

Ueda Shoji & Jacques Henri Lartigue

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography 3F Gallery
Saturday, November 23, 2013 to Sunday, January 26, 2014.

This exhibition is organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and the Asahi Shimbun-sha in special collaboration with Donation Jacques Henri Lartigue.

Supported by: Friends of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

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Ueda and Lartigue shared a lifelong delight in the essence of amateur photography, the sheer joy of taking photographs. Their works transcend differences between Japanese and French culture and pose the same question: What, after all is the human significance of photography?

This exhibition is more than a retrospective devoted to the work of two photographers who became giants in their field. It offers a glimpse of the period when modern photography was reaching maturity. It allows us to examine the works of these two great photographers, both individually and in relation to each other, asking how each is unique and yet representative of the times in which it was taken.

This exhibition is a joint production of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and Donation Jacques Henri Lartigue in France and combines works from the collection that Lartigue donated to the nation of France with works by Shoji Ueda from our own collection.

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Photographer Biographies

Shoji Ueda (1913-2000)

Ueda was born in Sakai (now Sakaiminato) in Tottori Prefecture. He acquired his interest in photography along with his first camera while a student in middle school. In 1932, he moved to Tokyo to study photography seriously. After studying at the Oriental Photography School, he returned home and opened his own studio. His photographs were repeatedly selected in monthly contests for publication in Asahi Camera and Shashin Salon and attracted attention for their modern style of composition. A constant in his work is the landscape of his home prefecture, especially the Tottori dunes, where he used members of his family as models to create a unique visual world of his own.

Jacques Henri Lartigue (1894-1986)

Lartigue was born in Courbevoie on the outskirts of Paris in 1894. Brought up in a wealthy family, he fell in love with the camera his father bought for him when he was only seven. From 1915 to 1916, he studied painting at the Academie Julian and became active as a painter. As a hobby, he also began to take snapshots of the everyday lives of his family and friends and compile them in albums. His 1963 solo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York established his reputation as the world's preeminent amateur photographer.

This exhibition is co-curated by the Donation Jacques Henri Lartigue and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography

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