

ISABELLA  
SEWART GARDNER  
MUSEUM

Exhibition Wall Text

Taro Shinoda:  
Lunar Reflections

*On view November 5, 2009 through January 31, 2010*

The art of Taro Shinoda engages themes of science and desire and investigates our place in the universe. As he reflects on philosophical considerations of contemporary life, he thinks about how we might better function as a society.

In the spring of 2007, Shinoda was inspired by the moonlight and the sense of calm that reigns in the Gardner Museum courtyard to develop his *Lunar Reflection Transmission Technique*. The idea was rooted in his early childhood, when he was separated from his mother and entrusted messages to the moon, that he hoped his mother could receive on the other side of the planet when the moon rose for her. Later that summer Shinoda constructed a telescope out of cardboard and a video camera; with this instrument he filmed the moon and landscapes in different parts of the world.

The artist has stated: *Is it true that we see the same moon all over the world?*

*As I look back, this project began out of an attempt to see the moon as the first step towards having a sense of us all sharing this planet together. I look at the moon and, a few hours later, you look at it in some different country. While we look at the moon, the moon also looks at us. I suppose you seldom imagine other places and people outside of your ordinary life. Observing the way the moon travels allows me to make an image of the whole world.*

*Taro Shinoda: Lunar Reflections* is an attempt to evoke the essence of that creative moment in the Gardner Museum courtyard. The room includes an *engawa*—a Japanese viewing platform that traditionally separates the domestic space from the garden. Visitors may sit and meditate on their place in the universe as they watch the artist's extraordinary films of the moon and mysterious nocturnal cityscapes.

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