

May 19, 2025

## PRESS RELEASE

### TOP 30th Anniversary Luigi Ghirri Infinite Landscapes

July 3 - September 28, 2025



*Bologna 1989-90*  
from the series of 'Studio Giorgio Morandi', 1989-90  
Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum  
©Heirs of Luigi Ghirri

## Luigi Ghirri: First Museum Solo Exhibition in Asia

The Tokyo Photographic Art Museum is pleased to present a solo exhibition of Italian photographer Luigi Ghirri (1943–1992) in celebration of the museum's 30th anniversary.

After starting his career as a surveyor, Ghirri began working seriously with photography in the 1970s, inspired by his encounters with conceptual artists.

For Ghirri, photography was not a means of simply reproducing the real world, but a form of expression with which he constructed landscapes from framed visual fragments. Through this practice, he sought to reveal the relationship between reality and image within fleeting scenes, deepening his reflections on presence and absence, and on the external world and the inner self.

This exhibition features Ghirri's landscapes composed of diverse visual fragments, ranging from scenes of Italy and travel destinations to artists' studios, the interior of his home, artworks, signs and posters, and reflections in windows and mirrors. These images were captured from the 1970s through the end of his life. It also includes works by and archival materials relating to his wife Paola Borgonzoni (1954–2011), a graphic designer who was a crucial presence in his career. Together, these works and materials trace Ghirri's multifaceted investigation of the medium of photography over a span of approximately two decades.

We hope this exhibition offers an opportunity to engage with Ghirri's enduring exploration of infinite landscapes, and his unique perspectives on the world.

## Exhibition Highlights

*I didn't want to create PHOTOGRAPHS, but MAPS, PLANS that at the same time were meant to be photographs.*

— Luigi Ghirri

*Lining them up, one after another, these places form a sort of sequence, made up of stones, churches, gestures, lights, fogs, frost-covered branches, blue seas – and thus they become our impossible landscape, without scale, without a geographic order to orient us, a tangle of monuments, lights, thoughts, objects, moments... as if they were the points of an imaginary compass that indicate a possible direction.*

— Luigi Ghirri

### **First museum exhibition in Asia: Comprehensive showcase from early masterworks to late-career works**

Italian photographer Luigi Ghirri, who has recently drawn renewed international attention through solo exhibitions in Europe and the United States as well as a documentary film, will be the subject of his first museum exhibition in Asia. Ghirri began working seriously with photography around the age of 30, and his career lasted only about two decades. This exhibition features approximately 130 works, ranging from early masterpieces such as the Kodachrome and Still Life series to European landscapes, including from Reggio Emilia in northern Italy, where he was born and raised, and series documenting the studios of painter Giorgio Morandi (1890–1964) and architect Aldo Rossi (1931–1997). Together, these works offer a comprehensive look at Ghirri's photographic vision.

### **Also introduces the work of Ghirri's wife, Paola Borgonzoni, and her connection to his career**

In Italy in the 1970s, when very few publishers specialized in photography, Luigi Ghirri and his wife Paola Borgonzoni were among the founders of the publishing house Punto e Virgola. This exhibition illuminates Paola's vital role in Luigi Ghirri's practice by showcasing book covers she designed, along with materials that shed light on her own creative activities.

### **Documentary film *Infinito*, conveying the scope of Luigi Ghirri's career, to have first Japan screening**

During the exhibition, the 2022 documentary film *Infinito* (Italian for “infinite”) will be screened in Japan for the first time, with Japanese subtitles. The film includes footage of Luigi Ghirri at work, along with interviews with his family, printers, and other close collaborators, making it an important record of his life and artistic practice. A post-screening talk featuring guest speakers is also scheduled.

### **Artist Profile**

Luigi Ghirri (1943–1992)

Luigi Ghirri was born in Scandiano, in the province of Reggio Emilia, Italy. From the 1970s onward, he devoted himself to photography. With extraordinary aesthetic sensitivity to color, space, and light, as well as a talent for capturing mundane scenes with a humorous edge, he explored

experimental modes of expression, working primarily in color photography. In addition to his artistic practice, he was among the founders of the photography-focused publishing house Punto e Virgola and taught photographic theory at the Università del Progetto, among other wide-ranging activities.

## The works exhibited approximately 130 works



1



4



6



2



3



5



7



8

[1] *Capri, 1981*, from the series 'Italian Landscape', 1981

[2] *Sassuolo, 1975*, from the series of 'F11, 1/125, natural light', 1975

[3] *Bologna 1989-90*, from the series of 'Studio Giorgio Morandi', 1989-1990

[4] *Modena, 1978*, from the series of 'Still Life', 1978

[5] *Modena, 1970*, from the series of 'Photographs from the early period', 1970

[6] *Modena, 1978*, from the series of 'Still Life', 1978

[7] *Salzburg, 1977*, from the series of 'F11, 1/125, natural light', 1977



9



10

[8] *Reggio Emilia, 1985*, from the series of 'F11, 1/125, natural light', 1985

[9] *Bologna 1989-90*, from the series of 'Studio Giorgio Morandi', 1989-90

Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

[10] *Bologna 1989-90*, from the series of 'Studio Giorgio Morandi', 1989-90

Collection of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

\* All ©Heirs of Luigi Ghirri

## Exhibition Catalogue

### Luigi Ghirri Infinite Landscapes

Published by Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Contributors: Adele Ghirri (President, Luigi Ghirri Foundation) , Ilaria Campioli (Curator, Reggio Emilia City Museums) , Honma Takashi (Photographer) , Yamada Yuri (Curator, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum)

## Relative Events

### Symposium

**Guests:** Adele Ghirri (President, Luigi Ghirri Foundation) , Ilaria Campioli (Curator, Reggio Emilia City Museums)

**Date and Time:** July 5 (Sat) 14:00-17:00

**Venue:** 1F Hall, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

**Capacity:** 190 seats (admission by numbered ticket / unreserved seating / Japanese-Italian interpretation provided)

**Admission:** Free

\* Numbered tickets will be distributed at the 1st floor information desk from 10:00 a.m. on the day of the event.

### Screening of the documentary film *Infinito* and guest talk sessions

(Screening: 80 min + Talk: approx. 50 min)

#### **Dates and guests:**

August 24 (Sun) 14:00–16:30 Guest: Okada Atsushi (Emeritus Professor, Kyoto University) \*Only in Japanese

September 12 (Fri) 17:00–19:30 Guest: Morioka Yoshiyuki (Owner, Morioka Shoten) \*Only in Japanese

**Venue:** 1F Hall, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

**Capacity:** 190 seats (Admission by numbered ticket / unreserved seating / Japanese subtitles provided)

**Admission:** Free

\* Numbered tickets will be distributed at the 1st floor reception desk from 10:00 a.m. on the day of each event.

\* Only in Japanese

### Gallery Talk

July 11 (Fri) 14:00–

August 1 (Fri) 14:00– (with Japanese sign language interpretation)

September 5 (Fri) 14:00– (with Japanese sign language interpretation)

\* Please gather at the entrance to the 2nd floor exhibition gallery with a valid ticket for the exhibition on the day.

Visitors eligible for free admission are requested to bring the necessary identification or documentation.

\* Only in Japanese

## Outline

Exhibition title: TOP 30th Anniversary Luigi Ghirri Infinite Landscapes

Dates: July 3 - September 28, 2025

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 (20:00 on Thursdays and Fridays, and until 21:00 on Thursdays and Fridays from August 14 to September 26 ). Last entry 30 minutes before closing.

Closed: Mondays (except holidays, in which case the museum will be closed the following day)

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

\*Admission is free for children in junior high school or younger; 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 Yamada Yuri (Curator, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum)

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