

TOP MUSEUM

東京都写真美術館
TOKYO PHOTOGRAPHIC ART MUSEUM

153-0062 東京都目黒区三田1-13-3 恵比寿ガーデンプレイス内
Yebisu Garden Place, 1-13-3 Mita Meguro-ku Tokyo 153-0062
TEL 03-3280-0099 FAX 03-3280-0033
www.topmuseum.jp

TOP Collection

A Traveler from 1200 Months in the Past

Apr. 7, 2023 – Jul. 7, 2024



Kuroiwa Yasuyoshi
D51 488 Yamate Freight Line (Ebisu)
1953
Gelatine Silver Print
Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

This exhibition of works from the collection of the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum has the theme of time travel.

The science-fictional fantasy of people freely traversing all the eras of history has existed since time immemorial. However, in the world of the imagination and the realm of art, it is no fantasy, and anyone can break free of the conventional bounds of time and space.

In 1924, the poet and author of children's literature Miyazawa Kenji published *Spring and Asura*, poetically describing the inner landscape of "the phenomenon called I" and envisioning "the fourth dimensional continuum" in which all things overlap at a cosmic time-scale. Miyazawa Kenji's imagination was sparked by the latest developments in science and thought of his day, but although he set his vision down in words a hundred years ago, there is something about it that still resonates in our hearts in this fragmented current era.

This exhibition begins its journey through time in the year 1924, exactly a century ago, and presents photographic and film works and materials primarily drawn from our collection of over 37,000 items. With the theme of "a traveler from 1,200 months in the past," it enables visitors to encounter narratives woven in various times and places. It is also a trip through time and space that connects the pre-World War II, postwar, and contemporary periods through the power of imagination, with the words of the poetic preface to Miyazawa's *Spring and Asura* serving as a guide. We invite you to enjoy this journey through a wealth of still and moving images.

ROOM 1 : 1924 - Taisho 13

This journey through time begins in the year 1924, exactly a century ago. As the Taisho era (1912-1926) drew to a close in Japan, modernist art movements were beginning to flourish overseas. In these rapidly changing times, artists were in search of new modes of expression. Examples of Pictorialism and avant-garde works from abroad from this time reveal the phase of the time, with nostalgia and old-world charm intermingling with a modern sensibility. It was in 1924 that the poet and author of children's literature Miyazawa Kenji published the only collection of poetry released during his lifetime, *Spring and Asura*.

Artist: Ogawa Gesshu, Takayama Masataka, Fukumori Hakuyo, László Moholy-Nagy, Miyazawa Kenji, Man Ray, and more



01_01



01_02

01_01

Yoshikawa Tomizo, *Face of Woman*, 1924, Gum-bichromate Print, Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

01_02

Jaroslav Rössler, *Still-life with Bowl, Prague*, 1924, Gelatine Silver Print, Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

ROOM 2 : The Modern City in the Showa Era

Welcome to Tokyo in the 1930s, early in the Showa era. The city was buzzing with the energy of Asakusa, Ginza, Shinjuku, department stores, businessmen, cafés, stylish young *moga* (modern girls) and *mobo* (modern boys), the Leica compact camera, the cinema, art exhibitions, the opening of the subway, flashing neon signs, modern design, advertising photography, the magazine *Asahi Graph*... One highlight of this section is a fascinating series of advertising posters that adorned the streets in those days, from the collections of the National Crafts Museum and the Edo Tokyo Museum, complemented by photographs from our own collection.

Artist: Okubo Koroku, Kuwabara Kineo, Sugiura Hisui, Nakayama Iwata, Hukuhara Roso, Horino Masao, KIMURA Senichi and more



02_01



02_02

02_01

Kuwabara Kineo, *(Subway Entrance)*, 1930-39, Gelatine Silver Print, Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

02_02

Sugiura Hisui, *The Reconstruction of the Imperial Capital and Tokyo Subway*, c.1929, Lithograph, Offset, Collection of National Crafts Museum

ROOM 3: What Was Once Here: Memories of Yebisu Beer

Searching the memory of the area where the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum is now located, we journey back in time to a beer brewery that once stood on the site of what is now the Yebisu Garden Place complex. Yebisu Beer was brewed there from the late 19th century onward, and the beer became the area's namesake. Where the museum now stands, there was formerly a local landmark, the brewery's malt house with its four smokestacks. In this section, we explore the way things once looked and the history of Yebisu Beer through photographs and posters from the Sapporo Breweries collection. Alongside these, we present works from our collection that narrate the history of the area.

Artist: Kuroiwa Yasuyoshi, Miyamoto Ryuji theme: history of Yebisu Beer



03_01

SAPPORO BEER RIBBON CITRON poster,
c.1927, Courtesy: Sapporo Breweries Ltd.



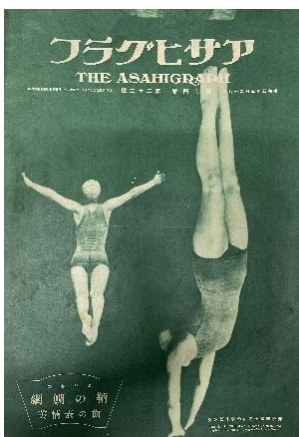
03_02

Miyamoto Ryuji, *Sapporo Beer Yebisu Brewery* From the series
Architectural apocalypse, 1990, Gelatine Silver Print,
Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

ROOM 4 : 20th Century Memories: History as Seen in Photographic Magazines

Magazine covers are mirrors of their times, conveying what was contemporary at the time of their release. From our museum library, we have selected standout back issues of magazines such as *Life* and *Asahi Graph* that trace the arc of 20th-century history through their cover art. In connection with this, we present original prints by some of the most prominent photojournalists, including W. Eugene Smith and Otsuka Gen. Smith's *Spanish Village* (1950) is hailed as one of his masterworks of the photo-essay form. Meanwhile, Otsuka Gen's documentary photos vividly depict Japan's resurgence and development from the aftermath of World War II through the rapid economic growth period.

Artist: Kawada Kikuji, Otsuka Gen, W. Eugene Smith, and more theme: Photographic Magazines



04_01



04_02

04_01

Cover of Asahi Graph, May 28, 1930

04_02

Otsuka Gen, *Composed Views of the Night Sky at Sukiyabashi*, 1958,
Gelatine Silver Print, Collection of
Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

ROOM 5 : Space-Time Travel: The Cenozoic Alluvial Epoch

This section beckons you on a multifaceted voyage through time and space inspired by the preface to Miyazawa Kenji's *Spring and Asura*. Enjoy magic-lantern slides from a hundred years ago, long-exposure photographs, multi-projection video, images of passengers... The journey extends from the 20th century to today, transcending the bounds of space-time, and showcasing works from the museum's collection centered on themes of time, history, and imagination.

Artist: Iwane Ai, Kitano Ken, Sato Tokihiro, Takagi Tejiro, Hara Mikiko, Miyazawa Kenji and more



05_01

Takagi Tejiro, From the series *100 Selects of Japanese Landscapes and Custom*, 1910-23, Hand Painted Glass Slides/Single Channel Video (Slide Show),
Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum



05_02

Kitano Ken, Shodoshima, *Tonosho Town, Kagawa from winter solstice 2017 to summer solstice in 2018* From the series *Gathering Light*, 2017-18, Inkjet Print,
Collection of the Artist

Outline of exhibition |

Dates: April 4 - July 7, 2024

Closed: Mondays (however, the museum will be open on Monday, April 29 and Monday, May 6, and closed on Tuesday, May 7)

Venue: 3F Exhibition Gallery, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum
Yebisu Garden Place, 1-13-3 Mita Meguro-ku Tokyo 153-0062

Open Hours: 10:00–18:00 (Thu. / Fri. 10:00–20:00)

*Final admission 30 minutes before closing.

Admission : Adults ¥ 700/ College Students ¥ 560 / High School and Junior High School Students, Over 65 ¥ 350

*Admission is free for children in elementary school or younger; junior high school students living or attending schools in the Tokyo metropolitan area; holders of Japanese disability identification cards (shogaisha techo), along with up to two caregivers; and holders of the museum's annual passport.

Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

With assistance from: J-WAVE 81.3FM

For Press |

If you have any press enquiries about this Exhibition, please contact our Department of Public Relations.

High-resolution images for publication are also available by e-mail.

press-info@topmuseum.jp

<https://topmuseum.jp/e/contents/index.html>