



Shigeru Takato

BOTANICAL GARDENS 2002

Among the most recent work in the exhibition *Cultivating Paradise* is a series of images by Auckland artist Shigeru Takato. Takato is a photography student at Auckland University's Elam School of Fine Arts. His *Botanical Gardens* photographs are based on the themes of nature and the natural, the old and the new, evolution and change. These ideas are operative on a personal, narrative level as well as in the broader historical and geographical arena. In the creation of these works Takato has used a Wallensak lens. This he inherited from his great-grandfather, a man who worked on the plantations in California in the early years of the 20th century and who was an amateur photographer. Simple snapshots handed down from generation to generation, dim memories of the distant past, tales of family and forbears in far off places, these were the factors that fostered Takato's incipient interest in the art form of photography.

far left
Shigeru Takato
*The pond, Hospital Hill
Botanical Garden, Napier,
January 2002*
selenium toned black
and white print
375 x 455 mm
Collection of the artist

left
Shigeru Takato
*The cross, Hospital Hill
Botanical Garden, Napier,
January 2002*
selenium toned black
and white print
455 x 375 mm
Collection of the artist