

GALLERY KOYANAGI

PRESS RELEASE

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO | OPERA HOUSE

2022.9.3 (Sat) – 11.6 (Sun)



KOYANAGI BUILDING 9th FLOOR, 1-7-5 GINZA CHUO-KU TOKYO JAPAN 104-0061

Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to present "OPERA HOUSE," a solo exhibition by Hiroshi Sugimoto, on view from September 3 (Sat) through November 6 (Sun). This exhibition will be the first time that the "Opera House" series would be exhibited in Japan.

The "Opera House" series is a series of photographs of centuries—old opera houses in Europe, photographed using the same technique as Sugimoto has used since the 1970s in his "Theater" series. In other words, the "Opera House" series is a continuation of the "Theater" series, and together with the later "Abandoned Theater" series, it shows us the historical evolution of theaters in general.

The movie theaters photographed in his "Theater" series- American movie theaters built in the first half of the 20th century in imitation of European theaters—became enormous and were decorated with exotic decorations that interweave the opulent designs of various regions and eras. The production of "Opera House" began with Sugimoto's interest in European theaters (the originals) from which the decorations were taken, so he took photographs of them and called it the act of "honka-dori (deriving from the original poem)."

I resolved to visit the original European theaters on which the Americans had based their imitations. There are many magnificent theaters in Italy, chiefly in the north, that were built from 1582, when Palladio began construction of the Teatro Olimpico, through to the 18th century. If myths are counterfeits of fiction, then movies are fictional counterfeits of reality. Classical theaters do not have screens, so I had to put one up before projecting classics of the Italian cinema which I then captured, a whole movie in a single exposure. The screen was transformed into incandescent white light that suggested some sort of epiphany.

Hiroshi Sugimoto

The "Opera House" is photographed with a screen set up on the stage, showing classic films that are considered masterpieces. The camera's exposure time is set to the running time of each film, and the hundreds of thousands of film frames that are irradiated onto the screen are captured on a single piece of photographic film, creating a glowing white rectangle on the screen, and at the same time reveal the interior decoration of the Opera House. Like "Theater," "Opera House" is a series of photographs that capture the time of a single film, but while "Theater" is a horizontal composition of a movie theater, "Opera House" is a vertical composition, due to its architectural structure. And not only the stage side with the screen is captured, but also the seats illuminated by the light from the screen are integrated into the work.

Sugimoto's journey visiting the classical opera houses of Italy continued to France. In 2018, he photographed the magnificent small theater that Marie Antoinette, who loved the theater, built for herself. The work was exhibited at the Petit Trianon of the Palace of Versailles in his solo show titled "SUGIMOTO VERSAILLES." In 2019, Sugimoto photographed the Opéra Garnier, along with the stage set of the Noh theater "At the Hawk's Well" that Sugimoto produced. In this solo exhibition at Gallery Koyanagi, these two Opera Houses photographed in France will be on view.

Sugimoto personally selected suitable films, to be projected while photographing the "Opera House" and summarized those stories, converting them into text. We invite you to read the narrative and enjoy the intangible accumulation of fiction, and see simultaneously the physical opera theater illuminated by the radiance of imagination.

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Born in Tokyo in 1948, Hiroshi Sugimoto moved to the United States in 1970 to study photography. A multi-disciplinary artist, Sugimoto works in photography, sculpture, installation, performing arts, architecture, gardening, and gastronomy. His art bridges Eastern and Western ideologies while examining the nature of time, perception, and the origins of consciousness. His representative works are in collections of major museums throughout the world such as The Metropolitan Museum, New York and Pompidou Center in Paris. His photographic series include Dioramas, Theaters, Seascapes, Architecture, Portraits, Conceptual Forms, and Lightning Fields, among others. In 2008 he established the architecture firm New Material Research Laboratory and in 2009 he founded Odawara Art Foundation, a charitable nonprofit organization to promote traditional Japanese performing arts and culture.

Also, Sugimoto is going to have two exhibitions in Japan from September 17 (Sat): "Hiroshi Sugimoto Honkadori" at Himeji City Museum of Art (Hyogo) until November 6 (Sun) and "Noh Climax" at the Shoshazan Engyoji Temple (Hyogo) until December 4 (Sun).

Press image

Hiroshi Sugimoto
Villa Mazzacorrati, Bologna
2015
"Le Notti Bianche"
gelatin silver print

© Hiroshi Sugimoto / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi



Hiroshi Sugimoto
Teatro dei Rozzi, Siena
2014
"Summertime"
gelatin silver print

© Hiroshi Sugimoto / Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

Information

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO | OPERA HOUSE
Saturday, September 3 – Sunday, November 6, 2022

Opening hours : 12:00 – 19:00

Close on Sundays, Mondays, and National Holidays

*Please note there will be no opening reception.

*The gallery will open during the event "ART WEEK TOKYO" as follows:

November 3 – 6 (no closing days) / 10:00 – 18:00

Gallery Koyanagi

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HIROSHI SUGIMOTO

- 1948 Born in Tokyo, Japan
 1970 Graduated from Saint Paul's University, Tokyo
 1974 Graduated from Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles
 1974 Moved to New York

Lives and works in Tokyo and New York

Grant/Award/Honor

- 2018 National Arts Club Medal of Honor in Photography, New York
 2017 Person of Cultural Merit, Tokyo
 The Royal Photographic Society, Centenary Medal, London
 2014 Isamu Noguchi Award, New York
 2013 Officier de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Paris
 2010 The Medal with Purple Ribbon, Japan
 2009 Praemium Imperiale in Honor of Prince Takamatsu, Painting category, Tokyo
 2006 PHotoEspaña Prize, Madrid, Spain
 2001 Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography, Göteborg, Sweden
 2000 Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Parsons School of Design, New School University, New York
 1999 Glen Dimplex Award, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
 International Center of Photography, Fifteenth Annual Infinity Award for Art, New York
 1988 Mainichi Art Prize, Tokyo
 1982 National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.
 1980 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, New York
 1977 C.A.P.S. (Creative Arts Public Service) Fellowship, New York

Selected Solo Exhibition

- 2022 Hiroshi Sugimoto Honkadori, Himeji City Museum of Art, Hyogo, Japan
 Journey of the Kasuga spirit, Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum, Kanagawa, Japan
 2021 OPTICKS, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
 2020 HYOGU - Frame of Japan, The Hosomi Museum Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan
 Hiroshi Sugimoto - Post Vitam, Higashiyama Cube, Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan
 Past Presence, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
 2019 Past Presence, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, USA
 2018 Quatro Ragazzi: Hopes and Illusions of the Momoyama Renaissance - Europe through the Eyes of Hiroshi Sugimoto and the Tensho Embassy, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum, Japan
 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel

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- SUGIMOTO VERSAILLES: Surface of Revolution, The Estate of Trianon, Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France
- Nobunaga and Quattro Ragazzi: Hopes and Illusions of Momoyama Renaissance – Europe through the eyes of Hiroshi Sugimoto and the Tensho Embassy, MOA Museum of Art, Shizuoka, Japan
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: Still Life, Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 Gates of Paradise, Japan Society, New York, USA
- Le Notti Bianche, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino, Switzerland
- 2016 Lost Human Genetic Archive, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 Art and Leisure, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan/ Hosomi Museum, Kyoto, Japan(2016)
- Past and Present in Three Parts, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan/ Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, Russia(2016) / Musée des Beaux-Arts, Le Locle, Switzerland(2016)
- 2014 ON THE BEACH, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Aujourd'hui, le monde est mort [Lost Human Genetic Archive], Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: Past Tense, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
- 2012 Five Elements, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- From Naked to Clothed, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 Hiroshi Sugimoto ORIGINS OF ART | Architecture, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa, Japan
- 2009 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Nature of Light, IZU PHOTO MUSEUM, Shizuoka, Japan
- Lightning Fields, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2008 History of History, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan/ The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan(2009)
- 2007 Leakage of light, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Hiroshi Sugimoto, K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany/ Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany(2008)
- 2006 Art Capturing, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Mathematical Forms, L'atelier Brancusi, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2005 History of History, Japan Society Gallery, New York, USA
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: End of Time, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan/ Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., USA(2006)
- 2004 Étant donné: Le Grand Verre, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France
- 2003 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Serpentine Galleries, London, UK
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: L'histoire de l'histoire, Maison Hermès Forum, Tokyo, Japan
- ARCHITECTURE, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- Hiroshi Sugimoto: Architecture, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 2001 Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Architecture of Time, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria
- Portraits, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan

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- 2000 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Internacional Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico
Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Architecture Series, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, USA
Sugimoto: Portraits, Deutsche Guggenheim Museum, Berlin/ Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain/
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York, USA
- 1999 In Praise of Shadows, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1998 Modernism, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1997 Twice as Infinity, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1996 Hiroshi Sugimoto—Photographies, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Motion Picture, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1995 Sugimoto, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA/ Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, USA(1996)/ Hara Museum Arc, Gunma, Japan(1996)/ Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio, USA(1997)
Sill Life, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed, Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland
- 1994 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 1992 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed, CAPC Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France
- 1991 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed, Sagacho Exhibit Space and IBM Courtyard, Tokyo, Japan
- 1989 Hiroshi Sugimoto: Dioramas, Theaters, Seascapes, National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
- 1988 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sagacho Exhibit Space and Zeit-Foto Salon, Tokyo, Japan
Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sonnabend Gallery, New York, USA
- 1977 Hiroshi Sugimoto, Minami Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2020 STARS: Six Contemporary Artists from Japan to the World, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2017 What Absence Is Made Of, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA .
- 2015 Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 Simple Shapes, Centre Pompidou-Metz, France
- 2012 Phantoms of Asia, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, California, USA
- 2011 Yokohama 2011 International Triennale of contemporary Art, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2010 17th Biennale of Sydney, Australia
Sexuality and Transcendence, PinchukArtCentre, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2009 Mapping the Studio, Punta Della Dogana, Venice, Italy
The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860–1989, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 2008 Reality Check: Truth and Illusion in Contemporary Photography, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

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- Photography on Photography: Reflections on the Medium since 1960, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
- 2004 Singular Forms (Sometimes Repeated): Art from 1951 to the Present, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 2003 Happiness: A Survival Guide for Art and Life, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
The History of Japanese Photography, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA / Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA
- 2002 Moving Pictures, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 2001 Yokohama 2001 International Triennale of contemporary Art, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2000 Gendai: Japanese Contemporary Art – Between the Body and Space, Center for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland
Expanding Horizons: Landscape Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
- 1999 Regarding Beauty: A View of the Late Twentieth Century, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA
The Third Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia
The Museum as Muse: Artists Reflect, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 1998 At the End of the Century: One Hundred Years of Architecture, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan / Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 1997 In Visible Light: Photography and Classification in Art, Science and the Everyday, Modern Art Oxford, UK
- 1996 Tenth Biennale of Sydney, Australia
Prospect 96: Photographie in der Gegenwartskunst, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
By Night, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France
- 1995 Album: De fotoverzameling van Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam (Album: the Photographic Collection of Museum Boymans van-Beuningen Rotterdam), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam, Netherlands
Art in Japan Today: 1985-1995, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1994 Photography and Beyond in Japan: Space, Time and Memory, Hara Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
Japanese Art after 1945: Scream Against the Sky, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan / Guggenheim Museum Soho, New York, USA / San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA
- 1993 Das 21. Jahrhundert / The 21st Century, Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland
- 1992 Réflexions Voilées (Hidden Reflections), Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
- 1991 Carnegie International 1991, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, USA
A Cabinet of Signs: Contemporary Art from Post-modern Japan, Tate Gallery Liverpool, UK
- 1990 Japanische Kunst der Achtziger Jahre, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
The Past and the Present of Photography, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan

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- 1987 Contemporary Japanese Art in America (I): Arita, Nakagawa, Sugimoto, Japan Society Gallery, New York, USA
- 1978 Recent Acquisitions, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA