

Shintaro Sato Solo Exhibition

City Portraits

Dates: Friday, November 28 – Thursday, December 25, 2025

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 12:00 - 19:00, Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 18:00

Closed: Mondays

※The gallery opens until 18:00 on Thursday, December 25th

Venue: Fugensha

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<https://fugensha.jp>

Fugensha is pleased to present Shintaro Sato's solo exhibition *City Portraits*, which will be held from Friday, November 28 to Thursday, December 25, 2025. This exhibition commemorates the publication of Sato's new photobook *City Portraits* (published by Fugensha).

Born in Tokyo in 1969, Shintaro Sato is a photographer. He graduated from the Tokyo College of Photography in 1992, and in 1995, he graduated from the School of Literature I at Waseda University. After he became a staff photographer at Kyodo News, and in 2002, he began working as a freelance photographer. His work explores the genius loci—the spirit or atmosphere unique to a place—capturing, through photography, the layers of history and human activity that accumulate within the city. Among his representative works is the series *Tokyo Twilight Zone* (Seigensha), in which he photographed Tokyo from emergency staircases—a viewpoint between the pedestrian and from the sky at dusk. He was rewarded with the Newcomer's Award from the Japan Photographic Society in 2009. Another major series, *Risen in the East* (Seigensha) which documents the construction of the Tokyo Skytree from multiple perspectives, and received the Hayashi Tadahiko Award in 2012.

Sato's new photobook, *City Portraits*, spans his entire career from 1990 to 2025, featuring eight series. It includes works previously published in books —*Geography* (1992), *Night Lights* (1997–1999), *Tokyo Twilight Zone* (2002–2008), *Risen in the East* (2008–2016), and *The Origin of Tokyo* (2016–2017)— as well as early and unpublished works — *Flat City* (1990), created while Sato was a student at photography school; *Streetscapes* (1999–2002), which captures the urban landscape in bright sunlight; and his latest and unreleased series *Boundaries* (2019 onwards). The exhibition will feature 21 works selected from all eight series.

Throughout his career, Sato has incorporated the latest technologies of each time period, selecting the

most suitable method according to his subjects and themes. His expressive approach—ranging freely from straight photography to digital collage in which shows the practice of Sato has evolved with remarkable flexibility. In an essay written for the new photobook, photography critic Osamu Ueno describes Sato’s artistic practice as that of a “artisan.”

Moreover, the abstract visual correspondence between Sato’s early work *Geography*, which depicts reclaimed land along Tokyo Bay, and his latest series *Boundaries* — a digitally processed images of cliffs that once marked the boundary between sea and land, shows that Sato’s work does not progress in a linear fashion. Instead, different periods in his oeuvre interconnect in diverse and unexpected ways.

Moving between day and night, the figurative and the abstract, the visible and the invisible, Sato has pursued the *City Portraits* for thirty-five years. We invite you to experience this artistic journey through both his new photobook and the exhibition.

Biography

Shintaro Sato

Born in Tokyo in 1969, Shintaro Sato is a photographer. He graduated from the Tokyo College of Photography in 1992, and in 1995, he graduated from the School of Literature I at Waseda University. After he became a staff photographer at Kyodo News, and in 2002, he began working as a freelance photographer. Focusing primarily on Tokyo urban environments, Sato explores the city through meta perspectives. His work spans a wide range of approaches—from abstract image making and straight photography to digitally processed compositions. Many of his projects are inspired by the notion of “genius loci” — the distinctive atmosphere that emerges from the nature and memory of a place and from the ways in which people, influenced by these forces, have shaped the city over time. His major photobooks include *City Portraits* and *Geography* (Fugensha), as well as *Tokyo Twilight Zone, Risen in the East* and *Night Lights* (Seigensha). Sato’s awards include the Hayashi Tadahiko Award (2012), the Newcomer’s Award from the Japan Photographic Society (2009), and the Chiba City Art and Culture of Newcomer’s Award (2008).

Special Event

① Gallery Talk : Shintaro Sato × Kunihiko Katsumata (Artist/Photographer)

Date: November 30 (Sunday), 14:00–15:30

Participation Fee: ¥1,000 (Online streaming available)

The archive of the online stream will be available until Sunday, January 11, 2026.

How to Register:

Please purchase your preferred ticket from the Fugensha online store:

<https://fugensha-shop.stores.jp/> If you wish to pay in person at the venue, please contact Fugensha directly at 03-6264-3665.

For more information visit: <https://fugensha.jp/events/251130talk/>

② Gallery Guide Tour (Free, Walk-in)

Date: December 29 (Saturday) 14:00–14:30

For more information visit: <https://fugensha.jp/events/251220guide/>