

We are pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Mitsugu Ohnishi, "TOKYO EAST WAVES" at Communication Gallery Fugensha from March 29 to April 25, 2024. This exhibition commemorates the publication of his new photo book of the same title, published by Fugensha.

Mitsugu Ohnishi, born in 1952 in Fukagawa, Tokyo, graduated from Tokyo College of Photography in 1974, and since the 1970s has consistently photographed the people and scenery of downtown Tokyo and the bay area where he was born and raised.

His photo book "TOKYO EAST WAVES" published by Fugensha consists of three series: "Town at Estuary / Kakou no Machi Koto Zero Meter Area 84," which won the 22nd Taiyo Award, "New from the Edges of Tokyo / Shuen no Machi kara," which won the 18th Kimura Ihei Photography Award, and "NEWCOAST". All were taken in eastern Tokyo and its suburbs during the bubble economy of the late 1980s and early 1990s, using the Makina 670 medium format camera and color positive and negative film.

In "Town at Estuary / Kakou no Machi Koto Zero Meter Area 84," the artist photographed the area around the mouths of the Arakawa and Nakagawa Rivers from 1984 to 1985, and in "New from the Edges of Tokyo / Shuen no Machi kara," he traveled from northwestern Chiba Prefecture to southern Saitama and other cities in the Tokyo suburbs from 1985 to 1992. "NEWCOAST" was shot in the Tokyo Bay area from 1987 to 1993, after he moved to Rinkai-cho, Edogawa-ku, Tokyo.

The three series, shot on 6 x 7 format color film, clearly record the lives and behavior of ordinary people in the strange era of the "bubble economy," as Ohnishi, who was also a member of that era, photographed them.

This exhibition will feature 35 prints, including rare vintage prints, such as the prints shown at the 1985 exhibition commemorating his receipt of the Taiyo Award and the prints shown at the 1995 exhibition commemorating the opening of the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum.

"TOKYO EAST WAVES" will illuminate Mitsugu Ohnishi's "town walking without beginning or end" from the present day, based in the east side of Tokyo, which continues to this day. We hope that this exhibition will serve as an opportunity to reconfirm the importance of the photographer's practice of accurately capturing the atmosphere of the times by instantly responding to the minute changes in the city and the gestures of its residents as he wanders through the city day by day, camera in hand.

During the exhibition, we will hold a gallery talk with photographer/writer Ken Ohyama, who contributed a stimulating essay to the photography book "TOKYO EAST WAVES" that compares Kunikida Doppo's "Musashino" with Mitsugu Ohnishi's walk (his book "New Photography Theory" won the 2023 Japan Photographic Society Academic Award). We will also hold a mini talk with photographer John Sypal, a lover of downtown Tokyo, who dares to walk around the Meguro area in the Yamanote area (=TOKYO WEST) as a guest.

Mitsugu Ohnishi

Biography

1952 Born in Fukagawa, Tokyo

1973 Graduated from Tokyo College of Photography

1985 Received 22nd Taiyo Prize for “Town at Estuary / Kakou no Machi Koto Zero Meter Area 84”

1993 Received 18th Kimura Ihei Award for “The Long Vacation / Toi Natsu” and
“New from the Edges of Tokyo / Shuen no Machi kara”

1993 Received Cultural Encouragement Prize of Edogawa Ward, Tokyo

2017 Received Lifetime Achievement Award of Photographic Society of Japan

Released independently-produced film “Onagi River Story/Onagi gawa Monogatari”

Publications

“TOKYO HEAT MAP”, Zen Photo Gallery, 2021

“In the Town with River Flowing Through/ Kawano Nagareru Machide”, Fugensha, 2016

“Wonderland”, Nippon Camera, 2008

“The Long Vacation / Toi Natsu”, Wise Publishing, 2001

“WONDER LAND 1980-1989”, privately printed edition, 1989

Membership

Japan Photographers Society

Photographic Society of Japan

Nikkor Club (Senior Advisor)