



UMBO, Slippers, 1928-29

Surrealism and Photography - BEAUTY CONVULSED -

March 15 (Sat) - May 6 (Tues) 2008

3F Exhibition Gallery,

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and
Culture / Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

Supported by: The Japan Association of Art Museums

Exhibition Summary

The largest art movement of the twentieth century, Surrealism, began with the 'Surrealism Manifesto' that was drawn up by Andre Breton and published in 'La Révolution Surréaliste' in 1924. After its birth in Paris, it quickly developed to produce a diverse world of expression, spreading to the United Kingdom, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and other European countries, while its influence was also felt in the U.S.A. and Mexico. Japan was no exception to this trend and from the prewar years until the fifties, it was a prominent theme in every branch of avant-garde photography from pure visual expressions to advertising or fashion.

Surrealism achieved great popularity, particularly through painting, but in this exhibition we will look at its relationship with photography, making new approaches to the subject from a variety of angles. Recent years have seen numerous large-scale exhibitions on the subject of Surrealism being held around the world, but in our forthcoming exhibition we will look at its entire range of expression to ask the basic question of 'What is Surrealism?', while simultaneously questioning 'What is photography?' and introducing the unique visual world produced by this twentieth-century artistic revolution through a large variety of works. (Proposed number of works: approx. 200)

Exhibition Highlights

This is the first major exhibition in Japan to focus on Surrealism in photography.

In addition to being a philosophy, Surrealism represented the world aimed for by the artists who were trying to carry out this

Man Ray, Séance de Rêve éveillée, 1924





Bill Brandt, East Sussex Coast, 1930

philosophy. Surrealism was not merely a method of expressing an unreal world that can only exist in the imagination; it was a way of capturing the powerful truth that exists in reality and was therefore linked to reality. In this respect, surely photography can be said to be the medium with the greatest potential to achieve the philosophy of Surrealism.

Exhibitions of Surrealist painting have been held frequently in recent years, even here in Japan. The one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Salvador Dali was celebrated with exhibitions around the world that proved very popular, but it is not widely appreciated that photography also played an important role in this, the greatest art movement of the twentieth century and that many masterpieces were created using the medium. There have been numerous

retrospective exhibitions of the work of Man Ray but he was not the

only photographer to be influenced by Surrealism, there were many others. This exhibition provides a good opportunity for people to discover the work of photographers other than the popular Man Ray or Hans Bellmer.

This exhibition will also include work by Japanese artists ranging from HIRAI Terushichi, YAMAMOTO Kansuke and GOTO Keichiro to Ei-Q, UEDA Shoji, OTSUJI Kiyoji and OKANOUE Toshiko. Surrealism spread throughout the world and was to have a profound influence on advertising, fashion and every other creative field; it produced a revolution in the way that people sense and express the world around them and we invite you to step into the fascinating world that it projects.



UEDA Shoji, Composition, 1937

Appreciating the Exhibition

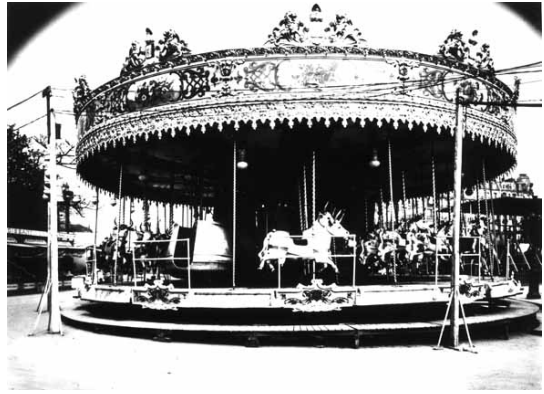


Maurice TABARD, Title Unknown, 1930-35

People who believe that Surrealism is too difficult to understand should simply look at these photographs, one by one, and enjoy the unique ideas and expressions they represent. Ask yourself what the artist must have been trying to achieve and what it suggests to you, the viewer. Photography has become a part of our daily lives, but as a medium of expression, it is still new compared to painting. We hope that you will enjoy the original ideas presented by the photographers in this exhibition and also appreciate the fact that it is because these works are photographs that such unique expressions could be achieved. If you do this, you will realize that photographs are not just something that are 'taken', but that they can also be enjoyed as a form of unrestrained expression.

Participating Photographers (proposed)

Jean Eugene Auguste Atget, Jacques-Andre Boiffard, Man Ray, Hans Bellmer, Herbert List, René Magritte, Max Ernst, Herbert Bayer, Jindrich Styrsky, Bill Brandt, Maurice Tabard, Brassai, Frantisek Vobecky, Pierre Boucher, Karl Blossfeldt, Andre Kertesz, Umbo, Wols, HIRAI Terushichi, Yamamoto Kansuke, GOTO Keiichiro, Ei-Q, UEDA Shoji, OTSUJI Kiyoji, OKANOUE Toshiko, UEKI Noboru, etc.



Jean Eugene Auguste Atget, Merry-go-round, 1923

Symposiums/Lectures Etc.

Related Symposium 'The Surrealist Universe'

Date: April 20 (Sun)

Part One from 2:00 pm / Part Two from 4:00 pm.

Venue: 1st Floor Hall

Moderator: JIMBO Kyoko (Curator, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography)

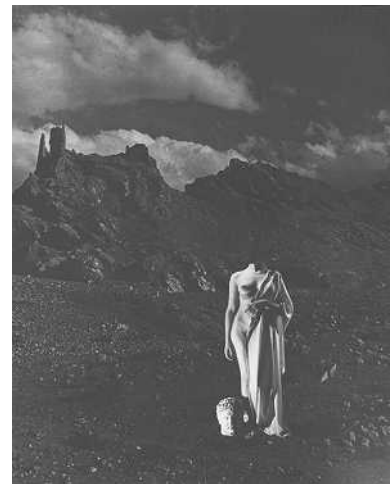
Panelists: SUZUKI Masao (Professor, Waseda University)

HAYASHI Michio (Professor, Sophia University)

TSUKAHARA Fumi (Professor, Waseda University)

CHIBA Fumio ((Professor, Waseda University)

* Entry in order of arrival (limited seating, numbered tickets to be issued on the day: 10am).



Pierre BOUCHER, Nu monte par decoupage, Nu /un paysage du Maroc (Atlas du Sud), 1937

Commemorative Lecture Series 'Photography and Surrealism'

Date: April 26 (Sat)

Part One from 2:00 pm / Part Two from 4:00 pm.

April 27 (Sun)

Part Three from 2:00 pm / Part Four from 4:00 pm.

Venue: 1st Floor Atelier

Lecturer: IWAYA Kunio (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University)

* Entry is in order of arrival (limited seating, numbered tickets to be issued on the day: 10am).



Jindrich STYRSKY, from 'On the Needle of these Days', 1934-35

Floor Lecture by Exhibition Curator

A floor lecture will be given by the curator of this exhibition at 2:00 pm. on the second and fourth Fridays during the exhibition period.

*Anybody with an entrance ticket may attend.



Upper Left: UEKI Noboru, Title Unknown
 Lower Left: NAGATA Isshu, Title Unknown
 Right: OKANOUE Toshiko, Fantasy, 1952

Information

Venue: Third-floor Exhibition Gallery, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

Tel: 03-3280-0099 URL: <http://www.syabi.com>

Yebisu Garden Place, 1-13-3 Mita, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0062.

(7 minutes walk from the East Exit, JR Ebisu Station; 10 minutes walk from Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line Ebisu Station)

Admission Fee: Adults ¥700 (560), Students ¥600 (480), Junior and Senior High School Students/People aged 65 or over ¥500 (400).

*The figure in parentheses refers to the group discount rate applicable to groups of 20 people or more and to members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography Club.

*Admission is free of charge for grade school children or younger, disabled persons and their carers.

*Admission is free of charge for persons aged 65 or over on the third Wednesday of each month.

Open Hours: 10:00 - 18:00 (Thurs/Fri 10:00 - 20:00) * Final admission 30 minutes before closing time.

Museum Closed: Closed every Monday (* the Museum will open on May 5)

For Further Information

Please contact the Curatorial Section,

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Yebisu Garden Place, 1-13-3 Mita, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0062.

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* Concerning the images in this press release.

The pictures that appear in this press release are available in data form for publication in the press. For further details, please contact the PR/Advertising Section.