



**“Living as a poet in Kyoto”
The first retrospective of Kai Fusayoshi’s Photography**

“Living as a poet in Kyoto” is a retrospective of the photographer Kai Fusayoshi who has been capturing Kyoto for half a century. The exhibition took place in the world heritage site, Nijo-jo Castle, from September 21st to October 6th 2019. The event received 18,000 visitors and drew the attention of various media outlets. Those who knew Kyoto of years ago reminisced through Kai’s photography, and tourists were impressed with an honest side of Kyoto, which is different to the Kyoto presented as a tourist destination. Kyoto is becoming a cultural capital both in name and substance, with the relocation of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, but through Kai’s photography a glimpse was offered of the breathing of the everyday people of Kyoto, something that could never be found in a tourist guidebook. Kai Fusayoshi is also known as the owner of Bar “Hachimonjiya” and (formally) “Honyarado”, both famous cultural bases in Kyoto. His works are loved by people both in Japan and abroad. For this exhibition, Pascal Beausse, the head of the photographic collection at the National Center for the Visual Arts in Paris, who had always admired Kai’s unique and special sensibility, curated and introduced Kai’s works from a perspective of a “Photographer as a Visual Poet”. This exhibition was a unique opportunity to comprehensively appreciate the works of Kai, who will go down in the history of photography.

Summary

Exhibition title (Japanese) : 「京都詩情」 写真家 甲斐扶佐義 初回顧展

Exhibition title (English) : “Living as a poet in Kyoto”
The first retrospective of Kai Fusayoshi’s Photography

Exhibition title (French) : “Vivre en poète à Kyōto” Première retrospective de l’oeuvre photographique de Kai Fusayoshi

Curator: Pascal Beausse (Head of Photographic Collections, Centre national des arts plastiques.)
Planned by: MUZ ART PRODUCE

Web : <https://muz-art.jp/kai-exhibition/>
Trailer : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwNRvDxWuqM&t=2s>

1. Curatorial Statement by Pascal Beausse

In the bar where artists are gathering
Beauties and cats are harmoniously coexisting
While kids on the streets are playing
And Grandma leaves to go shopping
In the summer's rain, falling

Make it through a century to another, day after day, by photographing Kyoto.
From the years of freedom, counterculture and protest to the start of our uncertain times.

Kai Fusayoshi developed a style which is unique for it is out of its time, out of fashion, and yet precisely taking place in the daily life's current affairs of the city. He fashioned visual chronicles of Kyoto's small and big events. No one else is able to see this town the way he does. With tenderness. With gratitude. With a deep humanity knowing to recognize beauty wherever it is, that is to say in each corner of the city and at each moment of the alternating rhythm of the Japanese society, daytime and nighttime.

For Kai, taking photos is like breathing. His practice is existential: at each moment, his poetic spirit is in alert. The click of the camera seems to come from an amazement in front of the unexpected things of life, where the beauty lies.

It's a wistful gaze, the eye of a poet on each shot, and therefore on each moment lived.

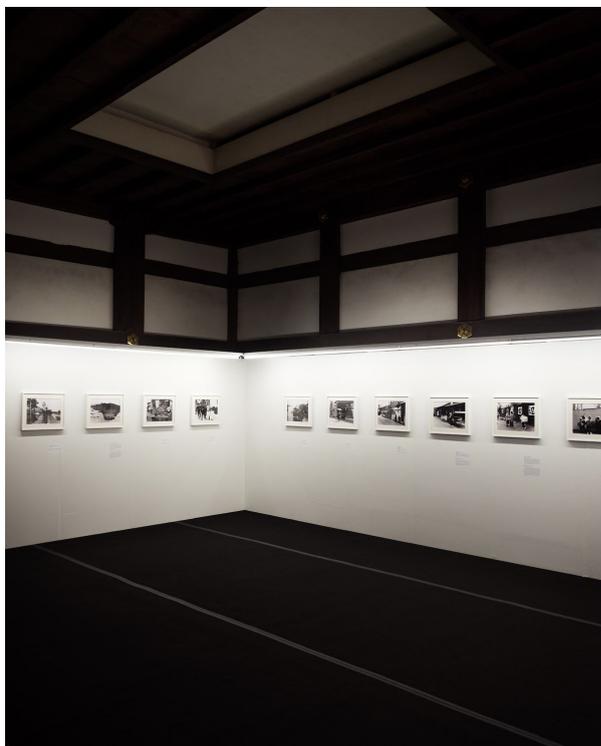
2. Contents / Display Configuration Plan

An exhibition of the 50 year journey of Kai Fusayoshi, from 1970 to present day, with about 150 mainly unseen photos selected by Pascal Beausse, the exhibition curator. Pascal Beausse, selects a trajectory from 50 years of Kai Fusayoshi's works, 1970 to present day. 68 framed works were selected and exhibited with five themes: "Living as a poet in Kyoto", "Child's play", "Town of cats", "Women's everlasting beauty", and "The place where artists gather". In addition, an installation which reproduces the photo exhibition Kai has repeated since 1978, titled "the Demachi neighborhood, Are you also captured? / If you are in the photo, I will give you the photo on the last day", on a wall with a total length of 9 meters and a height of 2.5 meters, consisting of about 500 original prints. At the end of the exhibition, there was a screening of "Kyoto & Kai" (2011), a video by a French artist Hoang Nguyen Le, and follower of Kai's works.

Preview



Exhibition





3. Photographer: Kai Fusayoshi

Kai Fusayoshi | 甲斐扶佐義



Kai Fusayoshi (Born 1949 in Oita pref. Japan) was the owner of the legendary coffee shop "Honyarado" which was lost four years ago in a fire. He also runs Bar "Hachimonjiya", where various artists gather every night. He is a writer, and above all a photographer who loves Kyoto, which he continues to photograph to this day.

In the 1990s he wrote photo essays for Kyoto Shimbun Newspaper. Since 2001 he has often been invited to hold exhibitions in foreign galleries. He has produced over 40 books including; "The fifty casual scenes of Kyoto" (author: Nakamura Masaru, photos: Kai Fusayoshi) Kyoto Shimbun 1999, "Kids in Kyoto" Kyoto Shimbun publication center 2003, "Kyoto: Living in the back alley", "Beautiful women in Kyoto", etc. In recent years it appears his desire to create art knows no bounds.

- Anyways, if you live in one town for decades, people will have many maps in your mind.

Kai Fusayoshi 「Kyoto Neko-no-izumi(Kyoto, fountain of cats)」 1996 postscript

- Wandering around town with my camera. I'm happy simply doing that.

Kai Fusayoshi 「Chizu-no-nai-kyoto(Uncharted Kyoto)」 1992 foreword

- Kai Fusayoshi's photography is reminiscent of the world of historical novels. That is, not the world of Samurai in castles, but of the world of this local area's samurai turned bodyguards of neighborhood.

Shunsuke Tsurumi (philosopher) commenting on Kai Fusayoshi's photographic collection 「Chizu-no-nai-Kyoto(Uncharted Kyoto)」 1992

- Comparatively, I wouldn't say it is great photography, but each and every single photo has the joy and excitement of

"Oh, I've seen this!" perfectly captured within it. (omitted:) Above all else, it is the pleasure of witnessing him

synchronizing his photography perfectly with his own life rhythm.

Kotaro Iizawa (photography critic) 「Photo of Mr. Kai」 (「Kyoto-no-kodomotachi(Children of Kyoto)」 2003)

4. Curator

Pascal Beausse



An Art Critic and a Curator, Pascal Beausse is currently the Head of the Photographic Collections at Cnap, National Center for Visual Arts, in Paris.

A former correspondent for Flash Art international from 1998 to 2013, he wrote for several art journals such as Artpress, Blocnotes, Critique d'art. He published essays, interviews and monographs on the works of: Maria Thereza Alves, Candice Breitz, Jimmie Durham, Candida Höfer, among others.

Recent exhibitions he curated include: Ange Leccia (Maison Auguste Comte, PhotoSaintGermain, Paris, 2019), Hanako Murakami/Conception (Rencontres d'Arles, 2019), Hiroshima Art Document (Creative Union, Hiroshima, 2019), Kenryou Gu/15972 Sampling (Kyotographie, 2019), Hiroshima Art Document (Creative Union, Hiroshima, 2018), among others.

Pascal Beausse was a resident at Villa Kujoyama in 2007.

5. Original Exhibition Venue

Exhibition Data in Nijo-jo Castle and Ninomaru-goten Palace Daidokoro



Exhibition dates : 2019 Sept. 21st (Sat.) – 2019 Oct. 6th (Sun) (16 days, open everyday)

Exhibition location : World Heritage Site, Former imperial villa Nijo-jo Castle, Ninomaru-goten Palace Daidokoro (important cultural property)
Free Admission

Number of visitors : 17131

Organizers: Kyoto city, Kai Fusayoshi Photo Exhibition at Former imperial villa Nijo-jo Castle Executive Committee

Co-organizers: Kyoto City Board of Education, Institut français du Japon Kansai

Sponsors: GRAND MARBLE Corporation, DMG MORI CO., LTD., agnès b. Japan Inc., ANACROWNE PLAZA HOTEL KYOTO, NANASAI CO., LTD., Frameman Co., Ltd., YAMAMOTO. CO., LTD, walden woods kyoto, Kyoto Chuo Shinkin Bank, MOTTOX INC.

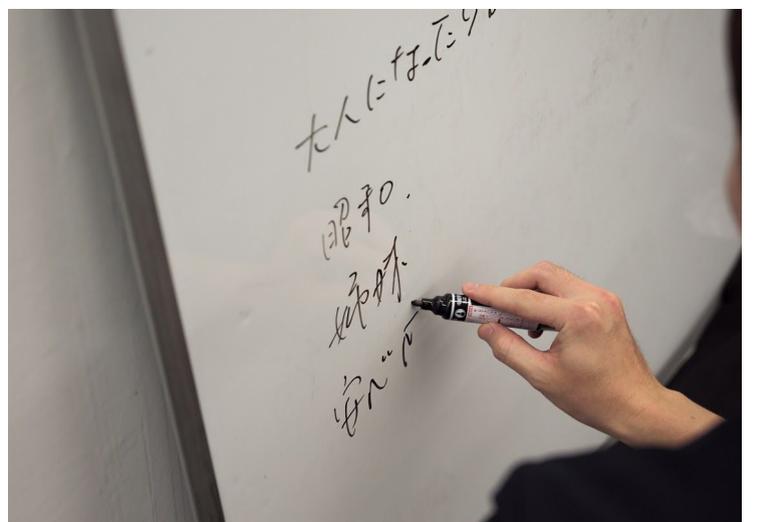
Partners: mi_office, Senior registered architect office HIEIKOBO, KYOTOGRAPHIE, KG+, galleryMain, Headquarters for Vitalizing Regional Cultures Agency for Cultural Affairs

Supporter: Kyoto Shimbun Newspaper, THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN KYOTO BUREAU, Kyoto Prefecture

6. Related events

Four events were held in the exhibition venue, which encouraged exchanges between the artist, curator, and visitors, regardless of age, profession, or nationality.

- A gallery talk by photographer Kai Fusayoshi
- A talk by curator Pascal Beausse "Kai Fusayoshi – Kyoto's Poet"
- A workshop "Let's take photos with Ishii Shinji and Kai Fusayoshi."
- A kids workshop "Let's take a close look at the artworks." by GOALOOK Cram School



7. Flyers and Poster

We distributed 50,000 flyers, 100 A2-posters and 200 B2-posters to relevant organizations.



flyer

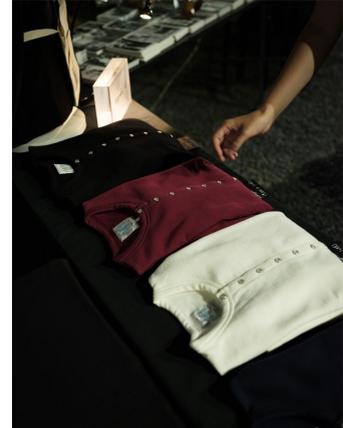


poster

8. Merchandise

At the entrance of the exhibition, various merchandise relevant to the exhibition was sold.

- A vintage selection of Kai Fusayoshi's books, posters and postcards.
- An original merchandise selection of postcards of exhibited works and small bags produced for this exhibition.
- A POP-UP store by agnès b.



9. Publicity

Information about the exhibition was published through various media outlets.
 17 Internet media outlets: bijutsutecho.com, Asahi Shimbun Digital, Kyoto Shimbun Kotoshirube, Kyoto Sightseeing Navi, among others.
 10 newspapers and magazines: Kyoto Shimbun Newspaper, Nippon Camera, among others.
 3 TV and radio programs: FM Osaka, KBS Kyoto (including KBS Kyoto news)



Office / contact for queries about this release

MUZ ART PRODUCE: 075-205-5396

Sae Cardonnel (MUZ ART PRODUCE director) sae.cardonnel@muz-art.jp 080-6105-0401