

## Press Release

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### **Hiraki Sawa** **Man in Camera**

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15 July – 17 September 2016

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Private view:  
Thursday 14 July, 6–8pm



Hiraki Sawa, *Man in Camera* (video still), 2016  
Single channel video, drawings, mixed media, installation  
8'50" duration

Parafin is delighted to announce the gallery's first exhibition with the acclaimed Japanese artist Hiraki Sawa (born 1977 Ishikawa, Japan). Hiraki Sawa is known internationally for videos and installations that create powerful psychological situations by interweaving the domestic and the fantastic. Characterised by quietness and introspection, Sawa's works create compelling interior worlds and meditate upon themes of memory and displacement. Sawa has the ability to manipulate his imagination into a tangible dimension that sits between the parallel languages of sculpture and film.

In Parafin's main gallery space Sawa will show a new installation, *Man in Camera* (2015-16), alongside a new suite of drawings. In the lower gallery, Sawa will exhibit a selection of recent small-scale works that have not previously been seen in the UK.

*Man in Camera* is an installation comprising a single screen projection accompanied by sculpture and drawings. The film itself combines uncanny domestic interiors with exquisite hand drawn animation. Derived in part from Sawa's recent study of the history of photography the work forms a complex quasi-self-portrait of the artist. A recurrent motif is the ladder, a powerful symbol of both ascent and escape. Yet within the enclosed domestic landscape of Sawa's work, the ladders lead nowhere, and the figures that climb them are engaged in hermetic, repetitive, Sisyphean movement, trapped in endless loops. The work is a compelling vision of interiority.

Alongside *Man in Camera*, Sawa is showing for the first time a group of new small drawings that are formally reminiscent of postage stamps. For these works Sawa scanned old family photographs and found images and then worked over them with fine white ink lines. The postage stamp is perhaps a symbol of communication, especially between near and far. Again, ladders feature, alongside ghostly figures, giving the impression of memory being layered upon memory.

Sawa most recently exhibited in London as part of 'fig-2' at the ICA in 2015, and before that in a solo show at the Chisenhale Gallery in 2007.

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For further details and images  
please contact:

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Hiraki Sawa received his BFA from the University of East London and his MFA from the Slade School of Art at University College, London. Sawa has exhibited extensively around the world including solo exhibitions at Dundee Contemporary Arts (2013), Chisenhale Gallery, London (2007), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2006), Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art (2006), Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC (2005) and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2005). Sawa's works are included in many important public collections internationally, including the Arts Council Collection, London, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, The Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel, and the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.

## Editor's Notes

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## Parafin

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Parafin was launched in September 2014 by former Haunch of Venison London directors Ben Tufnell and Matt Watkins, and the founder of London gallery Master Piper, Nicholas Rhodes.

Located at 18 Woodstock Street, just off New Bond Street, Parafin represents a broad selection of contemporary artists from emerging names to established international figures.

## Gallery artists

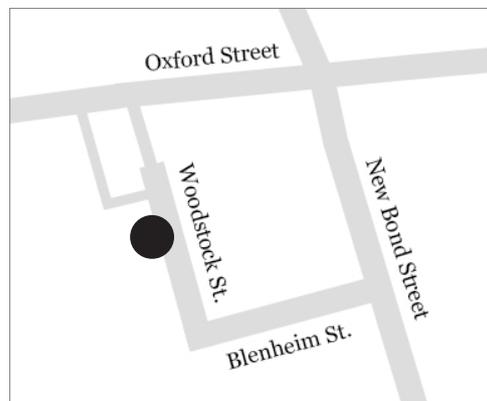
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Fernando Casasempere	Nathan Coley
Tim Head	Nancy Holt
Hynek Martinec	Enrique Martínez Celaya
Justin Mortimer	Katie Paterson
Hiraki Sawa	Indrė Šerpytytė
Michelle Stuart	Alison Watt
Hugo Wilson	Uwe Wittwer

## Woodstock Street, Mayfair

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Woodstock Street is located on the northern edge of Mayfair, London, between New Bond Street (via Blenheim Street) and Oxford Street. Parafin is situated near to the historic tiled Art Deco façade of auction house Bonhams.



## Opening Hours

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Tuesday–Friday, 10–6  
Saturday, 12–5  
Or by appointment