PRESS RELEASE July 2024



《11丁目》1951年 11th St., 1951 © The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation

# Robert Frank Centennial Exhibition

# Why Don't We Talk About Photography Once Again?

Frank and His Contemporaries

Sat. July 6 - Sun. September 29, 2024

10.00-17:00 (entry -16:30) Open Daily, closed on Tuesdays in September Adults 800 Yen (600 Yen) University Students and Under Free

( ) for group over 20 people Family (2 to 6 members) 1200 Yen

Organized by Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts Committee Support by Shinnyo-en

2024. 7.6[±]-9.29[日]

開館時間:10:00~17:00 (入館は16:30 まで) 休館日:7月・8月は無休 毎週火曜日 入館料:一般 800円(600円) 大学生以下無料

( )内は20名様以上の団体料金 家族割引1200円(2~6名様まで)

主催/清里フォトアートミュージアム委員会 特別協賛/真如苑(社会貢献基金)

ロバート・フランク生誕100周年記念展



Press Images





1. ≪11 丁目≫ 1951 年 **11th Street**, 1951 © The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation

2. 《パリ》 1950 年 *Paris*, 1950 © The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation

3. 《テネシー州チャタヌーガ≫ 1955 年 *Chattanooga, Tennessee,* 1955 © The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation

4. ≪リバー・ルージュの自動車工場 デトロイト≫ 1954 年 *River Rouge Plant, Detroit,* 1954 © The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation

5. 《チューリッヒ》 1952 年 *Zurich*, 1952 © The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation







5

Robert Frank Centennial Exhibition "Why Don't We Talk about Photography Once Again? Robert Frank and his Contemporaries" will be on view at the Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts from Saturday, July 6th through Sunday, September 6th, 2024.

Robert Frank's emergence was an eye-opener in the photographic circle in the 1950's. Born in 1924 in his homeland, Switzerland, he began his career as a photographer after studying the media back home. In around 1947 he started taking "street photography" which had eventually fruited in his renowned book "The Americans" which was published in 1959 in the US and made his name monumental.

This year marks Robert Frank's Centennial Anniversary. Since its foundation in 1995, KMoPA has been encouraging photographers under age 35 by acuisiting their work to the permanent collection. Robert Frank is no exception, and in our permanent collection holds his early works that are mostly vintage prints. With this work we had held a major one-man exhibition in 2019 under his auspices, only to be struck by the devastating news of his passing during the exhibition. This year we will be celebrating Robert Frank's centennial of his birth by exhibiting his work along with his contemporaries' work created in the 1950's, which had opened a new chapter in the history of street photography.

#### Robert Frank

Born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1947. Moved to New York at the age of 23. Worked as fashion photographer for various magazines, at the same time traveled to South America and Europe to take personal photographs. Granted Guggenheim Fellowship in 1955 and 1956 to photograph across the United States that resulted in his most famous book "The Americans." Switched to film making after 1958. He died on September 9, 2019 at age 94 at his home in Nova Scotia during his exhibition at KMoPA.

#### **Exhibition Contents**

78 original prints by Robert Frank taken between 1948-1960 in the US, Peru, France, Spain, England and Switzerland, mostly unpublished in any of his books.

[Also On View: 20 Contemporaries / 70 works by: ]

Werner Bischof, Robert Doisneau, Ed van der Elsken, Elliott Erwitt, Eikoh Hosoe, Yasuhiro Ishimoto, IZIS, André Kertész, Kikuji Kawada, William Klein, O. Wisnton Link, Jun Miki, Ikko Narahara, Shigeichi Nagano, David Seymour "Chim", W. Eugene Smith, Takeyoshi Tanuma, Shomei Tomatsu, Weegee, Dan Weiner

Invented around 190 years ago, photography has developed in various areas over the time. Documentary photography, thanks to the photograph's primary nature of recording and communicating, has evolved since the beginning of 20th Century with the invention of small cameras. Photography in 1950's is revisited by focusing on works from Japan, USA and Europe taken in the decade, at the same time, celebrating the turbulence brought by Robert Frank to the history of photography.

#### **Highlights**

# "Tokyo" by William Klein

**William Klien** was another game changer in the street photography in the '50s. While many of the active photographers in the US were emigré from Europe, Klein, native to New York, was an American in Paris, with views towards outside. 20 prints from his signature work from 1961, "Tokyo" will be on view.

#### **Delpire and European Photographers**

Robert Frank's "The Americans" was first published in France by editor Robert Delpire. Delpire was not familiar with any photographers from the US at the time. He had worked with European photographers including **Elsken**, **IZIS**, and **Doisneau**, whose work will be on view. Robert Frank's first book, also edited by Delpire, was published with another Swiss photographer, **Werner Bischof**.

#### Emigré photographers in the US

Many photographers active in the US at the time, including Robert Frank, were immigrants from Europe. Weegee, born in Ukraine, utilized police radio and worked on news photography. André Kertész, born in Hungary, is considered as "Father of Modern Photography." Elliott Erwitt, born in France, was Frank's friend over the years. What seemed "American" were visualized by eyes of the outsiders.

#### Meanwhile, there were native American photographers, too...

**O. Winston Link**, native American, became specialist in railway photography. Do not miss "Spanish Village" and portrait of Dr. Albert Schweitzer by American born **W. Eugene Smith.** 

#### And in Japan,

Yasuhiro Ishimoto's return from Chicago to Japan in 1953 may have triggered a new wave in the Japanese photography circle. Also on view will include early prints by photographers who founded "VIVO" afterwards, which was a group of photographers who brought new era to the post war Japanese photography scenes.

# **Events Information during the Exhibition:**

Please visit KMoPA HP http://www.kmopa.com/ newsroom, or see following:

- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/kmopa/
- X https://twitter.com/kmopa
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/kmopa2024/

## About KMoPA

Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts=KMoPA was founded as a photography museum in Hokuto-city, Yamanashi-prefecture in 1995, . Photographer Eikoh Hosoe is the Director, and photographer Masato Seto is the Deputy Director.

With the following 3 principles, KMoPA celebrates its 30th anniversary year in 2025.

- 1. Affirmation of Life
- 2. Eternal Platinum Prints
- 3. Photographs by the Next Generation: Young Portfolio
  - \* Young Portfolio (YP) is the only cultural support activity for photographers under age 35 in the world.

#### For Inquires and Press Image Requests

Junko Ogawa june.ogawa@kmopa.com

#### Address

3545-1222 Kiyosato, Takane-cho, Hokuto-shi Yamanashi 407-0301, Japan

TEL:0551-48-5599

## **Directon**

By car Chuo Expressway, 20 minutes from Sutama Exit.

By train JR Chuo Line to Kobuchizawa Station, and transfer to JR Koumi Lineto to Kiyosato Station;

10 minutes by taxi from Kiyosato Station.

Parking Free parking spaces are available for 45 cars and 6 buses.