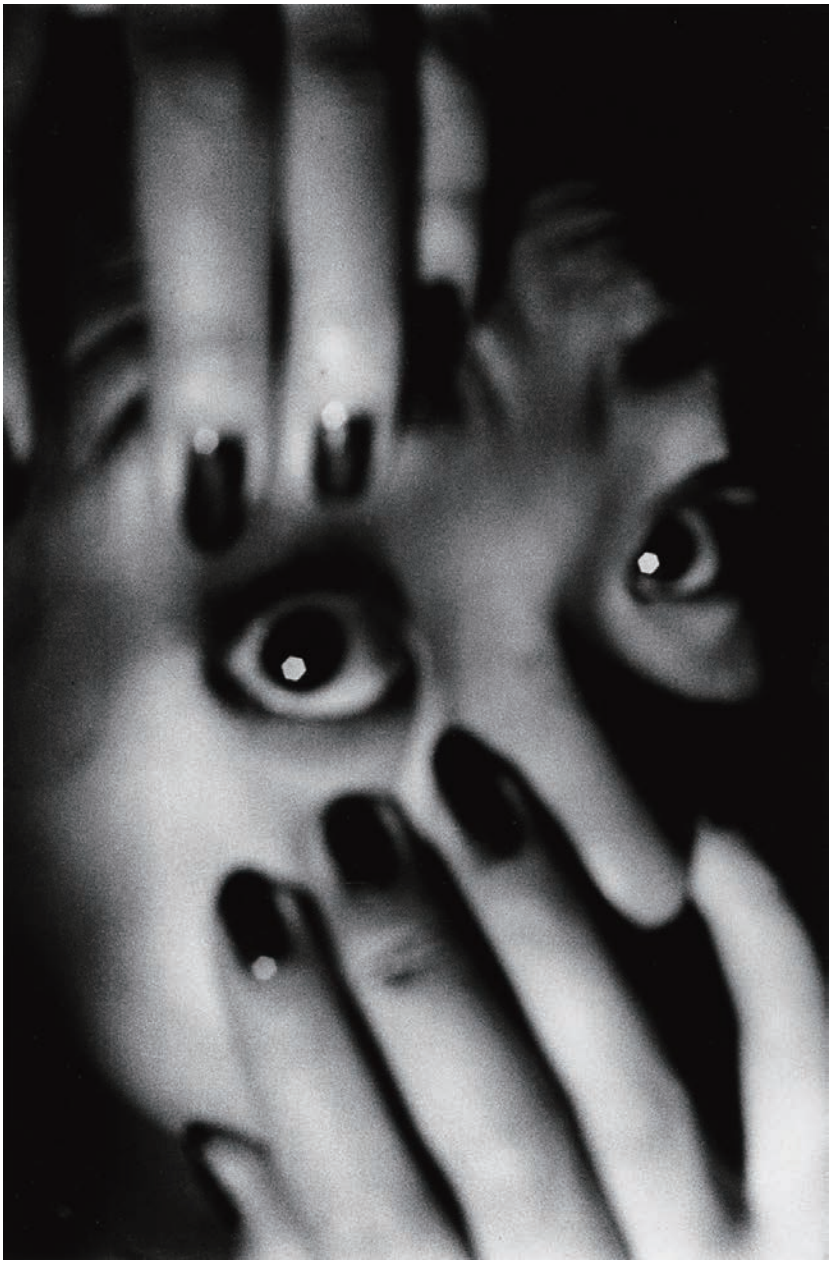
京都国際写真祭

2026 4.18 SAT-5.17 SUN



From *Letter to St-Loup*, 1990. © Daido Moriyama/Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation.

Kyoto, Japan — KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival returns for its 14th edition from Saturday 18 April to Sunday 17 May 2026

Held annually in the world-renowned cultural capital of Japan, KYOTOGRAPHIE transforms Kyoto into a stage for photography. Through close collaboration between artists, curators, scenographers, and local craftspeople, site-specific exhibitions unfold across iconic and unexpected venues ranging from historical buidlings to modern architectural landmarks.

In 2025, the festival welcomed 297,658 visitors, bringing the total number of attendees since its inception to over two million.

For 2026, KYOTOGRAPHIE presents a compelling main program under the theme “EDGE,” bringing together 13 photographers and atrists from 8 countries to explore experimental image-making, social and historical peripheries, urban and technological thresholds, humanity’s encounter with nature at its extremes, and much more.

Three artists from South Africa feature in this year’s program, following the co-directors’ recent research trip to the region, deepening the festival’s connection with contemporary African photography.

KYOTO GRAPHIE
international photography festival

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026
1st. Press Release
3rd. Dec. 2025

京都国際写真祭

KYOTOGRAPHIE

14 PROGRAMS FROM 8 COUNTRIES

14th EDITION | 2026 04.18 SAT — 05.17 SUN

Elusive and liminal, the edge can inhabit many physical, social, and psychological forms. It may evoke the tension of a cliff edge, the tipping point of conflict, or the instability of a life lived on the margins.

In photography, too, the edge is inherent. Throughout history, the medium has always existed on the fringes, hovering between document and art; truth and fiction. Now, with the dawn of new technologies and an overload of images, photography faces a new edge — of uncertainty, but also discovery.

What lies beyond any edge is unknowable, but does chaos always end in collapse? Or can the edge invite us to imagine a different world?

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026 explores the edge as a site of both tension and transition. We see radical approaches to photography alongside studies of urban decline, while documents of marginal communities intersect with ongoing issues of colonisation and territorial disputes.

We also explore the transcendental force of nature, and see how reaching an edge can open up new ways of seeing, thinking, and creating — even in the face of the bleakest environmental, political, and personal turmoil.

The edge is a place of uncertainty, yes, but also of possibility. A place where something ends to make way for something new.

Lucille Reyboz & Yusuke Nakanishi
Co-founders and co-directors of KYOTOGRAPHIE

Beyond the main exhibitions, KYOTOGRAPHIE once again takes over Kyoto with a citywide program of talks, workshops, and events that invite discovery and dialogue. The Kids Program, Masterclass Workshops, International Portfolio Review, Public Program events, and Photobook Fair details can be found in the press kit. Running in parallel, KG＋, the satellite festival showcasing diverse photographic practices, and KYOTOPHONIE, the music and sound art festival, further expand this spirit across the city, together transforming Kyoto into a living stage for photography, sound, and human connection.

OUTLINE

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026
International photography festival

Dates: 2026.4.18 Sat – 5.17 Sun
Press Preview: 2026.04.17 Fri
Organiser: KYOTOGRAPHIE

CONTACT

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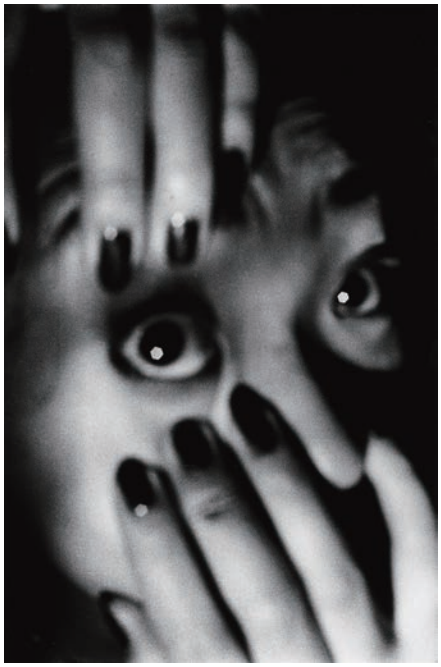
KYOTO GRAPHIE
international photography festival

EXHIBITIONS



From *Letter to St-Loup*, 1990, © Daido Moriyama/Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation.

DAIDO MORIYAMA
A RETROSPECTIVE

Presented by Sigma
In collaboration with Instituto Moreira Salles and Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation

Venue: Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Main Building South Wing 2F

A comprehensive survey of the radical photographer's prolific career, with a focus on the magazines and photobooks that shaped it

What I Do To Please You / Do, 1981–2008 © Linder, Courtesy of the artist and Modern Art, London

LINDER STERLING

Presented by CHANEL Nexus Hall

Venue: The Museum of Kyoto Annex

Linder's work continues to provoke, inspire, and redefine representations of women in art and culture

Juliette Agnel / courtesy Galerie Clémentine de la Féronnière & Photo Days

JULIETTE AGNEL

Presented by Van Cleef & Arpels

Juliette Agnel's exhibition evokes the invisible forces of a sacred space, with quiet photographs of minerals and plants that convey the Earth's powerful spirit

KYOTOGRAPHIE 京都国際写真祭

EXHIBITIONS

An Abundance of Plenty, 2024 © Thandiwe Muriu, Courtesy 193 Gallery

THANDIWE MURIU
CAMO

Presented by LONGCHAMP
Venue: Kondaya Genbei Chikuin-no-Ma

KYOTOGRAPHIE African Residency Program
Venue: Demachi Masugata Shopping Arcade
DELTA/KYOTOGRAPHIE Permanent Space

Muriu will hold two exhibitions: one for CAMO, her signature series of surreal illusions, and another for a new body of work made during her residency in Kyoto

c803d74b-86f1-49a9-b633-3d83e9633402, Les Ruines de Paris, 2024 © Yves Marchand & Romain Meffre

YVES MARCHAND & ROMAIN MEFFRE

The French duo will show large-format studies of modern ruins, along with works that combine AI technology with early photographic devices, and a new series made in Kyoto

© Sari Shibata

SARI SHIBATA

Presented by Ruinart
Ruinart Japan Award 2025 Winner

Venue: ASPHODEL

In the vineyards of France's Champagne region, Shibata portrays a woman who matures like the grapes, weaving together awe and gratitude for nature and the traditions passed down from her homeland

© Atsushi Fukushima

ATSUSHI FUKUSHIMA

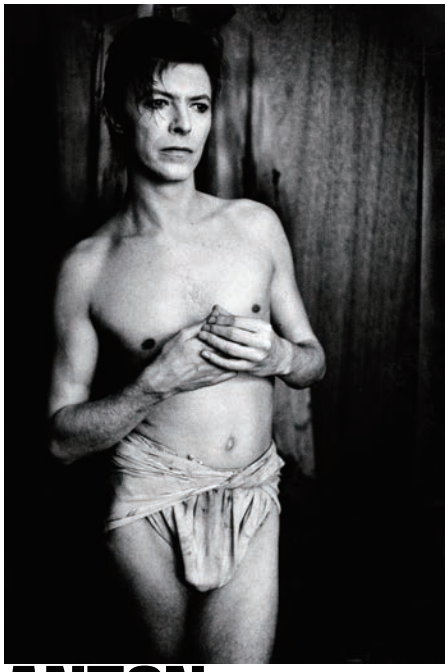
Supported by Fujifilm

Venue: ygion

In agriculture the summer harvest marks an intense period of labour and transition. Atsushi Fukushima captures the surge of life-and-death energy that erupts on the farm — a place where order and disorder coexist

LOCAL
京都国際写真祭

EXHIBITIONS



David Bowie, Chicago 1980 © Anton Corbijn

ANTON CORBIJN

Supported by agnès b.
With the patronage of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands

Venue: SHIMADAI GALLERY West

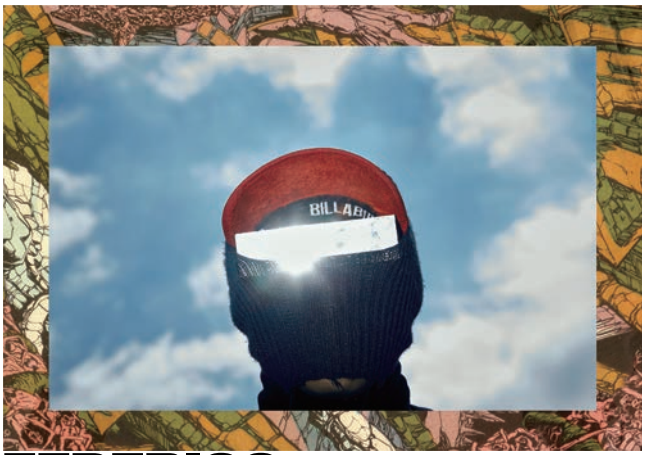
This selective retrospective traces the great portrait photographer's 50-year career of photographing some of the world's greatest stars

© Fatma Hassona

FATMA HASSONA

Venue: Hachiku-an (Former Kawasaki Residence)

A tribute to the late Palestinian photographer through a projection of her images



Shine Heroes, 2018 © Federico Estol

FEDERICO ESTOL

SHINE HEROES

KG＋SELECT Award 2025 Winner

Venue: SHIMADAI GALLERY East

Working in collaboration with the shoe shiners of La Paz, Estol celebrates identity and unity within a community that exists on the margins of society

KYOTOGRAPHIE 京都国際写真祭

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026
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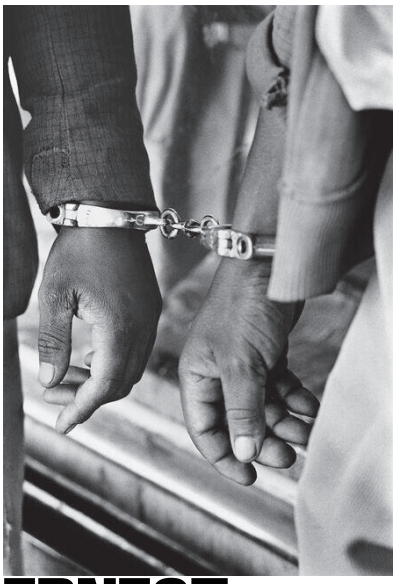
EXHIBITIONS
SOUTH AFRICA IN FOCUS

Three generations of South African artists and an accompanying photobook library illustrate South Africa's political history and rich photographic tradition

A4 Arts Foundation

Photo book! Photo-book! Photobook! illustrates South Africa's history from 1945 to today through the medium of the photobook. Curated by Sean O'Toole with A4 Arts Foundation, it presents key titles from the apartheid era and the democratic decades that followed, offering vital context and a gateway into the festival's South Africa in Focus section.



Handcuffed blacks were arrested for being in a white area illegally, South Africa, 1960s. © Ernest Cole / Magnum Photos

ERNEST COLE
HOUSE OF BONDAGE

Supported by Cheerio
In collaboration with Magnum Photos

Curated by Andréa Holzerr

Venue: Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Main Building South Wing 2F

Ernest Cole's groundbreaking document of apartheid South Africa is exhibited here for the first time in Japan

Gladys, 2022 © Lebohang Kganye

LEBOHANG KGANYE

Presented by DIOR

Curated by Marina Paulenka

For Johannesburg-based artist Lebohang Kganye, storytelling unfolds in a layered practice across words, photography, sculpture, and oral history

Sophie on the winter solstice, Nature's Valley, 2020 © Pieter Hugo

PIETER HUGO
WHAT THE LIGHT FALLS ON

Venue: Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Main Building South Wing 2F

Through a sprawling body of work made over the last 23 years, Hugo meditates on life, death, and the rites inbetween

FOCUS 京都国際写真祭

KYOTO 京都国際写真祭

Anniversary Book

KYOTOGRAPHIE: A Kyoto Story | A Twelve-Year Cycle

"KYOTOGRAPHIE serves as a bridge between the photography cultures of Japan and the rest of the world, and from its contents one can discern a consistent and potent message. In short, it is a sense of respect for others. It is belief in the richness of photography culture, and in the value of sharing it with others as a means of furthering acceptance of diverse human values, sensibilities, and ways of life. Such an attitude is increasingly demanded in this world, where egoism and chauvinism often prevail. Above all, what KYOTOGRAPHIE inspires in us is a determination not to give up on our ambitions through mere excuses. It encourages us to venture forward in anticipation of one day witnessing the flower that is yet to bloom."
— Mariko Takeuchi (Photography critic and writer)

Commemorating 12 years of KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival, this sprawling book uncovers the story behind the festival — from an ambitious dream, to an international stage for photography. Guided by its co-founders and co-directors — Lucille Reyboz and Yusuke Nakanishi — personal narrative, it traces the people, places, and moments that have shaped its journey.

Packed with images and insightful discussions, this book is more than just a retrospective. It's a celebration of the community that makes it all possible. Whether you've been with us from the beginning, or you're discovering KYOTOGRAPHIE for the first time, this publication is for you: to uncover all the stories and ideas that have shaped a festival unlike any other.

Essays

Mami Kataoka (Director, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, and Director, National Center for Art Research, Japan), François Hébel (Director at Large of The International Center of Photography, New York), Richard Collasse

Conversations

Hiromitsu Konishi (Interior Designer, Scenographer, miso), Genbei Yamaguchi (Tenth Head of Kondaya Genbei, Master obi Artisan), Oussouby Sacko (Professor and Executive Director of Tokyo Metropolitan Public University Corporation), Claude Grunitzky (CEO and Managing Partner at The Equity Alliance, Chairman of TRUE Africa), RongRong&inri (Photographers and Founders of Three Shadows Photography Art Centre), Lauren Hadler (Head of International Partnerships KYOTOGRAPHIE)

Portfolio

Inma Barrero, Coco Capitán, Omar Victor Diop, Joana Choumali, Prince Gyasi, JR, Laetitia Ky, Arno Rafael Minkkinen, Isabel Muñoz, Paolo Pellegrin, K-NARF & SHOKO, Ngadi Smart, Marjan Teeuwen, Yoriyas (Yassine Alaoui Ismaili)

Book Specifications

KYOTOGRAPHIE: A Kyoto Story | A Twelve-Year Cycle

First edition published on 12 April 2025
Size: 245×195×50 mm
Binding: Hardcover, Smyth sewn
Pages: 460 pages
Language: Bilingual (Japanese & English)
Editor: Hideko G. Ono
Book Design: Hiroyuki Yamada (RAS Inc.)
Printing & Binding: SunM Color Co., Ltd.
Publisher: KYOTOGRAPHIE
Distribution Partner: Seigensha Art Publishing, Inc.
Retail Price: ¥8,800

KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026
1st. Press Release
3rd. Dec. 2025

KYOTOGRAPHIE 京都国際写真祭

KYOTOGRAPHIE at Morioka Shoten (Ginza)

KYOTOGRAPHIE:
A Kyoto Story—A Twelve-Year Cycle
Special Exhibition

Tuesday 23 December – Sunday 28 December 2025
1:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Open daily during the exhibition period)

Suzuki Building, 1-28-15 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061

To celebrate KYOTOGRAPHIE's 12th anniversary book (released in April 2025), a special exhibition will be held at the "Single Room with a Single Book" concept bookstore, Morioka Shoten, in Ginza, Tokyo.
Visitors can explore images from KYOTOGRAPHIE 2025, purchase the anniversary book, and special early-advance Passport Tickets to KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026 will also be available.
On Monday December 22nd, a talk event will be held with Japanese fashion model and photography fan Kozue Akimoto, and co-directors of the festival Lucille Reyboz and Yusuke Nakanishi.