

For Immediate Release:

Daido Moriyama

Hawaii

February 13 - March 13, 2010

Opening reception: Friday, February 12, 6-8 pm



Luhring Augustine is pleased to present its first exhibition featuring the work of Daido Moriyama, one of Japan's leading figures in photography. Witness to the spectacular changes that transformed postwar Japan, his photographs express a fascination with the cultural contradictions of age-old traditions that persist within modern society. Providing a harsh, crude vision of city life and the chaos of everyday existence, strange worlds, and unusual characters, his work occupies the space between the objective and the subjective, the illusory and the real.

Moriyama takes pictures with a small hand-held camera that enables him to shoot freely while walking or running or through the windows of moving cars. Taken from vertiginous angles or overwhelmed by close-ups, his blurred images are charged with a palpable and frenetic energy that reveal a unique proximity to his subject matter. Snapshots of stray dogs, posters, mannequins in shop windows, and shadows cast into alleys present the beauty and sometimes-terrifying reality of a marginalized landscape. His anonymous and detached approach enables him to capture the "visible present" made up of accidental and uncanny discoveries as he experiences them.

Moriyama emerged as a photographer in the 1960's at the tail end of the VIVO collective, a revolutionary and highly influential group of Japanese artists who reexamined the conventions of photography during the tumultuous postwar period. William Klein's loose, Beat style images of New York City in the 1960s also served as a major turning point for Moriyama, who found inspiration in Klein's free-form photographic style. Taken by these innovative approaches at home and abroad, Moriyama ultimately went on to forge his own radical style.

"Hawaii", Moriyama's most recent body of work, was produced over a period of three years and presents his distinct perspective on the daily lives of the people living on the islands of Hawaii and Oahu. Returning to the island five times before feeling prepared to shoot these surroundings, Moriyama's overall approach is purposeful and considered despite his loose and informal style. The series was recently exhibited at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and published in a volume by the institution.

Daido Moriyama was born in Osaka in 1938. He has had museum shows around the world including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland, the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. His work is part of many major public collections such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Centre Pompidou, Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Los Angeles County Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Getty in Los Angeles.

For further information, please contact Kristen Becker at 212.206.9100 or via email at kristen@luhringaugustine.com.



Daido Moriyama's erotically charged Tights and Lips are utterly timeless

by James Cartwright
Tuesday 16 October 2012

You can't move in London at the moment without catching sight of one of Daido Moriyama's images plastered to the side of a bus, hanging from a billboard or blowing around a busy street on the cover of a discarded flyer. The man is everywhere. But with two coinciding shows on in the capital at the moment (one at Tate Modern, the other at Michael Hoppen Gallery) it's hardly surprising.

We posted Moriyama's work back in June but what better time to revisit some of Moriyama's finest work *Tights and Lips*, a striking combination of close-up shots of legs in fine hosiery and street-photographs of lips in high-street advertising that speak of the Americanisation of post-war Japan and the increasing eroticism of photographic advertising. They're a timeless body of images that never lose their impact no matter how many times you see them. Utterly beautiful stuff.

Tights and Lips is on show at Michael Hoppen Gallery until October 20.





DAIDO MORIYAMA: “Tights and Lips”

The ASX Team
November 24, 2013

One of the most revered living Japanese photographers, Daido Moriyama’s work is saturated with the melancholic beauty of life at its most ordinary. His photographs epitomize wabi-sabi, the Japanese aesthetic of finding beauty in imperfection. Moriyama focuses in on the lost and the discarded, and finds echoes of living through the breakdown of traditional values in post-war Japan.

Daido Moriyama was born in 1938 along with a twin brother, who died when Daido was two. His childhood was spent in the town of Urawa, outside Tokyo where the passing GI’s would throw chocolate and chewing gum to the children. Citing Kerouac’s *On the Road* as one of his greatest influences, Moriyama draws inspiration from Atget and Weegee as well as William Klein and Warhol. Comparing himself to a machine gun, Moriyama fires off his camera in rapid bursts of instinctive shooting.

Moriyama’s output since 1968 is legendary. He has produced over 150 books of his photographs. He has had over 100 solo exhibitions. In the U.S., he was a central figure in MoMA’s groundbreaking 1974 *New Japanese Photography*, and in 1999 SFMoMA organized and exhibited the retrospective *Daido Moriyama: Stray Dog*, which was also shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Japan Society in New York.