



HANAZONO
NISEKO JAPAN

NISEKO HANAZONO RESORT MEDIA RELEASE

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PHOTO EXHIBITION

HANAZONO FOREST

by Yoichi Watanabe



Exhibition Name: “HANAZONO FOREST” by Yoichi Watanabe

Dates: November 15 - December 7, 2012

Location: Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Marunouchi

Address: 1-11-1 Pacific Century Place, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-6277

<http://www.fourseasons.com/marunouchi/>

Hosted by: Pacific Century Premium Developments Ltd, Nihon Harmony Resorts KK

Niseko HANAZONO Resort is proud to present an exhibition by established Niseko based photographer and artist, Yoichi Watanabe. Yoichi has pursued the photography of skiers, snowboarders and landscape since 1994, his work is renowned across the globe. In recent years he has focused on forest landscape within Niseko, where deciduous broad leaf giants such as Painted Maples, Mongolian Oaks and Erman's Birch reside. The exhibition provides a glimpse into the unique snow covered world of Niseko, and the people that ski and play through the forests of Hanazono.

Yoichi Watanabe

Born in 1966, Yoichi is an avid skier and mountain explorer, he has captured images of ski resorts around the world; these can be seen in his photo book “Gliders of the Snow Mountains” and film series “Ruwe”. Based in Niseko full time, he continues his artistic endeavors as a photographer of outdoor sports, the culture and lifestyle that embodies the snowy mountains of Niseko, his work is increasingly featured in domestic and international magazines. He has received wide acclaim for his promotion of Niseko and modern skiing through his artwork spanning over 20 years and is a leading figure in the Japanese ski industry.

From the artist, Yoichi Watanabe:

“Many people don't realise it, but it is a rarity and a blessing to ski through the rich deciduous forests of Japan. During the last ice age, many deciduous species were wiped out, leaving rocky or now coniferous terrain on many ski resorts across the world. Japan, surrounded by relatively warm ocean currents and mild temperatures allowed many hardwood species to survive. This, coupled with such low elevation snow falls in Niseko allows us to ski through these enchanted forests. I hope guests will sense, through this exhibition, the beauty of Japanese winter forests, and in particular, the Hanazono Forest.”
yoichiwatanabe.jp