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Daido Moriyama: A Retrospective

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Zum Buch

Widely considered Japan's most influential and prolific photographer, Daido Moriyama has been challenging conventions of the art form for more than a half century. This exhaustive and electrifying retrospective, published in cooperation with the Daido Moriyama Foundation and based on entirely new research, looks at every stage of Moriyama's extensive career, including his extraordinary images as well as his conceptual contributions to photography.

One of a generation of postwar Japan's groundbreaking artists, Moriyama has continually established his own visual grammar. This book features more than 190 chronologically arranged images that reveal his constantly evolving career: his early editorial work of the mid-1960s, focused on the American occupation and the experimental theater; his radical experimentation of late 1960s and the 1970s; the self-reflexive photos of the 1980s and 1990s; and his ongoing exploration of cities, among other relevant moments. It also includes more than 400 spreads from Moriyama's rarely seen publications, mapping the sources of his visual production. Rounding out the volume are texts by the editor and leading Japanese scholars, a personal essay by the artist, and a full chronology of his life and work. Accompanying a major exhibition on Moriyama's output this impressive volume reframes Moriyama's legacy, and is certain to become the definitive publication on his work.

Autor

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DAIDO MORIYAMA: THE RETROSPECTIVE

Daido Moriyama arrived in Tokyo more than sixty years ago. Since then, he has produced thousands of images that he has shown in hundreds of publications, constructing through his restless gaze an infinite cartography of the big city. Moriyama takes the observer to wherever he traveled—New York, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, among many other cities where his endless curiosity carried him to see and record moments of his wanderings. Moriyama contributed to new thinking on photographic practice, particularly on concepts of reality and recording, and making photography and thinking about photography in a rapidly transforming world. At the same time, Japan itself was confronting the ruins of war and having their entire ancestral culture affected by a forced Americanization that created other ways of seeing and living, standardized by the consumerist proliferation of commodified images, bodies, and lifestyles.

Postwar Japanese photographers, including Daido Moriyama, took a critical and dissident approach to a world in which light seemed intended to eliminate shadows, the image to replace the body, the relationship between objects to supplant the relationship between people. Similar tendencies also appeared in other latitudes and contexts, where artists sought to highlight their unique styles, all of them nomads in their approach to art and life—Lettrists and Situationists in Paris, the Beat Generation in the United States, Pop artists in London, or Tropicalistas in Brazil. Blurring the image, accentuating the grain, deepening contrast to the edge of what is visible and

