

Imamori Mitsuhiko

## Satoyama

Harmony with Nature and Resilience in Japan

Tokyo Photographic Art Museum is delighted to present *Satoyama: Harmony with Nature and Resilience in Japan*, an exhibition of the work of the nature photographer Imamori Mitsuhiko. Imamori continues to present beautiful images and approachable texts on the topic of the relationships between nature and human beings, from tropical rainforests and deserts around the world to natural environments in Japan.

Imamori, who has been fascinated by the ecologies and beauty of insects since he was a little boy, has energetically photographed insects throughout the world. His work, rooted in his distinctive view of nature, unconstrained by conventional nature photography, is highly regarded in Japan and abroad. In addition, he has focused on the spaces called *satoyama*, principally in his home area around Lake Biwa, and captured images of *satoyama* and their subtle balance between nature and humanity. This exhibition presents the newest work from his series, introducing selected works from his photographs of the more than 200 *satoyama* that he has encountered throughout Japan so far.

Imamori's *satoyama* travels vividly evoke spaces in which nature and human beings are in harmony and make us aware of this country's natural environment, beautiful and rich in diversity. *Satoyama: Harmony with Nature and Resilience in Japan* reveals a full picture of the *satoyama* series, Imamori Mitsuhiko's life work.



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Morning mist at terraced fields, Toka-machi, Niigata prefecture 2010

*"When I thought back on the dozen years or so of my satoyama pilgrimage, I realized that when looking at a landscape, I defined a check point for myself. For example, tanada, terraced fields or terraced rice paddies, are the exemplary environment, the space that is the prototype for my satoyama story. They are essential. They are not important merely as farmland that connects the mountains with human habitation. They also have ecological functions as water system. They are vitally important for biological diversity. But because of a lack of successors to take over the work, those fields are crumbling and in need of preservation. Suppose that only the terraced fields in a certain area survive. That would mean that the many creatures that lived in those rice paddies in the broader area would have their habitats shut down. Those fragile terraced fields are the critical point of the satoyama. When I visited a satoyama, I could not overlook the fields but had to direct my lens at them, deliberately and positively."*

Imamori Mitsuhiko, from the exhibition catalog



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2: Gifu butterfly (*Luehdorfia japonica*) visiting dogtooth violet, Tsuruoka, Yamagata prefecture 2010 3: Field of saiko (*Bupleurum falcatum linne*) in summer, Ochi-cho, Kochi prefecture 2016 4: Praying for a good catch, Kihoku-cho, Mie prefecture 2012 5: Colors of the autumn leaves, Hachimantai, Iwate prefecture 2012 6: Mountain stream in midwinter, Towada, Aomori prefecture 2013 7: Red Helen (*Papilio helenus*) visiting red spider lilies, Akitakata, Hiroshima prefecture 2020 8: Imamori Mitsuhiko photo: Imamori Genki

### Outline of exhibition |

Dates: Thursday, June 20 to Sunday, September 29, 2024

Closed: Mondays (except when Monday falls on a holiday, in which case the museum is open and closed the following day)

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) \*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.

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

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