Photographs by AKIHIKO OKAMURA

All About Life and Death

July 19, Sat-September 23, Tue. 2014

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

List of works

1 South Vietnamese government soldiers dropped into rice paddies from a helicopter. South Vietnam, 1963.

1. on the street at war

Having signed a contract with the PANA news agency, Okamura toured Thailand and Laos for eight months before arriving in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), the capital of South Vietnam, in July of 1963. In Vietnam, a guerrilla war had broken out, with the anti-government guerrillas seeking the unification of Vietnam, which had been split in two. The United States, attempting to keep South Vietnam from turning Communist, supported the Catholic president Ngo Dinh Diem. The Ngo administration, however, scaled up the intensity of its suppression of Buddhism. Military advisors dispatched by the United States and government troops were repeatedly engaged in battles with the Viet Cong (the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam). There were no distinct fronts in the Vietnam War; even the streets of the capital Saigon became battlegrounds. Students and Buddhists protesting against the government and the Americans mingled with pro-American and anti-Communist demonstrators, and the Viet Cong terrorism grew ever more violent.

- 2 South Vietnamese police army cracking down on demonstrations. Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), South Vietnam, 1964.
- 3 Demonstration by anti-government students. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1964.
- 4 Buddhism was severely suppressed under the administration of the Catholic president Ngo Dinh Diem, who had the support of the United States. Buddhist demonstrators protesting against government pressure and interference by the United States. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1963.
- 5 Sturdy steel gates installed at a residence in Saigon, where fierce conflicts were constant. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1964.
- 6 South Vietnamese police army soldier in Saigon. South Vietnam, 1964.
- 7 A protestor injured by tear gas shells used by the South Vietnamese police force in Buddhist demonstrators. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1964.
- 8 The administration of Duong Van Minh also suppressed Buddhism. A monk restrains a solider about to crack down on demonstrators. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1964.
- 9 There were celebration rallies when Ngo Dinh Diem, who had repeatedly and fiercely suppressed Buddhism, was deposed in a coup d'état. Buddhist adherents with a float and a banner in praise of Sakyamuni. Le Loi Street, Saigon, South Vietnam, November 1963.
- 10 Celebration rally after the collapse of the Ngo administration. Saigon, South Vietnam, November 1963.
- 11 Buddhist leaders on a podium at a celebration rally after the collapse of the Ngo administration. Saigon, South Vietnam, November 1963.
- 12 At a celebration rally after the collapse of the Ngo administration. Saigon, South Vietnam, November 1963.
- 13 Duong Van Minh's military junta was toppled by another coup in January, 1964, and Nguyen Khanh became chairman of the Military Revolutionary Council, head of state in February, and prime minister in August. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1964.
- 14 Robert McNamara, U.S. Secretary of Defense (center) and the Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. U.S. Ambassadar (right) at a press conference in the VIP room at Tan Son Nhat airport (Saigon). Saigon, South Vietnam, 1964.
- 15 An undertaker's truck driving past the Lower House Building of South Vietnam. Saigon, South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 16 On March 30, 1965, at 10:50 a.m., local time, a car bomb was detonated beside the U.S. embassy. At least 10 Vietnamese and two Americans were killed and more than 180 people were injured. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1965.
- 17 Interior of the U.S. embassy after the terrorist bombing. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1965.
- 18 Vicinity of the U.S. embassy after the terrorist bombing. Saigon, South Vietnam, 1965.
- 19 Throngs of people welcoming Dean Rusk, U.S. Secretary of State, and Prime minister Nguyen Kanh on a visit to Dalat, in the Central Highlands. Dalat, South Vietnam, May 1964.
- 20 Onlookers at a visit to Dalat by Dean Rusk, U.S. Secretary of State. South Vietnam, May 1964.

2. into the battlefield

By 1965, Okamura had joined South Vietnamese government troops on more than 40 operations. In 1965, he attempted to sneak into territory that had been liberated by the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (NLF). Okamura's photographs had been distributed via the PANA news agency, but since hardly any had been used, he was completely unknown until his work was featured in the June 12, 1964 issue of *LIFE* magazine. At the time, the Vietnam War was little recognized in Japan, which may explain the lack of interest in his work. In April 1965, Okamura made contact with the Central Committee of the NLF, but was mistaken for an American spy and imprisoned. He was confined for 53 days, but on the 43rd day, he succeeded in interviewing Huynh Tan Phat, the second highest official in the NLF. As a result, he was banned from entering South Vietnam for a period of five years.

- 21 A "strategic village" fenced off from its surroundings to create a base for government troops and to defend against raids by NLF. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 22 The Do Xa Campaign refers to intensive aerial bombing strikes from helicopters in areas of the Central Highlands that were thought to harbor strongholds of NLF. However, contrary to government propaganda, the outcome was not significant. Do Xa village, Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam, April 1964.
- 23 A landing zone cut out of the jungle. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- U.S. army transport plane dropping supplies to a special forces base in the jungle. Dropping supplies from the air while evading anti-aircraft fire from NLF was extremely dangerous. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 25 Troops advancing along a red dirt road. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 26 An American army advisor sent to the frontline headquarters works late into the night. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 27 Catastrophic damage at a government military base as a result of a night raid by NLF. South Vietnam, 1964.
- Interior of a government military base that suffered catastrophic damage as the result of a night raid by NLF. South Vietnam, 1964.
- 29 The body of a government soldier killed in an ambush. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 30 Government troops have captured suspected "Viet Cong" hiding in dugouts in a farming village in NLF stronghold near the border with Cambodia. The soldiers administer water torture by forcing the man to lie with rags over his upturned face and pouring water over the rags. Ducks are drinking the water. South Vietnam, May 1964.
- 31 An imprisoned NLF fighter made to examine the bodies of seven fellow fighters. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 32 A family of five on the NLF side was captured, carefully fingerprinted, and then dragged, with their hidden stash of weapons and ammunition, out in public. An infant a few months old was among them and appears to have been shot. Phu Quoc Island, South Vietnam, 1963.
- Three NLF fighters guerrillas who had attacked a government an army position. One of them died holding a land mine. They attacked wearing nothing but loincloths, and appear to be entangled in wire. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 34 The remains of government soldiers wrapped in U.S. army ponchos. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 35 A government soldier playing at decorating his helmet with flowers. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 36 A government soldier with his food ration in the Central Highlands. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 37 Commissioned officers in the government forces enjoying a meal at an improvised dinner table in the Central Highlands. South Vietnam, c.1964.
- 38 General William Westmoreland, acting commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, on an inspection tour. A checkpoint with police officers and soldiers. South Vietnam, c.1965.
- 39 When you ventured away from the national trunk roads controlled by the government forces into agricultural areas, you could catch sight of the small paper flags of NLF pasted on village gates. South Vietnam, 1965.
- 40 Attempting to make contact with the NLF Central Committee, Okamura was captured in the jungle in War Zone D (a hazardous area controlled by the NLF, north of Saigon). After 53 days of imprisonment, he succeeded in interviewing Huynh Tan Phat, deputy chairman of the NLF, who became president of the South Vietnamese Provisional Revolutionary Government in 1969. South Vietnam, May 1965.

- 41 Considered a security risk because of his firsthand coverage of the NLF, Okamura was banned by the South Vietnamese government from entering the country for a period of five years. In 1971, when the ban was lifted, Okamura followed the South Vietnamese army overland during the Laos incursion. Traveling from Vietnam to Laos across jungle stripped bare by defoliant. A large helicopter is transporting ammunition. On Vietnamese territory, February 1971.
- 42 A young government soldier sleeping inside an M113 armored tank at the height of the Laos incursion. The February cover photo for the army calendar shows new soldiers enlisting. Laos, February 1971.
- 43 The outline of the invasion of Laos was concealed even from the soldiers. Okamura achieved a scoop by spending every day with the soldiers and following the army overland. Laos, February 1971.
- 44 A South Vietnamese army unit, which spent three weeks reaching a point 25 kilometers beyond the Laotian border, eat lunch while watching the thundering bombing from a U.S. B-52. Laos, February 1971.
- 45 A South Vietnamese armored vehicle unit traveling along Route 9 toward the strategically important Tchepone on the Ho Chi Minh trail sets off explosions when it hits a minefield after traveling 25 kilometers. Soldiers knocked down from the armored vehicle by the impact. Laos, February 1971.
- **46** Loading a wounded soldier into a helicopter. Laos, February 1971.
- 47 The Laotian Incursion was intended to lure the North Vietnams forces into battle by invading neighboring Laos, which had become a sanctuary and supply route for the NLF and the North Vietnamese army. It ended in complete failure. In the middle of battle, a government soldier flees, carrying a wounded soldier on his back. Laos, February 1971.
- 48 South Vietnamese soldiers after escaping Laos and retreating to the base at Khe Sanh. South Vietnam, February 1971.

3. Colonies

While reporting on the Vietnam War, Okamura also visited Cambodia, Malaysia and Korea to explore the background to wars in former colonies. In Korea, he reported on an incident involving the shooting death of a young Korean man who had entered a U.S. Army missile site in Uncheon. Okamura also attempted to report from inside the Syngman Rhee Line (President Syngman Rhee having declared Korean jurisdiction over waters within a line running about 60 nautical miles from the coast) by boarding a Korean fishing boat. After being banned from entering South Vietnam, he reported on the training at a center on Okinawa for training American Special Forces, who were dispatched to Vietnam, and covered the Tokyo Bay, near Haneda, crash of an All Nippon Airways flight (February, 1966). He also visited Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia to report on former colonial areas in the Pacific. Okamura's awareness of the problems in colonial areas as "where world history was happening" stayed with him into his later years. This section also considers photographs from the island of Martinique in the West Indies, where Okamura followed the footsteps of Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo).

- 49 People watching a firecracker display at New Year. Macau, c.1965.
- 50 A handbill posted by a successful candidate in the legislative elections in Okinawa, which was under the administrative authority of the United States. Okinawa, November 1965.
- Polling place for the elections for representatives to the legislature in Okinawa, which was under the administrative authority of the United States. November 1965.
- 52 American Special Forces on exercises before being sent to Vietnam. The "Viet Cong" (American soldiers) came tumbling down the riverbanks as the troops moved upriver, holding onto buoys made by filling ponchos with grass growing on the banks. Okinawa, 1965.
- 53 U.S. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey on a visit to Korea. Korea, January 1966.
- The parents and brother of a young Korean man shot and killed after intruding on a U.S. army missile site. On this day, the young man's mother visited the burial place for the first time. Uncheon, Korea, February 1964.
- 55 Conflict between Japanese and Korean fishing boats in the vicinity of the Syngman Rhee line was ongoing. Okamura attempted to cover the Rhee line from the Korean side and persuaded a ship's owner to let him board a Korean fishing boat. Korea,
- 56 In a terrible disaster, 133 passengers and crew died when an All Nippon Airways aircraft crashed into Tokyo Bay offshore near Haneda. Tokyo, February 1966.
- 57 Bereaved family members (probably), after the crash of an All Nippon Airways aircraft into Tokyo Bay offshore near Haneda. Tokyo, February 1966.
- 58 The remains of the victims are recovered and placed coffins to be taken away. ANA Haneda Bay crash. Tokyo, February 1966.

- 59 Divers looking for the victims. ANA Haneda Bay crash. Tokyo, February 1966.
- 60 A pile of coffins for receiving the remains of the victims. ANA Haneda Bay crash. Tokyo, February 1966.
- 61 The sea of Tahiti seen from the air. Tahiti, 1966.
- 62 Fisherman. Tahiti, 1966.
- 63 Onlookers gather for a view of French President Charles de Gaulle on a visit to Tahiti. Tahiti, September 1966.
- 64 President Charles de Gaulle on a visit to Tahiti. Tahiti, September 1966.
- 65 A French air craft carrier in the waters of Tahiti. Tahiti, 1966.
- 66 Baguettes are popular in the French territory of Tahiti. Tahiti, 1966.
- 67 Before coming to Japan, Lafcadio Hearn spent two years on Martinique in the West Indies. A swimmer diving into the azure sea. Martinique, 1972.
- 68 French is the official language on Martinique, which is a department of France. Film posters on the street. Martinique, 1972.

4. to understand America

In May 1965, Okamura, having gotten out of Saigon, traveled to the United States for the first time. Physically weakened after 53 days in captivity, Okamura stockpiled California oranges in his hotel room and ate like a horse. When he had regained his strength, he covered the civil war in the Dominican Republic and the intervention by U.S. Marines, from the viewpoints of both the Americans and the rebel army. He also did a story on Japanese migrants living in the mountain town of Jarabacoa in the Dominican Republic. Looking at America from various angles, Okamura tried to develop an understanding of America, a country both fighting the Communists in the former French and Spanish colonies and tolerating harsh dissent voiced by minorities within it. He took aerial photographs of Boston and Harvard University and became acquainted with the former U.S. ambassador to Japan, Edwin O. Reischauer. This section includes photographs from New Orleans, where he followed the footsteps of the writer Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo), who was of Irish descent.

- 69 Mexico, July 1965.
- 70 At the Nuuanu Stream in downtown Honolulu. Hawaii, September 1966.
- 71 Resting his feet on a parking meter, a drunk sleeps it off on the hood of a car. Hawaii, September 1966.
- 72 Downtown street in Honolulu. Hawaii, September 1966.
- 73 Rebels led by Colonel Francisco Caamaño, provisional president, at a wrestling match at an outdoor sports venue in Santo Domingo. Every time there's a foul, hecklers shout "Don't act like a Yankee!" Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic,
- 74 An imposing barricade built on a street in Santo Domingo. Residents walk past American Marines on guard. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 75 American Marines on guard. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 76 Many fighters among the rebels are devout Catholics. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 77 New recruits for the rebel army in training. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 78 Anti-American poster (wall painting). Perhaps the motif of a figure stabbed with a sword but holding pen and paper conceals the hope that the constitution, which had been suspended by the coup d'état, would be restored. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 79 A member of staff at the training camp for new recruits for the rebels. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 80 Meal distribution at a training camp for new recruits for the rebels. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 81 Police officers and government officials were held at a prison in Santo Domingo, which had been occupied by the rebels. Taken by secretly climbing the prison watch tower, this image shows prisoners relaxing in the courtyard. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 82 At a factory for bird feed. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1965.
- 83 Destroyed building in Santo Domingo. Dominican Republic, 1965.
- A family of Japanese immigrants living in a Japanese settlement in the town of Jarabacoa in the mountains of the Dominican Republic. Emigration from Japan to the Dominican republic began in the 1950s during the regime of Rafael Trujillo, but the Japanese government's recruitment promises of grants of up to 18 hectares of good farmland and other incentives were not honored. There was also friction between the Japanese immigrants and the local people. In 2006, the Japanese government formally apologized to the Japanese immigrants. Dominican Republic, 1965.

- 85 The building of the railway workers's union, founded in April, 1962. The previous year, Trujillo's 31-year-long dictatorship came to an end. President Juan Bosch, who won the subsequent election, was also overthrown in a coup d'état. Turmoil ensured, and the U.S. Marines were sent in. Dominican Republic, July 1965.
- 86 Boston from the air. Massachusetts, United States of America, c.1968.
- 87 Edwin O. Reischauer, United States Ambassador to Japan from 1961 to 1966, on a visit to the Japan Institute, Harvard University. Cambridge, United States of America, 1975.
- 88 Harvard University playing Dartmouth College in a game of American football at Harvard Stadium (Allston). Massachusetts, United States of America, 1970s.
- 89 Spectators at a game of American football at Harvard Stadium in Allston. Massachusetts, United States of America, 1970s.
- **90** Spectators at a game of American football at Harvard Stadium. Massachusetts, United States of America, 1970s.
- 91 The area where Lafcadio Hearn lived during his time in Cincinnati. Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America, 1972.
- 92 Reporting in New Orleans, following in the footsteps of Lafcadio Hearn. No matter where he went, Okamura never failed to visit secondhand bookshops. Louisiana, U.S.A., 1972.
- 93 New Orleans street scene. Louisiana, U.S.A., 1972.
- 94 New Orleans street scene. Louisiana, U.S.A., 1972.

5. far from Vietnam

In January 1968, Okamura visited Ireland to trace the roots of President Kennedy, who had launched the use of special forces in Vietnam. In Northern Ireland, with its painful history as a British colony, the pro-English Unionists (Protestants) were in sharp conflict with the Catholic Nationalists, who aspired to unification with the Irish Republic. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) was escalating its armed resistance, and the civil rights movement was intensifying in Northern Ireland. Okamura moved his family to a Dublin suburb, making it his base while covering the conflict in Northern Ireland. He also covered the war for Biafran independence in Nigeria, a former British colony, repeatedly. By living in Ireland, Okamura was attempting to gain a deeper understanding of world history by experiencing what it was like to live in a region that had experienced colonization, in order to grasp the relationship between Africa, which was far removed from Japan in both geographical and psychological terms, and its former suzerain states.

- 95 Catholic youth using wet rags to put out fires after the police fire tear gas shells. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August 12, 1969.
- 96 Foyle Road on the day after clashes between Catholics and Protestants in the Battle of the Bogside. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August 1969.
- 97 Tear gas shells fired during clashes. Belfast, Northern Ireland, c.1969.
- 98 Demonstrators opposing a visit to Northern Ireland by Queen Elizabeth. At this time, the Northern Ireland Assembly had been suspended and the country was under direct rule by Britain. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1977.
- 99 A street with houses destroyed in the clashes. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 100 British troops were brought in to maintain order in Belfast where clashes were ongoing. The flag of the Republic of Ireland is visible in the window on the second floor. The Falls Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, c.1969.
- 101 British army barracks at Crossmaglen on the border of Northern Ireland. The windows of the school building have been bricked up. Scottish soldiers are lined up for a commemorative photograph. Northern Ireland, 1976.
- 102 British soldiers in Belfast. The Falls Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, c.1969.
- 103 British soldiers in Divis Street in the Catholic area of Belfast. Belfast, Northern Ireland, c.1969.
- 104 A bombing incident in the center of Belfast. Following a warning call, the army and police ordered all buildings up to Donegall Street evacuated. People leaving the area around Belfast City Hall. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1976.
- 105 Fighters for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in training. The photo was taken in either Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, but at the time Okamura did not intend it for publication. 1970s.
- 106 Women passing through a military checkpoint. Northern Ireland, c.1970.
- **107** A Protestant woman stands at a check point as a part-time member of the volunteer forces. Northern Ireland, c.1976.
- 108 The Reverend Ian Paisley, Westminster MP, waving to supporters at the Northern Ireland Assembly (Stormont). A badge with the insignia "Apprentice Boys of Derry" is pinned to his chest. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1970.

- 109 View of the Catholic neighborhood of the Bogside. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August 1969.
- 110 The conflict between the two sides intensifies amid opposition to the Protestant Rellef of Londonderry Celebrations parade passing through a Catholic neighborhood in Londonderry. The Battle of the Bogside erupts when police units arrive at the Protestant side. The police try to occupy the Bogside and local people try to drive them out. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August 12, 1969.
- 111 One of the central figures at the Battle of the Bogside, university student and Westminster MP, Bernadette Devlin. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August 12, 1969.
- 112 A British soldier on Bishop Street. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August, c.1969.
- 113 Members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary at the Battle of the Bogside. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August 1969.
- 114 Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 1970's.
- 115 A fire engine extinguishes a burning cart set on fire by a Molotov cocktail at the Battle of the Bogside. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, at around 4 PM on August 12, 1969.
- 116 The Creggan area in Londonderry also saw major clashes during the Battle of the Bogside. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, August 1969.
- 117 Street decorations for the Parade celebrates a historic victory for the Protestants in Northern Ireland. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 118 Passenger on the express train from Dublin to Belfast, reading *The Dogs of War* by Frederick Forsyth and resting his left leg in a white cast on the seat in front. Northern Ireland, January 1976.
- 119 Signboard showing emergency telephone number "999" in Northern Ireland. Perhaps Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 120 Supplies of salt before air transport to Biafra. A community-based organization in Dublin shipped relief supplies to Biafra (currently, the eastern part of Nigeria), which were unloaded on Sao Tome (at the time, a Portuguese colony) in the Gulf of Guinea before transshipment. Sao Tome, December 1968.
- 121 Looking out over the Gulf of Guinea from Sao Tome. Since Okamura did not have European Community (EC) credentials as a journalist, he spent 20 days holed up here while waiting for an entry visa to Biafra. Sao Tome, December 1968.
- 122 European journalists in Sao Tome. Okamura writes that some journalists wrote up stories about the famine "to use for Christmas" and returned home without even seeing Biafra. Sao Tome, December 1968.
- 123 Relief supplies unloaded on Sao Tome and waiting for air transportation to Biafra. Sao Tome, December 1968.
- 124 A relief plane flying daily between Sao Tome and Biafra. Most of the planes were wornout ex-government stock. Sao Tome, 1968.
- 125 The pilot of a relief plane leaving Sao Tome for Biafra. The flights were fraught with danger as the planes would be shot down if they strayed over Nigerian territory; each flight earned about ¥180,000. Sao Tome, 1968.
- 126 People climbing up to reach the relief supplies. Biafra, 1969.
- 127 Children waiting for food at a feeding center. The famine in Biafra was not only caused by a lack of food itself but also malnutrition and related illnesses resulting from a lack of salt because the Nigerian army blockaded access by sea. Biafra, 1969.
- 128 A child, called an albino, who has suffered a genetic mutation that causes light skin. Biafra, 1969.
- 129 Seriously ill children sent from Biafra to hospital on Sao Tome, the largest base for the relief activities. The children lie in a heap on the floor of a large American C-97 transport plane that can carry 20 tons. Biafra, 1969.
- 130 A French physician performing surgery at an International Red Cross. Nigeria, c.1970.
- 131 Surgery by a team of medical personnel with the Japanese Red Cross. Nigeria, c.1970.
- 132 A priest giving a patient the last rites. Nigeria, c.1970.
- 133 A child suffering from tuberculosis and malaria in addition to starvation. The nurses injected saline solution through a vein in the child's head, but were unable to save the life of the child. During the famine, many people died from concomitant illnesses rather than starvation. Biafra, c.1969.

6. disasters

The Biafra War, or the Nigerian Civil War, broke out as a result of the declaration of independence by the mainly Catholic Igbo people in the eastern region of Nigeria on May 30, 1967. The Independent Republic of Biafra collapsed after two and a half years of warfare between Nigeria, supported by Britain and the Soviet Union, and Biafra, which had the support of France and other countries. In 1968, international attention turned to Biafra when a blockade of the coastal area cut off supplies offood and other goods, leading to mass starvation among Biafrans. When Okamura went to Biafra in December 1968,

he photographed a Biafran soldier collapsing after being shot in the chest. Okamura recollects that the photograph felt "like a poem about a human being returning to dust." In 1970 and 1974, Okamura visited Ethiopia, where the mountainous Wollo Province was in the grip of famine due to a major drought. Okamura went on foot deep into the mountain areas to rescue the ill and starving. In these photographs, he turns his attention to the dignity of human life in extreme situations.

- 134 Officers in the Nigerian army commanding an attack on the Biafran army after storming the town of Uli. Uli, Biafra, 1968.
- 135 Soldiers in the Biafran army making a charge at the Nigerian army. Biafra, 1969.
- 136 A Biafran soldier collapses after being hit in the left side of the chest by Nigerian machine gun fire. Biafra, 1969.
- 137 A Biafran soldier suffering from "shell shock," post-traumatic stress disorder caused by the exposure to being shelled and other wartime experiences. Many of the soldiers in the Biafran army were white-collar worker Igbo. Since they were sent into the war without adequate training, a great many soldiers suffered these types of psychological injuries. Biafra, 1969.
- 138 Members of the Land Army, the farmer soldiers of Biafra, tending fields in the rain. People from farming villages were recruited for the rainy season to cultivate fields in the jungle to create a system of food self-sufficiency. Biafra, 1969.
- 139 Approximately 100 Irish priests carried on with their missionary work and activities in support of Biafra. Mass was held in churches early on Sunday mornings. Many people are waiting their turn to go to confession. Biafra, 1969.
- 140 Oguta, Imo State, Nigeria, c.1970.
- 141 The Soviet Union was an active supporter of the Nigerian side during the war with Biafra. A car destroyed by a MiG jet fighter, c.1969.
- 142 In January 1970, Colonel Emeka Ojukwu, the leader of Biafra, went into exile, marking the collapse of Biafra and the end of the Nigerian civil war. Scene at the Fishing Festival held in March on the Sokoto River. Northern Sokoto state, Nigeria, March 1970.
- 143 Starting in 1972, Ethiopia was in the grip of famine due to a major drought and abnormal weather. Truck loaded with relief supplies. Ethiopia, 1974.
- 144 People waiting for a helicopter loaded with relief supplies. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- 145 Helicopter loaded with relief supplies arrives. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- 146 Children and doctors with a medical team from the International Red Cross. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- 147 Making the Ethiopian staple food *injera* (a type of bread) at shelters for refugees in the town of Dessie. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- 148 In a village deep in the mountains, 22 kilometers by road from the shelters in the town of Gobi, the wind whistles through huts that were deserted when the people died of starvation. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- 149 Coming down the mountain from a village together with more than 30 seriously ill people. Due to the abnormal weather, a deep mist engulfs the villages at night even though the mountain areas are dry. No rain falls, however. There is no water. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- 150 Walking along a road off the highway. According to estimates, more than 300,000 had died from starvation in Ethiopia by this time. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- **151** Parent and children at a shelter for refugees. Wollo Province, Ethiopia, 1974.
- **152** People gathering at an Ethiopian Orthodox church. The man carrying a gun is possibly a militiaman. Ethiopia, 1974.
- 153 People gathered together at church. A cross is arranged in a decorative manner on the roof of the church. On weekends, people dress up and go to church. Ethiopia, 1974.

7. home, far from home

Ireland became a second home for the widely traveled Okamura. He remained, however, committed to Japan through activities to broaden the thinking concerning hospices and bioethics; he made Maisaka, Shizuoka, his base in Japan. Okamura turns an in-depth and warm gaze on people who have been cut off from their homes or are searching for a home; people whose native places have been devastated, people with nowhere to live, and people who love their homes. A couple celebrate their wedding on streets at war, families and youths get ready for a Protestant holiday, spectators in Ireland watch attentively as their team lose to Wales in rugby... He became involved in the campaign to repatriate Kakizawa Kenju, a former Japanese soldier who had been left behind in Indochina and suffered from amnesia. He traveled the world in the footsteps of Lafcadio Hearn, the writer of Irish descent known under his adopted Japanese name, Koizumi Yakumo. He joined China survey by the Japan River

Development Commission in China and started to engage with issues around the development of sources of water. His wide-ranging awareness of issues included war, bioethics, hospices, water and food as well as healthcare, but his gaze was focused on the place where all people live: home.

- 154 In a bus, passing the customs house on the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to the south. Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 155 Somewhere in County Kerry. Republic of Ireland, 1970s.
- 156 Young fishermen. Republic of Ireland, 1970s.
- 157 Travelers in a horse-drawn cart transporting a dismantled car along the banks of the Liffey in Dublin. Once known as "tinkers," a derogatory term, Travelers are people without a fixed abode who historically supported themselves by tinsmithing and horse trading. Dublin, Republic of Ireland, 1970.
- 158 At a cattle market. Republic of Ireland, 1970s.
- 159 At a cattle market. Republic of Ireland, 1970s.
- 160 A store with an abundance of wild strawberries, which only bear fruit for a short time in the spring. County Wicklow, Republic of Ireland, 1977.
- 161 A young boy standing in front of Robinson and Cleaver, a department store in central Belfast. Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 162 Children playing with an effigy representing a traitor. At a Protestant celebration of a victory over the Catholics. Police are watching from a distance. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, c.1970.
- 163 The name Pottinger, visible over the entry to a small alleyway, derives from the Irishborn Henry Pottinger, the first British Governor-General of Hong Kong. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 164 A festival celebrating the Protestant victory in the Siege of Derry, in 1689. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 165 At Robinson and Cleaver. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 166 A policeman guiding a child on the way to school. Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 167 On the celebration of protestant's victory over catholics. A young girl stands in front of graffiti saying "NO POPE." Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 168 A young couple celebrating their wedding ceremony at St Peter's Church in a Catholic area of Belfast. The Falls Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 169 Protestants decorating their homes on the day of the festival celebrating the Protestant victory in the Siege of Derry. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 1970s.
- 170 At a street market for secondhand clothing. Dublin, Republic of Ireland, 1970s.
- 171 Ireland was routed when they played Wales in a rugby match at Lansdowne Road. Dublin, Republic of Ireland, 1970s.
- 172 Kakizawa Kenju, a former Japanese soldier who was left behind in Indochina after the end of World War II in the Pacific, joined the Anti-French Resistance but was so severely tortured by the French that he lost his memory. He made his way to Sabanket in Laos but was unable to speak and had completely forgotten his Japanese identity. Thanks to a campaign by his supporters, he returned to Japan in March, 1977. Tokyo, 1977.
- 173 In his later years, Okamura became involved with hospice and environmental issues. In his final year, Okamura visited Mongolia with his children. Mongolia, 1984.
- 174 China survey by the Japan Society of River Development. From the window of a bus. China, c.1980.
- 175 Downstream from the Yangtze and the Three Gorges. China, c.1980.
- 176 China survey by the Japan Society of River Development. Lugou Bridge, China, c.1980.
- 177 The Yangtze, China, c.1980.
- 178 Downstream from the Yangtze and Three Gorges. China, c.1980.
- 179 The road running past White Bridge House, Okamura's home in Avoca, County Wicklow. Republic of Ireland, 1970s.
- 180 China survey by the Japan Society of River Development. China, c.1980.
- 181 Visiting Jozan Inari Shrine in Matsue while tracing the steps of Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo). Shimane, c.1972.
- 182 The Shimane Nuclear Power Plant (which went into operation in 1974), visited while tracing the steps of Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo). Shimane, 1972.

Notes

- Data on works are provided in the following order: Exhibit number/Caption/ Place/Date.
- Toda Masako wrote the captions based on writings about these photographs by Akihoko Okamura.
- Size refers to image size in mm; images are either 370 w by 250 h (370 x 250) or 284 w by 284 w (No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 29, 36, 37, 53, 54, 55, 71, 73).
- All works are Chromogenic prints except for No. 1, a gelatin silver print.
- All works are from the collection of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography.