

Keizo Motoda Solo Exhibition *SHORT HOPE*

Dates: Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 29, 2026

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

Closed: Mondays, Tuesdays and public holiday (20 march.2026)

Venue: Fugensha

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<https://fugensha.jp>

Fugensha is pleased to announce the solo exhibition *SHORT HOPE* by Keizo Motoda, starting on Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 29, 2026. This exhibition commemorates the publication of his new photobook *SHORT HOPE* (Fugensha).

Keizo Motoda is a photographer born in Osaka in 1971. He enrolled at Osaka Visual Arts College in 1995 and was shortlisted for the 33rd Taiyo Award in 1996 while still being a student. In 1997, he began a year-long series commissioned by the Osaka News featuring photographs and writings about people he encountered on the streets. This became the source of his practice, and since he has continued to photograph people and scenes on the streets.

This work consists of snapshots taken on monochrome film between 2022 and 2024. Traveling to Osaka by overnight bus from his home in Kanagawa Prefecture. He captured scenes of the daily wage worker districts (slum areas) known as “Kamagasaki” and “Airin District” in the northern part of Osaka's Nishinari Ward.

Motoda would “always stay still, as if quietly erasing his presence,” pressing the shutter whenever a moment in this city stirred his heart. Captured in his photographs are the characters who influences the atmosphere of this area —people whom defy simple categorization. A person in drag with dragon and tiger tattoos across the back; an actor with his face painted white from Taishu-Engeki; a man with long-hair holding a toy pistol; and an elderly man seated in a room surrounded by his own wooden carvings. Also striking are the forceful words that appear throughout the city itself —phrases written on the walls of Pink Eiga theaters, and agitational slogans handwritten on signs by workers.

Alongside its outrageous visuals and seeming excludability, this city possesses a unique humor in its communication and spaces where people connect in a casual manner. Shown by the sight of people

gathering spontaneously around the television set in Triangle Park. Shopping streets become playgrounds for children playing catch, Shogi games start on the sidewalk, someone starts singing with a guitar or accordion in hand, the street becomes a concert venue as multi-purpose “plazas” where people gather, coexists in this town. This landscape would appear unique in modern urban areas designed to minimize encounters between people.

Having worked in Tokyo for many years, Motoda returned to Osaka—the place he considers the origin of his 30 years of works. He says, “Every time I came to Kamagasaki, I felt a nostalgic sense of returning home.” Motoda wished to use photography to preserve moments of people living in that “fragmented time,” enjoying their brief moments, like the fleeting period before a cigarette goes out. The photographs left behind offer a faint light, a small hope, that this town and its people still exist somewhere today, a light that can be felt flickering within our hearts.

During the exhibition, we will host a gallery talk featuring photographer Mitsugu Onishi as a guest speaker, who has been looking at Motoda's works since his early days.

Biography

Keizo Motoda

Born in Osaka, 1971

Graduated from Momoyama Gakuin University, Faculty of Economics, 1994

Shortlisted in the 33rd Taiyo Award, 1996

Graduated from Visual Arts College Osaka, 1997

Major publications include *Good Morning from Nagisa-Bridge* (Fugensha, 2021), *Todoroki* (Sōkyūsha, 2019), *SUNDAY HARAJUKU* (omoplata by Super Labo, 2012), and *Blue Water* (Wise Publishing, 2001). Currently resides in Zushi City, Kanagawa Prefecture. Serves as guest Professor at Osaka University of Arts and Part-time Lecturer at Tokyo Visual Arts Academy.

Special Event

① Gallery Talk: Keizo Motoda × Mitsugu Onishi (Photographer)

Date & Time: Saturday, March 14, 14:00–15:30

Admission: ¥1,200 (on-site attendance or online streaming)

Archive online viewing will be available until Sunday, April 12, 2026.

<https://fugensha.jp/events/260314talk/>

② Gallery Guide Tour (Free / No Reservation Required)

Date & Time: Saturday, March 21, 14:00–14:30

The artist and the gallery director will guide visitors through the exhibition, highlighting key points and works. If you wish to participate, please feel free to come directly to the gallery.

<https://fugensha.jp/events/260321guide/>