Japan Modern: Photography from the Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck Collection


Celebrating the Freer|Sackler’s recent acquisition of a major Japanese photography collection, this exhibition features a selection of works by groundbreaking twentieth-century photographers. Whether capturing evocative landscapes or the gritty realities of postwar Japan, this presentation focuses on Japanese artists’ search for a sense of place in a rapidly changing country. The images highlight destinations both rural and urban, in styles ranging from powerful social documentary to intensely personal. A selection of photobooks and experimental films adds to this multifaceted exploration. Complemented by Japan Modern: Prints in the Age of Photography

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Simmon: A Private Landscape (#1)
Hosoe Eikoh (b. 1933)
Japan, 1971
Gelatin silver print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.82

Kamaitachi #8
Hosoe Eikoh (b. 1933)
Japan, 1965
Gelatin silver print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.77
**Seikan Ferryboat, from the series Karasu (Ravens)**
Fukase Masahisa (1934–2012)
Japan, 1976
Gelatin silver print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.24
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**Koen Dori, Shibuya, from the series Karasu (Ravens)**
Fukase Masahisa (1934–2012)
Japan, 1982
Gelatin silver print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.27
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**Man in a Traditional Minobashi Raincoat, Niigata Prefecture**
Hamaya Hiroshi (1915–1999)
Japan, 1956
Gelatin silver print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.38

**Peaks of Takachiho Volcano, Kagoshima and Miyazaki Prefectures**
Hamaya Hiroshi (1915–1999)
Japan, 1964
Cibachrome print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.44
Evening View
Moriyama Daido (b. 1938)
Japan, 1977
Chromogenic print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.182
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Yokosuka, Kanagawa
Tomatsu Shomei (1930–2012)
Japan, 1959
Gelatin silver print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.304
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Boku To Neko (The Cat and Me)
Ueda Shoji (1913–2000)
Japan, ca. 1950
Three gelatin silver prints
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.316
© Shoji Ueda Office

My Wife on the Dunes
Ueda Shoji (1913–2000)
Japan, ca. 1950
Gelatin silver print
Purchase and partial gift from Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck and purchased through the Freer|Sackler acquisitions fund in honor of Julian Raby, director emeritus of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
S2018.2.317
© Shoji Ueda Office
When photography arrived in Japan in the mid-nineteenth century, traditional woodblock printmakers were forced to adapt their craft to keep pace with the new medium. In the decades that followed, major upheavals—a new system of government, a devastating earthquake, and the onset of world war—continued to influence Japanese prints. This exhibition explores Japanese artists’ reactions to the challenges of modernity from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century. It first examines the collapse of the traditional woodblock-printmaking industry in the face of the printing press and photography. Then, it traces the medium’s resurrection as an art form, through which printmakers recorded scenes of their changing country in striking new ways. Complemented by Japan Modern: Photography from the Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck Collection

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**Road**
Ono Tadashige (1909–1990)
Japan, Showa era, 1954
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
On loan from the Ken and Kiyo Hitch Collection, LTS2017.3.25

**Tile Roof**
Sekino Jun’ichirō (1914–1988)
Japan, Showa era, 1957
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
On loan from the Ken and Kiyo Hitch Collection, LTS2017.3.26

**Daikon Embankment**
Kawase Hasui (1883–1957)
Japan, Taisho era, 1920
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
Robert O. Muller Collection, S2003.8.584

**Ferryboat Landing at Tsukishima**
From the series *Twelve Months of Tokyo*
Kawase Hasui (1883–1957)
Japan, Taisho era, 1921
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
Robert O. Muller Collection, S2003.8.611
Shinbashi Station
Kobayashi Kiyochika (1847–1915)
Japan, Meiji era, 1881
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
Robert O. Muller Collection, S2003.8.1198

Evening Scene with Sail Boats and Mt. Fuji
Ohara Koson (1877–1945)
Japan, Meiji era, 1900s
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
Robert O. Muller Collection, S2003.8.2034

Sanjō Bridge
Tokuriki Tomikichirō (1902–2000)
Japan, Showa era, 1954
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
On loan from the Ken and Kiyo Hitch Collection,
LTS2017.3.27
Image courtesy of Kyoto Tokuriki Hangakan, Inc.