

Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective 6 October 2023 – 11 February 2024

This autumn The Photographers' Gallery presents the first UK retrospective of work by the acclaimed Japanese photographer, Daido Moriyama (b.1938).

Featuring over 200 works, spanning from 1964 until the present day, *Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective* traverses different moments of Moriyama's vast and productive career.

Taking over the whole Gallery, this exhibition celebrates one of the most innovative and influential artists and street photographers of our day. Championing photography as a democratic language, Moriyama inserted himself up close with Japanese society, capturing the clash of Japanese tradition with an accelerated Westernization in post-war Japan. With his non-conformist approach and desire to challenge the medium, his work is tirelessly unpretentious, raw, blurred, radical and grainy and has defined the style of an entire generation.

"Forget everything you've learned on the subject of photography for the moment, and just shoot. Take photographs - of anything and everything, whatever catches your eye. Don't pause to think."
– Daido Moriyama

Moriyama has spent his sixty-year career asking a fundamental question: what is photography? He rejected the dogmatism of art and the veneration of vintage prints, making the accessible and reproducible aspects of photography its most radical asset. Over and over, he reused his photographs in different contexts, experimenting with enlargements, crops and printing. Most of his work was made for printed pages rather than gallery walls. Fittingly, *Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective* will be the first UK exhibition to showcase many of his rare photobooks and magazines.

These publications, dating from early rare editions and out-of-print Japanese magazines to more recent titles, will be on show alongside large-scale works and installations. The magazines and photobooks will give visitors unrivalled access to abundant archival and visual material to view, read and discover.

Presented in two phases of Moriyama's work, *Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective* starts with Moriyama's early work for Japanese magazines, his challenging of photojournalism, his experiments in *Provoke* magazine and the conceptual radicalization of his photobook *Farewell Photography (1972)*. During this period, he established his unique aesthetic, famously known as *are, buke, boke* (meaning 'grainy, blurry, out of focus').

The second part of the exhibition starts in the 1980s, when Moriyama overcame a creative and personal crisis. In the following decades, he explored the essence of photography and of his own self, developing a visual lyricism with which he reflected on reality, memory and history.

Moriyama renewed street photography inside and outside Japan. His wanderings led him to cover miles in Tokyo, Osaka and Hokkaido, but also New York, Paris, São Paulo and Cologne. His work and travels are showcased in *Record* magazine, which the photographer continues to publish today.

Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective is curated by Thyago Nogueira, Instituto Moreira Salles, São Paulo, Brazil.

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Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective is the product of a three-year research period, and is one of the most comprehensive exhibitions ever mounted of this artist's work. It is organised by Instituto Moreira Salles in cooperation with the Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation.

The accompanying catalogue **Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective** is published by Prestel, £45.

The exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery is supported by:



Press Contacts

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For general information and enquiries about The Photographers' Gallery, including the archive, Print Sales Gallery or Bookshop contact: press@tpg.org.uk

Notes for Editors

Daido Moriyama

Daido Moriyama was born in Ikeda, Osaka, in 1938. He moved to Tokyo in 1961 where he worked as a freelance photographer for various Japanese magazines such as *Asahi Camera*, *Camera Mainichi*, and later *Shashin Jidai*. Moriyama joined the influential magazine *Provoke* in 1969. In subsequent decades, he went on to publish over 100 books, including the widely acclaimed *A Hunter* (1972), the experimental *Farewell Photography* (1972), the reflective *Light and Shadow* (1982), as well as monographs dedicated to unique places such as *Shinjuku* (2002) and *Hokkaido* (2008). He achieved international acclaim with his retrospective *Stray Dog* at SFMo MA in 1999. In addition, he has received various awards, including the Hasselblad Award (2018).

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery (TPG) champions photography for everyone. Located in the heart of central London and home to an international community of photographers, the Gallery explores photography in all its forms, with a diverse and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions, events and courses. Over the past five decades TPG has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and celebrating its place at the heart of visual culture.

Instituto Moreira Salles

The Instituto Moreira Salles (IMS) is a Brazilian non-profit art institution with venues in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Poços de Caldas. IMS was founded in 1992 and holds important collections in visual art, photography, music, literature, and prints and drawings. It is renowned for its exhibitions, highlighting artists and themes from Brazil and abroad. IMS also publishes exhibition catalogues and books on photography, literature and music, in addition to the print magazines ZUM, dedicated to contemporary photography in Brazil and around the world, and *serrote*, a quarterly publication of essays and ideas.

Find out more at: thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor information – The Photographers' Gallery

Mon – Weds 10am – 6pm

Thurs & Fri 10am – 8pm (Friday free from 5pm)

Sat 10am – 6pm

Sun 11am- 6pm

Tickets - *your ticket covers entry to all exhibitions on the day of your visit*

£8 / £5 concessions (members go free)

Advance online booking: £6.50 / £4 concessions

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