

PRESS RELEASE

Oct. 4, 2024

Alec Soth: A Room of Rooms

Oct. 10, 2024 – Jan. 19, 2025

Anna, Kentfield, California

from the series *I Know How Furiously Your Heart is Beating*,
2017, Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum ©Alec Soth



The Tokyo Photographic Art Museum is pleased to present a solo exhibition of the photographer Alec Soth, born in 1969 in Minnesota, USA. A full member of the international photography collective Magnum Photos, Soth has earned global acclaim for his narrative-driven photographs, often depicting scenes from his native Midwest region of the United States.

Titled *A Room of Rooms*, the exhibition showcases a wide range of Soth's photographs, from *Sleeping by the Mississippi*, the artist's first published series, which typifies his early works, to *Advice for Young Artists*, his most recent endeavor, set to be issued this fall. However, it is not merely a retrospective of Soth's career, which spans 30 years. The museum has curated this selection of scenes shot almost entirely indoors so as to reinterpret his oeuvre with the theme of "rooms."

Among the works in the exhibition are those from the series *I Know How Furiously Your Heart is Beating*. Drawing its title from a line in Wallace Stevens's (1879-1955) poem "Gray Room," the series was compiled into a photo book in 2019, marking a turning point in Soth's career. Initially, Soth's work took him across his homeland by car, capturing landscapes and people he encountered with a large-format camera, but this series represents a departure from the road-trip approach. Soth traveled to various parts of the world, visiting various figures such as the late dancer and choreographer Anna Halprin (1920-2021) and the novelist Hanya Yanagihara (b. 1974), and shooting their portraits and personal belongings in the personal spaces where they spend much of their time. This focus on rooms and their occupants provided the impetus for this exhibition.

I Know How Furiously Your Heart is Beating captivates viewers with its intimate portrayals of subjects in tranquil settings. The evocative title seems to express Soth's empathy with his subjects as he captured these moments, and to reflect our own emotional engagement with the works in this "room of rooms," i.e., the museum gallery.

The artist explains, "While I regularly take photograph portraits, landscapes and still lifes, the genre I feel most connected to is the interior." What will become visible to us as we explore the various rooms and encounter their inhabitants? Soth's exhibitions and photo books have thus far earned widespread acclaim, and this exhibition delves further into the power of his art.



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[1] *Two Towels* from the series *Niagara*, 2004, Collection of the artist

[2] *Bil, Sandusky, Ohio* from the series *Songbook*, 2012, Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

[3] *Still Life II* from the series *Advice for Young Artists*, 2024, Collection of the artist

[4] *Crystal, Easter, New Orleans, Louisiana* from the series *Sleeping by the Mississippi*, 2002, Collection of the artist

[5] *Untitled 07* from the series *Dog Days, Bogotá*, 2003, Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

*All Works ©Alec Soth

Events |

Artist Talk: Alec Soth

Date and Time: 14:00-16:00, October 12, 2024

Venue: 1F Hall, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Fee: free

Number of participants: up to 190 Numbered tickets will be distributed at the 1F general reception desk from 10:00 on the day

Outline of exhibition |

Exhibition Title: Alec Soth: A Room of Rooms

Dates: October 10, 2024 – January 19, 2025

Closed: Mondays (except when Monday falls on a holiday, in which case the museum is open and closed the following day) and New Year's holidays (12/29-1/1)

Venue: 2F 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) *Open until 18:00 on January 2 and 3, 2025.

*Final admission 30 minutes before closing.

Admission: Adults ¥ 800/ College Students ¥ 640 / High School and Junior High School Students, Over 65 ¥ 400

*Admission is free for everyone on January 2 and 3, 2025.

*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.

*Multiple discounts do not apply.

Curated by Ito Takahiro (Curator, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum)

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

Sponsored by the Corporate Membership of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

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>