

PEDER LUND

SHOMEI TOMATSU • BIOGRAPHY

- 1930 Born in Aichi, Nagoya.
- 1954-56 Becomes staff photographer for the Iwanami Shashin Bunko series alongside Nagano Shigeichi.
- 1958 Begins the Chewing Gum and Chocolate series, studying the impact of American occupation on Japan. This will become a major theme throughout Tomatsu's work.
- 1959 A major typhoon strikes the area of Nagoya where Tomatsu was brought up, destroying his mother's home. He photographs the aftermath of the storm.
- 1959-61 Co-founds the seminal Vivo group with Hosoe Eikoh, Kawada Kikuji, Sato Akira, Tanno Akira and Narahara Ikko.
- 1960 Tomatsu is asked to produce the photography for a book on Nagasaki for a campaign against nuclear weapons. This is the beginning of the Nagasaki 11:02 series which took stock of the human impact of the atomic bomb, 15 years after it was dropped.
- 1972-76 Moves to Okinawa after the islands reverted to Japan following the American occupation.
- 1995 Awarded the Medal with the Purple Ribbon by the Japanese government
- 2012 Died in Okinawa

Selected solo exhibitions:

- 2018 *Shomei Tomatsu*, Fundación MAPFRE Casa Garriga Nogués Exhibition Hall, Barcelona, Spain (catalogue)
- 2017 *INTERFACE - Or, What Japan's Great Post-War Photographers Kept Looking For. An Inquiry in to the Artistic Practice of Shomei Tomatsu.*, Photo History Museum FujiFilm Square, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 *Shomei Tomatsu: Nagasaki*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan
- 2015 *Chewing Gum and Chocolate*, Misa Shin Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

tography, New York, NY (Catalogue)

- 2014 *Shomei Tomatsu: Island Life*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (catalogue)
- 2013 *Afghanistan 1963*, Misa Shin Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Shomei Tomatsu Island life, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Tomatsu Shomei and plants in Okinawa, Okinawa Prefectural Art Museum, Okinawa, Japan
Toki-wo-kezuru, Mitsubishi-Jisho ARTIUM, Fukuoka, Japan
Tomatsu Shomei Photographs, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum, Nagasaki, Japan
Nagasaki 11:02, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagasaki, Japan
Shomei Tomatsu The pencil of the Sun, Canon Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *Tomatsu Shomei Photographs*, Tinami Art Museum, Toyama, Japan
- 2011 *Shinjuku Turmoil*, Misa Shin Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Tomatsu Shomei. Okinawa Photographs - Love Letter to the Sun, Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Art Museum, Naha, Japan
- 2010 *TOMATSU SHOMEI: PHOTOGRAPHS*, Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya, Japan (catalogue)
- 2009 *Nagasaki 11:02*, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagasaki, Japan
- 2007 *Tomatsu Shomei: Tokyo Mandala*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 *Aichi Mandala: Tomatsu Shomei's Landscape*, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi, Japan
- 2005 *Shomei Tomatsu: Skin of the Nation*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
Shomei Tomatsu: Skin of the Nation, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 2004 *Shomei Tomatsu: Skin of the Nation*, Japan Society, New York, NY
- 2003 *Shomei Tomatsu: Three Decades in Color*, National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
- 2000 *Okinawa Mandala*, Nagasaki Prefectural Museum, Nagasaki, Japan
- 1999 *Traces: Fifty Years of Tomatsu's work*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
- 1998 *Shomei Tomatsu: Cherry Blossoms*, Niitsu City Art Museum, Niigata, Japan

Character P: The Final Abode, epSITE Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

- 1997 *Shomei Tomatsu*, Mutsuzawa Town Hall, Chiba, Japan
- 1996 *Nagasaki 11:02*, Nasagaski Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagasaki, Japan
Interface, Ginza Nikon Salon; Osaka Nikon Salon
Interface: Shomei Tomatsu, National Film Center, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1995 *Shomei Tomatsu: The Light and Shadow of Postwar Japan*, Naha Citizens Gallery and Taira Central Community Hall, Okinawa Japan
- 1994 *Kyoto/Cherry Blossoms- The Original Image of The Japanese Nation*, Konica Plaza, Tokyo, Japan
- 1993 *Shomei Tomatsu: New World Map + Golden Mushroom*, Inax Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1992 *Southern Island Journal- The Ryukyu Archipelago*, Knónica Plaza, Tokyo, Japan
Shomei Tomatsu Photographs, Gallery Emon, Nagoya, Japan
Sakura+Plastics, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
- 1991 *Shomei Tomatsu: Weathering Time*. Maikata Citizen Gallery, Osaka, Japan
- 1990 *Shomei Tomatsu*, Perspektief Centrum Voor Fotografie, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Cherry, Cherry, Cherry, Umeda Loft, Osaka, Japan
- 1989 *Plastics*, Parco Galleries, Tokyo Sapporo, and Osaka, Japan
- 1988 *The Colors Blossom, Scatter and Fall*, Polaroid Gallery, Tokyo; Picture Photo Space, Osaka, Japan
Shomei Tomatsu: Japanese Landscapes, Toyonaka Central Public Hall, Osaka, Japan
- 1986 *Shomei Tomatsu: Nagasaki*, Liberty Osaka, Osaka, Japan
- 1984 *Shomei Tomatsu: Japan, 1952-1981*, Fotogalerie im Forum Stadtpark Graz, Austria; traveled to Traklhaus Galerie, Berlin, Germany; Fotoforum, Bremen Germany; StadtischeGalerie, Erlangen Germany; Museet for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark
- 1981 *What Now!! Japan through the Eyes of Shomei Tomatsu*, Yatsushiro Municipal Parking Garage Hall, Kumamoto and twenty-nine other Japanese venues
- 1978 *The Pencil of the Sun*, Nihon Seimei Hall, Nagoya, Japan
- 1964 *Kingdom of Mud*, Fuji Photo Salon, Tokyo, Japan

1962 *11:02 Nagasaki*, Fuji Photo Salon, Tokuyo, Japan

1959 *People*, Fuji Photo Salon, Tokyo, Japan

Selected group exhibitions:

2018 *1968: Art in the Turbulent Age*, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan
Japan Modern: Photography from the Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck Collection,
Freer/ Sackler, Washington, D.C

a Handful of Dust from the Cosmic to the Domestic, California Museum of Pho-
tography, California, CA

2017 *20 Year Anniversary TOP Collection: Tokyo Tokyo and Tokyo*. Tokyo Photographic
Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

2016 *PROVOKE BETWEEN PROTEST AND PERFORMANCE PHOTOGRAPHY IN JA-
PAN 1960- 1975*, Albertina, Vienna Austria; Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland;
traveled to Le Bal, Paris, France

2015 *For a New World to Come: Experiments in Japanese Art and Photography, 1967-
1979*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Grey Art Gallery, New York Univer-
sity, New York, NY; Japan Society Gallery, New York, NY

*The 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki: War
and Peace*, Hiroshima Prefectural Museum and Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum,
Japan

Collection Exhibition 2015-16, National Museum of Modern Art Kyoto, Japan
Conflict, Time, Photography, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Dresden,
Germany; traveled to Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany

Aichi Notes - Clay, Ceramics, Landscapes and Memory, Aichi Prefectural Ceramic
Museum, Aichi, Japan

2014 *Conflict, Time, Photography*, Tate Modern, London, UK

The Provoke Era: Japanese Photography from the Collection of SFMOMA, Crock-
er Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

2013 *1968 - Japanese Photography*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, To-
kyo, Japan

Memories of the Town: Yokosuka via photography and art, Yokosuka Museum of
Art, Kanagawa, Japan

2012 *Tokyo 1955-1970: A New Avant-Grande*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York,
NY

Everything Was Moving: Photography from the 60s and 70s, Barbican Art Gallery,
London, UK

Busan Biennale 2012- Garden of Leaning-, The Busan Biennale 2012, Busan,

South Korea

- 2011 *Breaking News - Fukushima and the consequences -*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2008-09 *Ryukyu, Okinawa Two People Exhibition Higa Yasuo Ritual of Ryukyu: Tomatsu Shomei Chewing Gum and Chocolate*, Canon Gallery S, Tokyo; traveled to Urasoe Art Museum of Art, Okinawa, Japan
- 2003 *Japan 1945-1975: A photographic Renewal*, Patrimoine Photographique, Paris, France
The History of Japanese Photography, Museum Fine Arts, Houston, TX; traveled to Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
- 2000 *How You Look at it: Photographs of the Twentieth Century*, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany
- 1999 *Memories of the Twentieth-Century Japan: Ten Photographers' Visions*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
- 1995 *After Hiroshima: The Message from Contemporary Art*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan
The History of Contemporary Photography: The Documenting and Creative Eye, Mitsukoshi, Tokyo; Nabio Art Museum, Osaka, Japan
The Half-Life of Awareness: Photographs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, Osaka, Japan
- 1994 *Japanese Art after 1945: Scream Against the Sky*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa; traveled to Guggenheim Museum Soho, New York, NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
Neo-Dada Exhibition, Fukuoka City Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1993 *Modern Japanese Art*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
Photographs from the Real World, Lillehammer Bys Malerisamlung, Lillehammer, Norway; Bergen Kunstforening Museum, Bergen, Norway; Copenhagen Photography Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1992 *More Than One Photography*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1991 *The Toppan Collection*, International Center of Photography, New York, NY
Innovation in Japanese Photography in the 1960s, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
- 1990 *The Past and Present of Photography*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; traveled to National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
Photographs of the 1940s and 1950s, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

- 1989 *Eleven Photographers in Japan 1965-75: Has Japanese Photography Been Changed?*, Yamaguchi Prefectural Museum of Art
Photography Until Now, Museum of the Modern Art, New York, NY; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
150 Years of Photography, Konika Plaza, Tokyo, Japan
Japanese Photography, Museum Voor Fotografie, Chaleroi, Belgium
- 1986 *Avant-Garde Art, Japan: 1910-1970*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- 1985 Paris, New York, Tokyo, Tsukuba Photography Museum, Miyagi Prefectural Art Museum, Miyagi, Japan
The incredible Image: Photographs of War, 1846 to the Present, Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University, New York, NY; traveled to Institute for the Arts, Rice Museum, Houston, TX; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Black Sun: The Eyes of Four, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK; traveled to Serpentine Gallery, London, UK; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA; Japan House Gallery, New York, NY; Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 1982 *Twentieth-Century Photography from the New York Museum of Modern Art*, Seibu Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 1979 *Japan: A Self-Portrait*, International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- 1976 *New Photography from Japan*, Kulturhausder Stadt, Graz, Austria
- 1975 *The History of Modern Japanese Photography*, Seibu Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 1974 *New Japanese Photography*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; traveled to Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO; Minneapolis Institute of the Art, Minneapolis, MN; Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba, Canada; Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA; Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
- 1963 *Contemporary Photography Exhibition 1961-62*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1962 *Non*, Matsuya, Tokyo, Japan
- 1957, '58, '59 *Eyes of Ten*, Konishiroku Photo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1956 *Five Photojournalists*, Matsushima Gallery, Tokyo, Japan