



Taka Ishii Gallery

Photography / Film

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Minoru Hirata “ACTION, the 1960s”

Date: Apr 25 – May 31, 2014

Location: Taka Ishii Gallery Photography / Film (AXIS Bldg., Roppongi)

Taka Ishii Gallery Photography/Film is pleased to present “ACTION, the 1960s,” a solo exhibition of works by Minoru Hirata, from April 25 to May 31, 2014. The exhibition will include 41 images selected from the vast archive of photographs that Hirata took of Japanese avant-garde artists’ actions in the 1960s.

In the 1960s, when postwar Japan went through many fundamental changes, there was an explosive movement of young artists who left their studios and staged “actions” in the streets to critique the state of society and to challenge the stagnant art world.

Holding a camera in my hand, I witnessed the “charged moments” created by these artists whose actions were at once fresh and photogenic.

What I saw through the lens became Photo Art when transferred onto paper.

Minoru Hirata

Minoru Hirata was born in Tokyo in 1930. As a freelance photojournalist, he documented the activities of avant-garde artists of the 1960s, such as Jiro Takamatsu, Genpei Akasegawa, and Natsuyuki Nakanishi (Hi Red Center), Yoko Ono, Ushio Shinohara and Zero Jigen. At times, Hirata proposed photography-based projects to the artists in an effort to create a broader recognition and understanding of their works. He was thus more of an intimate collaborator than an outside documenter. As a part of his oeuvre, he has also documented Okinawa and sky sports, organizing exhibitions such as “Fly Icarus” at Nikon Salon in 1975 and “Okinawa 1968-1974” at Konica Plaza in 2000. In recent years, his work has been included in exhibitions on postwar Japanese art including “Tokyo 1955–1970: A New Avant-Garde” held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 2013. He also participated in Les Recontres d’Arles in 2011, and his works are now included in the collection of the Tate Modern, London.

Exhibition catalogue details

ACTION, the 1960s

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Publish date: April 25, 2014, Softcover: 72 pages, 41 images, Size: H21.0 x W14.8 cm

Retail price: ¥2,000 (tax excluded)



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Gallery hours: Tue-Sat 11:00-19:00 Closed on Sun, Mon and National holidays



Minoru Hirata

“Shining Clothespins

(Nakanishi Natsuyuki’s clothespins on a model at the artist’s studio)”, 1963 / 2014

Gelatine silver print

Image size : 22.2 x 33.5 cm

Paper size : 27.8 x 35.7 cm

© Minoru Hirata



Minoru Hirata

“Collective Kumo running away from the Tenjin intersection”, 1969 / 2013

Gelatine silver print

Image size : 22.2 x 33.5 cm

Paper size : 27.8 x 35.7 cm

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