Chiba, Japan. She graduated from Seian University of Art and Design in 1993.

Kawauchi's photographs often focus on finding beauty in the ordinary moments of everyday life. Her work is characterised by a poetic, dreamlike quality that imbues mundane scenes and objects with a sense of wonder and transcendence.

She has had numerous solo exhibitions around the world, including shows at the Fotografiska in Stockholm (2024), Christophe Guye Galerie in Zurich (2022), Ametsuchi Illuminance Aila Utatane", PRISKA PASQUER PARIS, Paris (2023) "M/E", Photo Days, Fondazione Sozzani, Paris (2023) Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition, Somerset House, London (2023), Aperture Gallery in New York (2013), and the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (2012). Her work has been included in the Daegu Photo Biennale (2012) and Deutsche Börse Photography Prize (2012).

Kawauchi's publications include acclaimed photobooks such as *Illuminance* (2011), *Ametsuchi* (2013), *Halo* (2017), and *M/E On this sphere Endlessly interlinking* (2022). Her work is held in the collections of major institutions like the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, and the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum.

She has received prestigious honors such as the ICP Infinity Award for Art (2009), an Honorary Fellowship from The Royal Photographic Society (2012), and the Higashikawa Award Domestic Photographer Award (2013). Kawauchi recently received the Sony World Photography Award 2023 with a solo exhibition at Somerset House, London. [rinkokawauchi.com](http://rinkokawauchi.com)

## About Bristol Photo Festival

Bristol Photo Festival is an international biennial of contemporary photography. They organise a programme of exhibitions, talks and workshops, bringing together leading photographic voices from across the world. Alongside this work, they develop long-term projects in collaboration with local communities. There is no hierarchy between the engagement and exhibition programmes – both are treated with the same care, rigour and level resource.

As an organisation, Bristol Photo Festival believes in the power of photography as a tool to experience the world anew. The mission is to present nuanced and unexpected stories that foster greater understanding of shared pasts, presents and futures. Their work is internationally-focused yet locally grounded, built from the urgencies of our city and its inhabitants. As a platform, they support artists to experiment, creating work that breaks with convention, exploring the possibilities of photography as a political tool today.

The second edition of Bristol Photo Festival — *The World A Wave* — will open in Autumn 2024. Focussing upon the theme of movement, exhibitions will be held across the city's major visual arts institutions alongside independent and unconventional spaces accompanied by a wide events programme.

The exhibition programme focuses on personal and collective stories of communities confronting societal change whilst navigating daily life. The first confirmed exhibiting artists are: Akosua Viktoria Adu Sanyah, Kirsty Mackay, Amak Mahmoodian, Trent Parke, Sarker Protick and Hashem Shakeri. Each artist addresses a world in constant motion where social, political and environmental conditions are ever-evolving. The full line-up will be released in July 2024.

*'I believe in photography as a tool to experience the world anew. In a time of multiple crises, we need photography more than ever. I want the festival to be a space full of nuanced and unexpected stories that foster greater understanding of our shared world.'*

Alejandro Acin, festival director.

The festival has an international focus but is grounded in the city of Bristol. For this edition, alongside the exhibition programme, the festival is collaborating with local residents and port workers from Avonmouth to create a community archive, accompanied by a programme of creative activities. The festival, in collaboration with Prison Education, will present The Prison Mobile Library, an educational photography project across three sites in the South West of England.

The festival opening week will take place between 16 to 20 October 2024 and will include reception events and artist talks across the city. Following this, all exhibitions will remain open for a duration of 1 to 3 months.

**[bristolphotofestival.org](http://bristolphotofestival.org)**

## About Arnolfini

Woven into the fabric of Bristol since 1961, Arnolfini is an international centre of interdisciplinary contemporary arts, presenting an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of visual art, performance, dance, film, and music.

Housed in Bush House, a prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century former warehouse on the city's harbourside, Arnolfini is a pioneering, inspiring public space for arts and learning, offering an innovative, inclusive and engaging experience for all.

Arnolfini has welcomed artists from around world throughout its history – sharing works by Paula Rego, Jannis Kounellis, John Akomfrah, Grayson Perry, Rachel Whiteread, Peter Doig, Richard Long, Veronica Ryan, Chantal Joffe, Sonia Boyce, Alice Kettle and Frank Bowling, to name just a few - as well as supporting talent from in and around Bristol.

Alongside its main programme, Arnolfini is a centre of everyday creativity and learning, working with a wide range of community and artistic partners, while continuing to explore and develop new collaborations across the city and beyond. Spaces are used regularly by families, schools and colleges, health and wellbeing groups.

Through sharing a 63+ year archive of exhibition slides, publications and an extensive artist book collection, Arnolfini celebrates its heritage and the wide-reaching impact the organisation has had since its foundation.

The team at Arnolfini strive to honour founder Jeremy Rees' principle to 'Enjoy Yourself', welcoming everyone into the accessible space, and inviting engagement, in any number of ways.

Arnolfini is part of the University of the West of England and a key element of their City Campus.

An independent charity (CIO), Arnolfini is supported by Arts Council England and the Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust. [www.arnolfini.org.uk](http://www.arnolfini.org.uk)

### **About The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)**

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) has a global and inclusive outlook, with approximately 38,000 students and strong industry networks and connections with over 1,000 employers. Research at UWE Bristol focuses on real world problems and the University plays a pivotal role in the regional economy. With over £400 million invested in infrastructure, buildings and facilities across all campuses in the past 10 years, UWE Bristol is creating a place for learning that is innovative, ambitious, connected, enabling and inclusive. The University is a '1st Class' university for sustainability, ranked 11th out of 151 higher education institutions in People & Planet's latest sustainability league table. [www.uwe.ac.uk](http://www.uwe.ac.uk)

### **About Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £440 million of public money from Government and an estimated £93 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk).



## About Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust

Arnolfini has been supported by a linked charity, the Ashley Clinton Barker Mills Trust (ACBMT) for almost 60 years.

Arnolfini founders Jeremy and Annabel Rees were first introduced to the artists and benefactors Peter and Caroline Barker-Mill in 1963, by the London gallerist Lesley Waddington. It was a fortuitous meeting that was the catalyst in allowing Arnolfini to develop from a small volunteer-run private gallery into a major international arts centre.

The Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust (ACBMT) principle is to work with Arnolfini, primarily by making annual grants from the income earned on its investments, as well as funding modest, one-off capital grants to help the Arnolfini transition to its current financial model. In more recent years members of the ACBMT have become more involved working with Arnolfini to help plan its future.  
[www.arnolfini.org.uk/about/ashley-clinton-barker-mills-trust](http://www.arnolfini.org.uk/about/ashley-clinton-barker-mills-trust)