

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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NO. 10A
FOR RELEASE:
MARCH 25, 1974

NEW JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHY edited by John Szarkowski and Shoji Yamagishi. 112 pp. 116 black-and-white illustrations. \$8.95 clothbound, distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd.; \$5.95 paperback available only at The Museum of Modern Art. Both books published by The Museum of Modern Art.

NEW JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHY, edited by John Szarkowski, Director of The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Photography, and Shoji Yamagashi of the magazine Camera Mainichi, Tokyo, will be published by The Museum of Modern Art March 25. The 112-page book with 116 illustrations surveys the major innovative figures in recent Japanese photography and reports on the most significant work being done by younger photographers in Japan today.

Within the past twenty-five years the character of Japanese photography has changed radically, and its former dependence on the patterns and attitudes of the traditional Japanese media has been replaced by a sometimes harshly realistic objectivity. At the root of this change was a desire to find ways in which photography could deal directly with contemporary experience, rather than with the basically formalistic issues of picture structure. The work produced under this impetus has influenced photographic thinking throughout the world.

The volume presents the distinctive work of fifteen photographers. A selection of pictures from Ken Domon's classic interpretation of the eighth-century temple Muro-ji serves as a prelude to more recent work. The central figure of the book is Shomei Tomatsu, whose photographs of the westernization of Japan transform the materials of photojournalism into an intensely personal and intuitive statement. Among the younger photographers represented is Daidoh Moriyama, whose work is a highly idiosyncratic and often frightening visual diary, recording the photographer's journey through a time of apocalyptic change.

(more)

John Szarkowski is the author of Looking at Photographs and numerous other books in the field. The critic Shoji Yamagishi is developing editor of a recent series of monographs on leading Japanese photographers.

The book and the exhibition on which it is based (on view at The Museum of Modern Art from March 27 through May ~~29~~¹⁹, before starting a national tour) have been made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the SCM Corporation. Preliminary travel and research were sponsored by The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art and supported by the JDR 3rd Fund.

The book was designed by James Wageman.

Review copies, photographs, and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501; 956-7504.
