

“Moon Meditation Hut”

Bhumi Farms, East Hampton, New York

June 2020

10x10x10', Indigo, linen, pure micronized silver, phosphorescence

124 Pantigo Rd, East Hampton, NY 11937

Commissioned by: Good To Know, F.Y.I

“The inspiration for this Moon Meditation Hut is based on a traditional, rustic Japanese Chashitsu 茶室 (Tea Room), which has a tradition of over 1000 years. Chashitsu's are built as rustic, simple huts and are a place of equality. I wanted to pay homage to the ancient idea that 'all are equal in tea' and without rank, class or any other hierarchical distinction. In historic times the samurai were considered equal to merchants, monks and tea hosts while inside the tea room and this felt particularly important during this heartbreaking time of strife and inequality in our country. This site-specific piece on Bhumi Farm is created with indigo on linen, micronized pure silver and phosphorescence. I was inspired by celestial cartography, in particular of the stars and constellations directly above Bhumi Farm on the night of March 16, the first night of the lockdown in New York. The imagery consists of a full moon, new moon and lunar corona. The lunar corona phenomena appears as an aura or halo around the moon, created by diffraction of light. I felt it was important to remind people (and myself) that the word 'corona' has a beautiful usage in nature, in addition to being the name of the virus that has caused us so much fear and suffering. My hope was to create a space that honored the concept of Wa Kei Sei Jyaku (harmony, respect, purity and tranquility); a simple, meditative environment to connect with nature and others and become aware of the present moment.

This installation is open to all and I invite anyone and everyone to feel welcome to use it in any way they would like. I have employed natural indigo on linen as an homage to my Japanese ancestry. My family's hometown of Okayama, Japan has a long history of indigo dyeing. I wish to pay respect to the 6000 year tradition of dyeing with the indigo plant and in particular to the legacy women dyers

around the globe. The phosphorescence that has been used in the full moon and new moon imagery is a renewable light source, eco-friendly and continuously charges with the light of the sun (and the moon). The material will emit a soft light for several hours and requires no cables or batteries or electricity. I've employed this luminous material to recognize the importance of my own carbon footprint, the gravitas of climate change and the importance of respecting and living in harmony with nature. I hope the hut feels inviting and creates an atmosphere of simplicity and equanimity, as these and the renunciation of the material world are central tenets of Zen philosophy which informs a traditional Chashitsu.

“ Miya Ando, NYC June 11, 2020