

Takayuki Hanafusa Photo Exhibition

THE FRESCO OF IHEREN



The Green Sahara
revives after 5000 years

Lion(bottom-left) and hunters

9 METER FRESCO WILL BE REPRODUCED BY A REAL SIZE PHOTO

The plateau of Tassili n' Ajjer is located in the Central Sahara in Algeria and is listed as a World Heritage site with over 15,000 paintings and engravings which were mostly made by Neolithic people. The fresco of Iheren is in the North-West of the plateau and is very seldom visited as it is very far away from touristic areas.

There are hundreds of beautiful paintings of

animal and human figures drawn with very fine lines: animals of Savanna such as giraffe, lion and gazelle, etc., domestic animals such as cattle and sheep, people travelling with their cattle and people gathered in front of their tents.

There is no absolute dating available for this fresco but according to the dominant theory is thought to date from around BC3000.

Cooperation by Muséum national d' Histoire naturelle –
Musée de l' Homme, France
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Association
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TOKYO

September 17-21, 2014
TIME DOME AKASHI
12-1, Akashicho, Chuoku

Admission free

KYOTO

October 9-13, 2014
THE KYOTO MUSEUM
Sanjo-Agaru, Takakura-dori,
Nakagyo-ku
Admission free

THE FRESCO OF IHEREN Takayuki Hanafusa

The fresco reproduction is not a single enlarged photograph but is composed from 145 individual segment shots. It consequently shows very good detail as if the actual fresco is in front of the eyes. Some parts of the fresco are very well preserved but other parts are faint or nearly vanished, this is due to many years of weathering and deposition of dust making it difficult to see.

The mission of Henri Lhote - who made the first investigation in 1970 - stayed one month to make real-size copies of the fresco. Thanks to these copies, it is possible to see all detail which are not fully visible to the naked eye or photos. Real-size photos of these copies will also be exhibited through the cooperation of the National Museum of Natural History - Museum of Man (France).

This copy shows detail which is not clearly visible with the naked eye. As a matter of fact, the copies were made after the rock surface was moistened to reveal a latent images of the weak or invisible parts. This method was often practiced during archaeological investigations at that time. However, this technique is prohibited today so as to protect the fresco from any further damage. As an alternative technique, today we can use image enhancing software to extract faint or invisible detail. Some sample photos will be also exhibited.

To reach the fresco, it is necessary to walk two days with camels or donkeys. The landscape is desolate with very few vegetation on the sandstone ground having gravel and stones spread all over. However, the landscape changes drastically when it rains, which occurs once every few months. Green belts appear following the flows of water and various forms of life are created in pools. It is surprising to see even small fish hatching shortly after the rain and they probably spawn before the pool dries out.

The landscape photos of the surrounding area will also be shown in the exhibition. It would be my great pleasure if the exhibition evokes imagination about the distant past, about the current status and also about the future. (Takayuki Hanafusa)



Muséum national d'histoire naturelle – France



Like the fresco of Iheren, the prehistoric rock art, spread all over the world, has a characteristic of a creation in nature. Photos or drawing of such rock art are usually seen in a limited frame like a picture frame. However, this exhibition will present a large wide spread photo in actual size and the beholder will feel as if he is in

front of the real fresco. Hear the breathing of the people who lived thousands of years ago, think about the distant past and enjoy sharing the human feeling towards animals, etc. This is what I hope as an academic researcher.

(Masaru Ogawa, Naruto University of Education)

September 17-21, 2014
TIME DOME AKASHI 6th FL.
12-1, Akashicho, Chuoku, Tokyo

Admission free, Open 10:00-19:00, Sat. -18:00, Last day -16:00

-7 minutes from Exit 3 of
Metro station "Tsukiji",
Hibiya line
-10 minutes from Exit 6 of
Metro station "Shintomicho"
Yurakucho line



October 9-13, 2014
THE KYOTO MUSEUM 5th FL.
Sanjo-Agaru, Takakura-dori, Nakagyo-ku

Admission free, Open 10:00-18:00, Last day -16:00

-3 minutes from Exit 5 of
Metro station "Karasuma
Oike" to the east through
Sanjo Street
-7 minutes from Exit 16 of
Hankyu station "Karasuma" to
the north Takakura Street.

