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Kazuo Kitai *Funabashi Story*

Friday, May 25 - Saturday, June 23, 2018

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. #206, 4-32-6 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Gallery Hours: 12:00–19:00

*Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays

Opening Reception : Friday, June 1, 20:00-21:00

Special Talk : Friday, June 1, 19:00–20:00

*Speakers: Kazuo Kitai and Ryudai Takano (Photographer)

* Kazuo Kitai will be present for: Friday, May 25; Friday, June 1; Saturday, June 2; Saturday, June 16; and Saturday, June 23.

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present *Funabashi Story*, a solo show of Kazuo Kitai from Friday, May 25.

In the 1960s, Kazuo Kitai worked on a photographic series titled *Resistance* which took as its subject the people's protest against the stopping of the US's nuclear powered submarines at the port of Yokosuka, as well as other works that were as inspiring including the series titled *Agitators* and *Barricade* that photographed the students' movement which demanded the democratization of universities. In the 1970s, he captured with his camera the daily activities in agricultural communities that were in a rapid process of disappearance amidst the growth of Japanese economy in the photographic collection titled *To the Villages* and *Somehow Familiar Places*; his gaze was thus always casted upon the ongoing time in which he lived. In the 80s, when Japanese society was heading towards a bubble economy, Kitai shifted his interest upon the life of people living in apartment complex and newly developed residential area in the suburbs.

The project for *Funabashi Story* started when the city of Funabashi in Chiba prefecture, whose population rapidly expanded in the 1980s, asked the photographer to take pictures of the people living there and its town landscapes. Back then, Funabashi was going through the constructions of apartment complex and newly developed residential area to cater to its function as 'bed town' of Tokyo, and the eighty percent of the population consisted of so-called new residents (people who have moved into the suburb of a large city). They move into their houses as newly-weds, raise their children, and move to larger houses when the children get older. Such cycle of events that is calmly repeated within the domain of apartment complex where the buildings of identical size are ordered inorganically and uniformly in their adjusted city lots encourages further growth. However, despite a superficial joy that people felt of the fast speed that they have not before experienced which got things around them go swiftly, it is quite possible that they were quite startled by it. Kitai looked at the lives of the individuals from the area and carefully repeated the research and shooting to abstract the brightness that the place and the people there possessed.

"Speaking of the places of daily life, whereas those in villages were in 'darkness,' those in apartment complex were in the 'light' that was introduced through large windows into the room. In terms of objects and people's existence, those in villages had 'weight' whereas those in apartment complex had the air of light, floating being; the two were pointing towards opposite directions in every aspect."

Quoted from Pictures from My Cabinet of Memories by Kazuo Kitai



As Kitai himself commented, *Funabashi Story* is indeed about the glimpses of the daily life landscapes that the photographer captured earnestly and carefully, as he sensitively responded to the trends of the time in a changing state.

For the exhibition opening, a special talk by the artist and the guest speaker, Ryudai Takano, also a photographer will be held.

■ Artist Statement

Recently, I took out the photographic prints for *Funabashi Story* that I have stored in a drawer for many years. I felt that a long time have passed since I took them. The pictures were of the people that lived in apartment complex in Funabashi, Chiba around the year 1985. I wonder if their lives are continuing unchanged. Though there have been many periodical changes since the time of shooting and printing, I still remain here as I was photographed back then, so the prints spoke to me.

I met two ladies who let me take their pictures at that time. I felt the length of thirty years that had passed since in the way they were. We talked about the time I took their pictures for about thirty minutes. After I said good bye to them, I vividly remembered their facial expressions in my photographs instead of their present faces. Why so? I wondered a bit.

I decided to hold the present exhibition because I wanted the people who saw my photos in shows and photographic books thirty years ago to see them again.

Kazuo Kitai

■ Opening Reception

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018, 20:00-21:00

Venue : Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

■ Special Talk

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018, 19:00-20:00

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Speakers: Kazuo Kitai and Ryudai Takano (Photographer)

*Admission free. Booking required. Seating capacity: 20

*For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to event@ycassociates.co.jp

*If you do not receive a reply from the gallery, please contact us during gallery's opening hours.

Ryudai Takano (Photographer)

Born 1963 in Fukui. Lives and works in Tokyo.

Received the 31st Kimura Ihei Commemorative Photography Award in 2006 for *In My Room* (Sokyu-sha).

Selected solo exhibitions: "Human Body 1/1" (1999), "How to contact a man"(2006), "An Ignition Point"(2010) all held at Zeit-Foto Salon; "Photo-Graph" (2012) and "In the order corresponding to shooting from January 2014 to recent date" (2014) both held at Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku. Selected group exhibitions: "Kiss in the Dark: Contemporary Japanese Photography" (2001, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum and others), "Still/Motion: Liquid Crystal Painting" (2008, The National Museum of Art, Osaka and others), "Photography Will Be" (2014, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art), and "Our Beloved World" (2015, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art). Public collections: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, The Japan Foundation, Dazaifu Tenmangu, Shanghai Art Museum, JPMorgan Chase Art Collection among others.

■ Related Information

[Solo Exhibition]

Kazuo Kitai: Propaganda – Kobe Dockers

Date: Thursday, April 26– Monday, May 28, 2018

Venue: BOOKS f3

2-1-17 Nuttari, Higashi Chuo-ku, Nigata 950-0075 Japan

Special talk to be held in conjunction with the show

Date: Sunday, May 27, 14:00-15:00 (The door opens at 13:30.)

Seating capacity: 20

Admission fee: 1,500 yen

<http://booksf3.com/photo/album/335246>

**Funabashi Story**

Date: Friday, June 15 – Sunday, July 8, 2018
Opening Hours: 9:30 - 20:00 (Saturday, Sunday, & Holiday - 17:00)
Venue: Funabashi City Library (2F Gallery)
1-20-50 Nishifunabashi, Funabashi, Chiba 273-0031

Special talk to be held in conjunction with the show

Date: Saturday, July 7, 14:00-15:00
Seating capacity: First 50 people
<http://www.city.funabashi.lg.jp/shisetsu/toshokankominkan/0001/0002/0001/p011017.html>

[Group Exhibition]***The Origins of Japanese Contemporary Photography - Film grain as words***

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2018–Wednesday, August 29, 2018.
Venue: Goeunmuseum (Busan, South Korea)
http://www.goeunmuseum.org/english_index1.php

[Special Talk]**Kitai will be the guest speaker for the special talk for an exhibition of Tamiko Nishimura at ZEN FOTO GALLERY.**

Date: Saturday, May 12, 16:00–17:30
Venue: ZEN FOTO GALLERY
Piramide Bldg. 2F, 6-6-9 Roppongi, Minatoku, Tokyo, 106-0032 Japan

Speakers: Tamiko Nishimura (Photographer) and Kazuo Kitai

*Admission free. Reservations not required.
<http://www.zen-foto.jp/web/html/exhibition-next.html>

[Publication]***Ravens and red lipsticks* written by Dr. Lena Fritsch (ex-curator at Tate Modern,) which includes an interview with Kazuo Kitai will be published by Thames and Hudson. Also, its Japanese translation will be published by Seigensha.**

Publication date: September, 2018
Publisher for English version: Thames and Hudson
Publisher for Japanese version: Seigensha
Text: Dr. Lena Fritsch (ex-curator at Tate Modern)
Editor for Japanese version: Kotaro Iizawa
A4 (232×297) 287 pages
Price: ¥5,500 (plus 8% tax)
Limited edition of 2,000 copies

■ Kazuo Kitai- Artist Profile

1944 Born in Anshan, Manchuria under Japanese occupation
1963-65 Studied photography at Nihon University College of Art

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2016 Zen Foto Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2015 MIYAKO YOSHINAGA, New York, USA
2014 *To the Villages-Kitai Kazuo's Classic Photography*, Aki Gallery, Taipei, Republic of China
2012 *Kobe Dockers*, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan
Somehow Familiar Places, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Barricade, Harper's Books, East Hampton, New York, USA
Walking with Leica 3, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan
2011 *"Tohjiiba" healing spas of rural Japan*, Zen Foto Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Spanish Night, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan
2010 *China 1973*, Zen Foto Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Walking with Leica 2, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan
2009 *Walking with Leica 1*, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan
2008 *The Journey into 1920s German Expressionism*, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan
2006 *80's Funabashi Story*, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan



- 2004 *1990's Peking*, Gallery TOSEI, Tokyo, Japan
2004 *1990's Peking*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
2002 *Beijing*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
2000 *Beijing*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
1999 *"Tohjiba" healing spas of rural Japan*, ZEIT-FOTO SALON, Tokyo, Japan
Sanrizuka, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
1997 *Beijing*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
1996 *Chojyugiga*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
1994 *Fine Weather*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
1992 *Shinchojyugiga*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
1990 *Somehow Familiar Places*, Il Tempo, Tokyo, Japan
1987 *Work of Photographer Kazuo Kitai*, Funabashi Municipal Office, TOBU FUNABASHI, Funabashi, Japan
1984 *Barricades in the 1960's*, Picture Photo Space, Osaka, Japan
1978 *To the Villages*, ZEIT-FOTO SALON, Tokyo, Japan
1976 *To the Villages*, Minolta Photo Space, Tokyo, Japan

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *Paris Photo2017*, Grand Palais, Paris, France at Yumiko Chiba Associates
2017 *Photo London2017 / Kazuo Kitai and Ryudai Takano*, Somerset House, London, UK at Yumiko Chiba Associates
2016 *PROVOKE: Between Protest and Performance – Photography in Japan 1960-1975*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Le Bal, Paris, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Zurich, Albertina, Vienna
2015 *For A New World To Come: Experiments in Japanese Art and Photography, 1968-1979*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA; Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, USA; Japan Society, New York, USA
2013 *1968-Japanese Photography*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2009 *Strange Lands: Photographer's Sentimental Journey*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2007 *Showa: Photography 1945- 1989, Part III: The Period of Rapid Growth*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2006 *Gazing at the Contemporary World: Japanese Photography from the 1970s to the Present*, Japan Foundation, New York, USA
2005 *The Gazes that Opened the New Ages: The 30 years of Kimura Ihei Award*, Kawasaki City Museum, Kawasaki, Japan
1995 *The Traces of 22 Photographers: The 20th Anniversary of Kimura Ihei Award*, Canon Salon Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
1992 *Photography and Climatology II*, The Miyagi Museum of Art, Sendai, Japan
1991 *Japanese Photography in the 1970's*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
1985 *Paris, New York, Tokyo*, Tsukuba Photography Museum, Ibaraki, Japan
1977 *11 Italian Photographers and 11 Japanese Photographers*, Istituto Italiano Cultura, Tokyo, Japan
1976 *Neue Fotografien aus Japan*, Stadtmuseum Graz mit Museumsapotheke, Graz, Austria
1974 *Fifteen Photographers Today*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan

Selected Awards

- 2017 Selected by Paris Photo 2017's Guest of Honour for Paris Photo by Karl Lagerfeld and J.P Morgan Curator's Highlights
2013 Lifetime Achievement Award of The Photographic Society of Japan
1976 Kimura Ihei Award for *To the Village*
1972 Newcomer's Award of The Photographic Society of Japan

Selected Public Collections

Funabashi Municipal Office, Funabashi, Japan/ Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo/ The Miyagi Museum of Art, Sendai, Japan/ The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan/ The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA/ The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA/ Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco, USA/ San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA/ JPMorgan Chase Art Collection

■■■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

E-mail: info@ycassociates.co.jp Tel. +81-3-6276-6731 <http://www.ycassociates.co.jp>

Office: Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. 316, 4-32-6, Nishi-Shinjuku Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 Japan.

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