

JUNKO YODA

Shadows of the Clouds

September 9 – October 18, 2008

RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 6 TO 8 PM

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I liked to travel on maps. I spent hours looking at maps everyday. When I read *Moby Dick*, I became deeply involved in Chapter 14, “Nantucket.” The chapter begins, “Nantucket! Take out your map and look at it. See what a real corner of the world it occupies; how it stands there, away off shore, more lonely than the Eddystone lighthouse . . .”

I couldn't find “Nantucket” on my Japanese school map. When I finally found a map in a bookshop that had “Nantucket,” I became so excited, my heart was pounding, and then I thought, “Indeed, what a real corner of the world it occupies!”

After I moved to New York, I traveled many times from New York to Tokyo and from Tokyo to New York. The thirteen-hour non-stop flights were hell at first. However, since taking interest in on-flight “route-maps,” the flights were no longer hellish. During each flight, I looked at the monitor in front of my seat which shows flight data from departure to arrival. At the same time, I looked down at the earth from my window. Altitude 36,000 feet, Ground Speed 590 mph, Outside Air Temperature -67F—the map on the monitor was showing Fairbanks, Alaska. I looked down from the window and recognized a group of lights in the pitch-dark earth.

My strong interest in looking down at the earth impelled me with such immense energy and inspiration to create works such as *River Flow* and *Shadows of the Clouds*.

These days, I find myself traveling on Google Maps, too.

—Junko Yoda, 2008