

THE BMA PRESENTS *TIME FRAMES: CONTEMPORARY EAST ASIAN PHOTOGRAPHY*

**Rarely shown photographs by Chinese, Japanese, South Korean, and Vietnamese artists
explore the many facets of time**

BALTIMORE, MD (October 11, 2018)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents an exhibition of more than 40 modern and contemporary photographs by artists mostly born in China, Japan, South Korea, or Vietnam who delve into various concepts of time. Their images could be focused on a time of day, a past legend or history, or an imagined future. *Time Frames: Contemporary East Asian Photography* is on view at the BMA from November 4, 2018, to March 24, 2019.



“*Time Frames* showcases recent important gifts to the BMA’s outstanding photography collection as well as rarely shown works by East Asian artists working in this medium,” said BMA Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director Christopher Bedford. “The extraordinary range of these works extends from hyperbolic and contemplative images to personal experiences and collective histories.”

The exhibition includes photographs, books, prints, and a hand scroll drawn primarily from the BMA’s collection. These works have never been shown in Baltimore or haven’t been displayed by the BMA for decades. Among the 32 artists represented in this exhibition are Nobuyoshi Araki (Japanese, b. 1940), Bae Bien-U (South Korean, b. 1950), Liu Bolin (Chinese, b. 1973), An-My Lê (American, b. Vietnam, 1960), Yao Lu (Chinese, b. 1967), Daido Moriyama (Japanese, b. 1938), and Hiroshi Sugimoto (Japanese, b. 1948). Many of the photographers began their careers in other fields, such as photojournalism, commercial photography, architecture, sculpture, or filmmaking, but all share a similar engagement with time as a visual reference or part of their creative process.

The images in the exhibition explore a range of situations related to time, including depictions of present and past experience, prolonged labor, urban development, and physical displacement. Highlights include:

- Moriyama’s *Tokyo* (2008), a tightly cropped image of a vivid red flower fixed in the obsessively close gaze of an artist who has explained “The crushing force of time is before my eyes.”
- Naoya Hatakeyama’s *River 1-9* (1993), a series of nine panels depicting a canal stretching between the walls of Tokyo’s buildings, with deep shadows appearing as voids in the images. The artist’s vision of hidden waterways in Tokyo’s modern landscape reflects the influence of William Henry Fox Talbot, who called the 1839 invention of photography “the art of fixing the shadow.”
- Yao’s *View of Waterfall with Rocks and Pines* (2007) appears to be the serene image of a mountain, but is actually a landfill or construction site draped in green mesh to prevent the spread of toxic dust. The artist digitally altered his photograph by adding the mist, tree, and other features of the composition from a traditional Chinese landscape painting. He intentionally creates provocative illusions to call attention to his country’s endangered environment.
- *Rescue* (1974), by the self-trained photographer Lê Van Khoa, shows an explosion near Saigon during the final years of the Vietnam War. Lê has described the image as “the luckiest picture of my life and it almost cost my life, too.”

Time Frames: Contemporary East Asian Photography is organized by BMA Associate Curator of Asian Art Frances Klaphor. This exhibition is made possible by recent gifts from the collection of Brenda Edelson and grants from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art is a major cultural destination recognized for engaging diverse audiences through dynamic exhibitions and innovative educational and community outreach programs. The BMA's internationally renowned collection of 95,000 objects encompasses more than 1,000 works by Henri Matisse anchored by the famed Cone Collection of modern art, as well as one of the nation's finest holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs. The galleries showcase an exceptional collection of art from Africa; important works by established and emerging contemporary artists; outstanding European and American paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts; significant artworks from China; ancient Antioch mosaics; and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is also distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of 20th-century sculpture. The BMA is located in Charles Village, three miles north of the Inner Harbor, and is adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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Image: Daido Moriyama. *Tokyo*. 2008, printed 2012. Chromogenic print, digital exposure. R.17714.