

LACMA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: FRACTURE: DAIDO MORIYAMA
ON VIEW: APRIL 7–JULY 31, 2012
LOCATION: PAVILION FOR JAPANESE ART, LEVEL 3

LACMA PRESENTS FIRST SOLO MUSEUM EXHIBITION IN LOS ANGELES OF LEADING PHOTOGRAPHER DAIDO MORIYAMA



(IMAGE CAPTIONS ON PAGE 4)

(Los Angeles, March 21, 2012)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Fracture: Daido Moriyama*, the first solo museum exhibition of photographer Daido Moriyama (b. 1938) to be shown in Los Angeles. Moriyama first came to prominence in the mid-1960s with his gritty depictions of Japanese urban life. His highly innovative and intensely personal photographic approach often incorporates high contrast, graininess, and tilted vantages to convey the fragmentary nature of modern realities. Spanning his early years to present day, the show features nearly fifty works, including a range of Moriyama's renowned black-and-white photographs, his many important photo books, and the debut of recent color work taken in Tokyo.

"Daido Moriyama's immensely inventive and prolific achievements make him one of the leading photographers of our era. Inspiring viewers and artists world-wide, Moriyama continues to demonstrate a raw and restless exploration of the fractured realities of modern times, including his most recent color work, appearing for the first time," observes Edward Robinson, associate curator of LACMA's Wallis Annenberg Photography Department and curator of the exhibition.

Exhibition Overview

Responding to the rapid changes that transformed post-World War II Japan, Daido Moriyama's black-and-white works express a fascination with the cultural contradictions of age-old traditions persisting within modern society, along with the effects of westernization and consumerism. Providing a raw, restless vision of city life and the chaos of everyday existence, strange worlds, and unusual characters, Moriyama frequently photographs while on walks through Tokyo – particularly the dark, labyrinthine streets of the Shinjuku district – as well as when traveling on Japan's postwar highways and during strolls through other urban centers in Japan and abroad. His work suggests the bold intuition informing the artist's ongoing exploration of urban mystery, memory, and photographic invention.

Fracture: Daido Moriyama will display the artist's iconic black-and-white photographs, exemplifying the *are, bure, boke* (grainy, blurry, out-of-focus) style, in addition to a new installation of recent color work. An accompanying video will feature documentary footage of the photographer at work, exploring by foot and responding to the vibrant cityscape of Tokyo. Also on view will be a selection of books – Moriyama has published more than forty to date – which highlights the artist's highly influential experimentation with reproduction media and the transformative possibilities of the printed page.

About Daido Moriyama

Born in Ikeda, Osaka, Moriyama trained in graphic design, then took up photography with Takeji Iwaniya, a professional photographer of architecture and crafts. Moving to Tokyo in 1961, he assisted photographer Eikoh Hosoe for three years and became familiar with the trenchant societal critiques produced by photographer Shomei Tomatsu. Moriyama also drew inspiration from William Klein's confrontational photographs of New York, Andy Warhol's silkscreened multiples of newspaper images, and the writings of Jack Kerouac and Yukio Mishima.

His work has been collected by numerous public and private collections internationally, including LACMA, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Getty Museum, Los Angeles, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and

the Centre Pompidou, Paris. Moriyama has had recent major solo shows at The Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, The Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland, the Metropolitan Museum of Photography in Tokyo, and will be exhibited with William Klein at the Tate Modern this fall.

In May 2012, Moriyama will also receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Center of Photography, New York, at their 28th Annual Infinity Awards event.

Related Public Programs

In conjunction with *Fracture: Daido Moriyama*, LACMA will host a conversation and book signing with the artist, along with a series of postwar Japanese films, providing a mesmerizing look into Japanese avant-garde performance art and film, which have informed Moriyama's photographic practice.

Conversation and Book Signing with Artist Daido Moriyama

Saturday, April 7, 2012, 4-6 pm

Art Catalogues, LACMA

Photographer Daido Moriyama, architect Kulapat Yantrasast and LACMA's Associate Curator of Photography Edward Robinson will hold an informal conversation about the gritty erotics of Japanese urban life. Book signing follows.

High and Low: Japanese Modernist Cinema

May 11-19, June 8-9, 2012

Bing Theater

Check lacma.org for film series updates. Confirmed titles include:

Friday May 11

7:30 pm **The Face of Another** 1966/b&w/124 min. | Dir: Hiroshi Teshigahara with **Nanami: The Inferno of First Love** 1968/b&w/108 min. | Dir: Susumu Hani

Saturday May 12

5 pm: **Diary of a Shinjuku Thief** 1969/b&w/94 min. | Dir: Nagisa Oshima with **Shinjuku 1973, 25pm** 1973/2006/b&w/17 min./digital | Dir: Daido Moriyama

7:30 pm **Stray Dog** 1949/b&w/122 min. | Dir: Akira Kurosawa

Friday June 8

7:30 pm **The Pornographers** 1966/b&w/127 min./Scope | Dir: Shohei
Imamura with **Pigs & Battleships** 1962/b&w/108 min./Scope | Dir:
Shohei Imamura

Saturday June 9

5 pm **Funeral Parade of Roses** 1969/b&w/105 min. | Dir: Toshio
Matsumoto

7:30 pm **High and Low** 1963/b&w/142 min./Scope | Dir: Akira
Kurosawa

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, innovative collaborations with artists, and an ongoing *Transformation* project, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

Location and Contact: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax Avenue), Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | lacma.org

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: noon-8 pm; Friday: noon-9 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 11 am-8 pm; closed Wednesday

General Admission: Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

Free General Admission: Members; children 17 and under; after 5 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

Images (page 1, from left to right:)

(Image one) Daido Moriyama, *Michinoku New Year*, 1970, printed 2005, chromogenic print, courtesy of Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck, © Daido Moriyama.

(Image two) Daido Moriyama, *Untitled*, c. 1975, from the series *Goshogawara*, gelatin silver print, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Ralph M. Parsons Fund, © Daido Moriyama.

(Image three) Daido Moriyama, *Zoku Nippon Gekijo Shashincho*, 1968, printed 2009, gelatin silver print, courtesy of Daniel Greenberg and Susan Steinhauser, © Daido Moriyama.

(Image four) Daido Moriyama, *Untitled*, 2012, exhibition pigment print, courtesy of the artist, © Daido Moriyama.

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