

## **TOKIHIRO SATO: *Photographic Light Panels***

**6 January – 26 February, 2005**

Opening Reception: Thursday, 6 January, 2005: 5.30 — 7.30 pm

San Francisco — Haines Gallery is excited to present the work of Tokihiro Sato in his first West Coast solo exhibition. Using an 8-x-10-inch camera fitted with a darkening filter, he makes lengthy exposures of up to two hours. During that time, he moves through the landscape, pausing periodically, counting to ten, with a mirror to reflect sunlight back at the camera. A reflective triangular frame is mounted around the camera lens so he can see whether the light is being accurately reflected at the camera. Because Sato remains in slow but constant motion throughout the long exposure, he is invisible in the photograph. Only the points of light testify to his movement.

The resulting images are large and medium scale black-and-white transparencies lit from behind — a stunning format that underlines the role of light in the image. This exhibition showcases ten of these transparencies in a minimal but arresting installation that surveys a variety of landscapes, seascapes, and cityscapes. Sato sees the work as sculptural and himself as a sculptor whose material is space and light: “I only shoot landscapes, certain objects and light in my photographs. Even so, these photographs have a distinct human element. The light becomes volume, while the light traces I make as I move around represent the passage of time, creating a sculpture in space.”

Sato’s work is held in numerous public and private collections including, among others, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography; Hara Museum of Art, Tokyo; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Images available upon request.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 10.30 – 5.30 pm, Saturday 10.30 - 5.00 pm, and until 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of each month