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Press Release

## Japanese Photographers

*Born in 1920s ~ 1940s*

*Takashi KIJIMA (1920-2011)*

*Shomei TOMATSU (1930-2012)*

*Eikoh HOSOE (1933)*

*Takayuki OGAWA (1936-2008)*

*Daido MORIYAMA (1938)*

*Hajime SAWATARI (1940)*

*Issei SUDA (1940)*

*Eiichiro SAKATA (1941)*



*Hateruma Island by TOMATSU Shomei, 1971*

Exhibition Duration: 24.11.2016 – 31.01. 2017

### **Opening Reception:**

24.11.2016 | 6 – 8 pm

Sin Sin Fine Art, G/F 52 Sai Street, Central, Hong Kong

26.11.2016 | 5 – 7 pm

Sin Sin Atelier, 4A, Kin Teck Industrial Building, 26 Wong Chuk Hang Rd, Hong Kong



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**Sin Sin Fine Art** is pleased to present a group exhibition of **Japanese Photographers born in 1920s ~ 1940s**, featuring artists **Takashi Kijima(1920-2011)**, **Shomei Tomatsu(1930-2012)**, **Eikoh Hosoe(1933)**, **Takayuki Ogawa(1936-2008)**, **Daido Moriyama(1938)**, **Hajime Sawatari(1940)**, **Issei Suda(1940)** and **Eiichiro Sakata(1941)**.

The exhibition is curated by **Sin Sin Man** in collaboration with **Akio Nagasawa**. The seminal works of **Postwar Photography** in such a scale are brought to Hong Kong for the very first time. Japanese Photography is one of the biggest artistic contributions to the world by a single country in recent history. Though not imitative of traditional Japanese art forms, there is a similar regard for subtle balance, delicate mood and fine craftsmanship. These photographs provide an exclusive access to a particular time as it's seen by the eight legendary photographers through their camera lens.

#### **Takashi KIJIMA**

b. 1920, California, USA, d. 2011

Takashi Kijima is considered one of the greatest Japanese photographers and possibly the world's best photographer of orchids. Born in 1920 in the United States, he moved to Japan to study and graduated in Art at Nihon University in 1943. His photography first gained recognition in 1954 when he won the Asahi Advertisement Award followed by several prizes and medals. His first book on orchids was published in 1975 and since then Takashi Kijima has made his fascinating flower the subject of other books and international photographic exhibitions.

#### **Shomei TOMATSU**

b. 1930, Aichi, JP, d. 2012

Tomatsu was a self-taught photographer. In the late 1950s, he participated in the "Eyes of Ten" exhibitions, and, with five of the other participating photographers (Eikoh Hosoe, Kikuji Kawada, Ikko Narahara, Akira Sato, and Akira Tanno), he formed the agency VIVO, which Brueggemann calls the "epicenter" of Japanese photography in the 1960s. Tomatsu's major projects include photographing the U.S. occupation and subsequent Americanization of Japan; the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Document," in which he and Ken Domon photographed the aftermath of the atomic bomb; and pictures of both violence in the streets and the life styles of students in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

#### **Eikoh HOSOE**

b. 1933, Yamagata, JP

Eikoh Hosoe is one of Japan's notable post-war photographers and filmmakers. Hosoe's photography is often collaborated or linked with his artist acquaintances, the series Barakei (Ordeal by Roses) was created in 1962 with the famous writer Yukio Mishima as a model, and the series Kamaitachi was created with dancer Tatsumi Hijikata as the model in 1969. Hosoe has received the [Royal Photographic Society's 150th anniversary special medal](#), for his work as a photographer who has made a lifetime contribution to art, in 2003. He has also been awarded the title of Japanese Person of Cultural Merit (2010) and many others.



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### **Takayuki OGAWA**

b. 1936, Tokyo, JP, d. 2008

Takayuki Ogawa had been working as freelance in advertising industry. His most celebrated series of photos named "New York Is" were shot there between 1967 and '68. While adopting a documentary style, Ogawa portrays the streets of New York from a personal, subjective point of view, in a somewhat stylish fashion that explicitly suggests his unique aesthetic. After returning to Japan, Camera Mainichi magazine dedicated the first 41 pages of their September '68 issue to the photographer who went on to win a Newcomer Award from the Japan Photo Critics Association in the same year. Collections of Ogawa's works are being kept at George Eastman House (USA), Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Kawasaki City Museum and Nihon University among others.

### **Daido MORIYAMA**

b. 1938, Osaka, JP

Daido Moriyama is one of Japan's foremost contemporary photographers. Moriyama's early works reveal the dark underside of urban Japanese life, and the breakdown of strict, traditional values in the post-war period. One of the photographer's aims is to reveal the hidden beauty in that which is conventionally regarded as flawed, engaging closely with the Japanese world-view of *wabi-sabi* which seeks beauty in imperfection and profundity in nature. Strongly inspired by Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, Moriyama is interested in the importance of the journey; he wanders large metropolises and attempts to uncover the seedier sides of urban life, as well as the hidden parts of the city. In part due to these reasons, his work has a strong sense of voyeurism.

### **Hajime SAWATARI**

b. 1940, Tokyo, JP

Hajime Sawatari is a celebrated fashion and advertising photographer. His photobooks are part of the important cultural renaissance that took place in Japan in the 1960s and '70s and witnessed the promotion of provocative, avant-garde book publishing. Sawatari won the Japan Photograph Association's 'Nendo Sho' award for *Nadia* in 1973. Later on he joined Yoshihiro Tatsuki and Shunji Ōkura to produce a series that was furiously creative and that moved away from the staid conventions of so-called 'talent' books being published in Japan at this time. The Private series revealed an intimate, personal, highly emotional relationship between the photographer and his female subject. Photographed outdoors, Sawatari's nude is tangible and human, rather than aloof and unattainable.

### **Issei SUDA**

b. 1940, Tokyo, JP

Issei Suda occupies a unique position in the history of Japanese photography: deeply important yet having received relatively little attention for his work from the West. Perhaps owing to the fact that he never became associated with any particular school, he remained outside the widely disseminated narratives told about Japanese photography.

### **Eiichiro SAKATA**

b. 1941, Tokyo, JP

Sakata has been shooting portraits for the covers of Aera magazine since its launch in 1988, and as a result of his relentless work, the number of people he portrayed so far amount to more than 1,000. In 2004, the exhibition "Piercing The Sky" at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography attracted much attention. Sakata received a Domon Ken Award and a Photographer Award from The Photographic Society of Japan in 2005. In 2013, the



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“Enoshima” series focusing on “portraits without people” was shown at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, and caused quite a stir as a groundbreaking new venture.

### **About Akio Nagasawa**

**Akio Nagasawa Gallery | Publishing** represents Japanese and international photographers and artists. The gallery has an established reputation for representing the most celebrated Japanese photographers around the world and publishing high quality collectable photography books. Akio Nagasawa as well as running the gallery has been curating exhibitions in collaboration with public museums and institutions like Tate Modern, Pompidou Centre Paris, MOMA San Francisco and more.

### **About Sin Sin Fine Art**

**Sin Sin Fine Art** is an established Hong Kong gallery, most well known as the first and main force in bringing Indonesian Art to Hong Kong. Since, it has gained a reputation for representing emerging and established artists from all over the world and opening new windows to the global art scene. Sin Sin Fine Art is curated by Sin Sin Man and specializes in contemporary art that is of historical significance.

For high resolution images, further information and interview, please contact:

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