

# Houses, Prefab Architectures in Japan, 2017



*Houses* is a photographic series made in Japan in 2017 during the fellowship program undertaken by the artist at the Centre for Contemporary Art CCA Kitakyushu. While deeply involved in studying the traditional Japanese building technique, which will lead to conceiving the series *Joining*, Francesco Del Conte is fascinated by the contemporary houses that compose the residential neighborhoods in which he lives. Manufactured homes, imported from the US, first appeared in the Japanese archipelago after WWII to solve the housing shortage.

The proliferation of this technology has led to an extreme and alienating standardization of the urban fabric, especially in the residential areas, composed today of mass-produced houses that recall a Western style. The series is formed by ten gelatin silver prints, representing a breakthrough for the artist because it is the first outdoor work. The photographs offer a repetition of the same subjects, nondescript locations, and yet very particular: deserted urban landscapes, residential areas that outline the city edges, and side roads. Street lamps, traffic lights, and rooftops fix the framing of images on the line between an enigmatic atmosphere and an objective approach.

Fig. 1 Untitled, detail, gelatin silver print, 2017

Fig. 2,3,4,5,6 Untitled, gelatin silver prints, variable dimensions, ED 5+2 AP, 2017













