

# OPEN EYE GALLERY



*Completing management training at a stock brokerage firm. Ikebukuro, Tokyo 1961 © Shigeichi Nagano*

## *Metamorphosis of Japan After the War*

**EXHIBITION PERIOD: 22 January – 26 April 2015**

Curated by Tsuguo Tada and Marc Feustel

In 1945, post-war Japan made a new start from the ashes of devastation. In the twenty years leading up to the Tokyo Olympics of 1964, it succeeded in undergoing a dramatic transformation, embarking on a path towards becoming an economic power.

These two decades constituted a period truly brimming with creative energy - a time in which democracy led to the restoration of vitality and free photographic expression, in which new talent pioneered post-war photography.

This new exhibition reflects on the turbulent period that followed the war, exhibiting over 100 black and white photographs by 11 leading Japanese photographers. The photographers selected are **Ken Domon**, perhaps the best-known Japanese photographer of the 20th century for his cool-headed photo-realism. **Ihee Kimura**, whose approach to realism was distinguished from Domon's by its unique aesthetics. **Hiroshi Hamaya**, who photographed the climates and environments of mountain and agricultural villages together with the lives of their inhabitants. **Tadahiko Hayashi**, who produced marvelous portraits. **Shigeichi Nagano**, **Ikko Narahara**, **Kikuji Kawada**, **Shomei Tomatsu**, and **Yasuhiro Ishimoto**, who represent a younger generation of photographers, and **Eikoh Hosoe** and **Takeyoshi Tanuma**, who were two of the photographers who demonstrated the creativity of photography. Each of these individuals has their own style and produced significant works that are important records of this period.

Rather than arranging the works by period and author, this exhibition is divided into three sections: "*The Aftermath of the War*" "*Between Tradition and Modernity*" and "*Towards a New Japan*". Although the arrangement may seem arbitrary, the sequence provides a vivid narrative of the convoluted aspects of this complicated era.

## **The exhibition is organised by The Japan Foundation**

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and became an Independent Administrative Institution in 2003. The organisation promotes international cultural exchange between Japan and the rest of the world by organising projects as well as providing financial support through grant programmes in the fields of Arts and Culture, Japanese language and Japanese studies. The Japan Foundation currently has its Head Office in Tokyo, with offices and centres in over 20 countries outside of Japan. The Japan Foundation London is the Foundation's only office in the UK, and one of the first overseas offices to be established, opening in 1972. [www.jpf.go.jp](http://www.jpf.go.jp) (Head Office), [www.jpf.org.uk](http://www.jpf.org.uk) (London)

## **Editors Notes**

If you need to contact us to ask a question, arrange interviews or to request hi-res image files, please email Charlotte Anne Down, Marketing and Communications Officer:  
[charlotte@openeye.org.uk](mailto:charlotte@openeye.org.uk) +44 (0) 151 242 1131

Open Eye Gallery  
19 Mann Island  
Liverpool Waterfront  
L3 1BP

[www.openeye.org.uk](http://www.openeye.org.uk)  
Phone: +44 (0) 151 236 6768  
Email: [info@openeye.org.uk](mailto:info@openeye.org.uk)

## **Gallery Opening Hours:**

10.30am - 5.30pm  
Tuesday to Sunday during exhibitions.  
Closed on Mondays (except bank holidays) and during exhibition changeovers.

## **About Open Eye Gallery:**

Founded in 1977 Open Eye Gallery is an independent not-for-profit photography gallery based in Liverpool. One of the UK's leading photography spaces, Open Eye is the only gallery dedicated to photography and related media in the North West of England. Open Eye has consistently championed photography as an art form that is relevant to everyone. It promotes the practice, enjoyment and understanding of photography by creating challenging and entertaining opportunities to experience and appreciate distinctive, innovative photographs.

As well as presenting a programme of international, high-quality exhibitions Open Eye houses a permanent Archive containing photographs dating from the 1930s to the present day.

In November 2011 Open Eye re-launched in a brand new purpose-built home in one of the city's most prestigious and prominent new developments on the Liverpool Waterfront. The gallery opens on to a large covered public square and is split over two floors. Open Eye Gallery hosts an international programme of cutting edge exhibitions showcased all year round, including periodic exhibitions reflecting on the gallery's Archive. Open Eye also commissions Wall Works - large-scale graphic art installations for the external facade of the gallery. The gallery's position at the heart of the regenerated Waterfront – next to the Museum of Liverpool and a stone's throw from Tate Liverpool and Albert Dock – cements its commitment to the city and its vibrant cultural life.

*Ends –*



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**it's liverpool**

