

GALLERY

KOYANAGI

PRESS RELEASE

30
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collaboration

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO
Seascapes Enoura
Pre-Photography Time-Recording Device

2026.7.4 (Sat) – 9.12 (Sat)



Hiroshi Sugimoto, *Bay of Sagami, Enoura*, 2026

The exhibition *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Extinction* has been on view at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo since Tuesday, June 16. The first solo exhibition at a Japanese museum devoted entirely to Hiroshi Sugimoto's photographic works, since *Hiroshi Sugimoto: End of Time* at the Mori Art Museum in 2005, this major retrospective explores the theme of "extinction." Examining subjects ranging from the demise of gelatin silver photography as a medium to the potential extinction of human civilization, the exhibition presents a comprehensive overview of Hiroshi Sugimoto's artistic vision.

In conjunction with the museum exhibition, Gallery Koyanagi is pleased to present *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Seascapes Enoura | Pre-Photography Time-Recording Device*, on view from Saturday, July 4 through Saturday, September 12, 2026. The exhibition brings together, for the first time, every *Seascape* photographed from the Enoura Observatory, alongside selections from *P.P.T.R.D.* (Pre-Photography Time-Recording Device), Sugimoto's platinum-print series depicting fossils he has collected over the years.

Seascapes — Enoura

Hiroshi Sugimoto's artistic practice encompasses photography, architecture, garden design, sculpture, performing arts, and calligraphy. Yet at the core of his work lies the medium to which he has devoted himself for more than half a century: gelatin silver photography. Together with *Dioramas* and *Theaters*, *Seascapes* forms one of Sugimoto's earliest and most iconic series, representing the fullest expression of his mastery of gelatin silver print. Reduced to the simplest possible composition, sea and sky divided by a single horizon, the photographs achieve an extraordinary richness of tonal gradation, a unique characteristic of the medium. This world of profound stillness transcends the limits of human vision.

Created in response to Sugimoto's enduring question, "Can someone today view a scene just as primitive man might have?" *Seascapes* traces the origins of human consciousness through images of the sea and sky that have remained unchanged since prehistoric times. Sugimoto began photographing Bay of Sagami, what he calls his "primal landscape," from the Enoura Observatory of the Odawara Art Foundation in 2022. Because the waters are free of fishing boats and pleasure craft only on New Year's Day, each photograph can be made only once a year, making the annual act an increasingly important ritual for the artist. This exhibition presents all *Seascapes* photographed at Enoura, from the inaugural photograph made in 2022 to the newest work completed in 2026, offering an exceptionally rare opportunity to view the entire series together.

Pre-Photography Time-Recording Device

This crustacean fossil emerged when the rock was split in two, like the negative and positive of a photographic image, preserving within it 150 million years of frozen time. Through these fossils, I hope to trace not only the history of humankind, but the history of life itself.

— Hiroshi Sugimoto

Sugimoto's reflections on photography and time extend all the way back to prehistoric times. For many years he has collected fossils, and some of them are on display in the "Fossil Cave" at the Enoura Observatory. Sugimoto regards fossils, which faithfully recorded the passage of time long before the emergence of humankind, as "pre-photographic time-recording devices." In the *P.P.T.R.D.* series, he re-photographs these ancient records, transforming them into photographic works. The exhibition also offers an opportunity to experience the distinctive tactile quality and luminous tonal richness unique to platinum printing, in contrast to gelatin silver photography.

A reception with Hiroshi Sugimoto will be held on the opening day of the exhibition, Saturday, July 4, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We warmly invite you to experience this unprecedented presentation of the complete series of Enoura *Seascapes*, together with *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Extinction* at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.

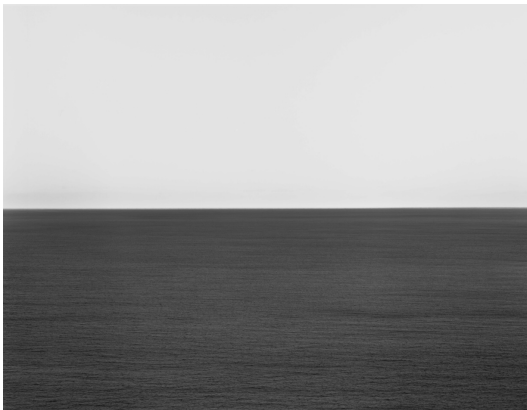
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Gallery Koyanagi

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**Image 1****Image 2****[caption]**

Hiroshi Sugimoto
Bay of Sagami, Enoura
2026
gelatin silver print
42 x 53 cm (image)

Hiroshi Sugimoto
P.P.T.R.D. 040
2008
platinum and palladium print
82.5 x 66 cm (image)

[credit line]

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[Exhibition outline]

Exhibition title:

Hiroshi Sugimoto: Seascapes Enoura | Pre-Photography Time-Recording Device

Exhibition period: Saturday, July 4–Saturday, September 12, 2026

Opening reception: Saturday, July 4, 17:00–19:00

*The artist will be present.

Gallery opening hours: 12:00–19:00

Closed on Sundays, Mondays and National Holidays.

Summer Holidays: August 9–17

Exhibition venue:

Gallery Koyanagi

Koyanagi Building 9th Floor, 1-7-5 Ginza, Chuo-ku

Tokyo 104-0061 Japan

Access:

Tokyo Metro: Ginza, Hibiya, and Marunouchi lines “Ginza” station, Exit A9 /

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[Hiroshi Sugimoto's solo exhibitions currently on view at museums]

Hiroshi Sugimoto: Extinction

Venue: The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

Dates: Tuesday, June 16 – Sunday, September 13

Opening hours: 10:00–17:00 (10:00–20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)

Closed on Mondays and July 21 (Will open on July 20)

[The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo](#) [Hiroshi Sugimoto: Extinction](#)

Hiroshi Sugimoto: Form Is Emptiness

Venue: Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

Dates: Friday, May 29 – Sunday, October 4

[Singapore Art Museum](#)

Hiroshi Sugimoto. reprendre la mélodie (Replay the Melody)

Venue: Musée Soulages, Rodez France

Dates: Saturday, April 11 – Sunday, September 13

[Musée Soulages](#)

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO

Born in Tokyo in 1948, Hiroshi Sugimoto moved to the United States in 1970 to study photography. A multi-disciplinary artist, Sugimoto works in photography, sculpture, installation, performing arts, architecture, gardening, and gastronomy. His art bridges Eastern and Western ideologies while examining the nature of time, perception, and the origins of consciousness. His photographic series include Dioramas, Theaters, Seascapes, Architecture, Portraits, Conceptual Forms, and Lightning Fields, among others. In 2008 he established the architecture firm New Material Research Laboratory which redesigned MOA Museum of Art in 2017 and designed Kiyoharu Art Colony Guesthouse *Washin* in 2019. In 2009 he founded Odawara Art Foundation, a charitable nonprofit organization to promote traditional Japanese performing arts and culture. He has deep knowledge about traditional performing arts. *Sugimoto Bunraku "Kannon Pilgrimage" from The Sonezaki Love Suicides* received high acclaim nationally and internationally. In the fall of 2019, *At the Hawk's Well*, directed by Sugimoto, was featured as one of the opening programs of the season at The National Opera of Paris.

Sugimoto's art works have been exhibited around the world and are in numerous public collections including The Guggenheim, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery in London; and the National Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo. Sugimoto is the recipient of the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography in 2001. He was awarded the 21st Praemium Imperiale in 2009, Medal with Purple Ribbon by the Japanese government in 2010, and conferred the Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (The Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government in 2013, the Isamu Noguchi Award in 2014, and honored as a Person of Cultural Merit by the Japanese government in 2017, as a member of the Japan Art Academy in 2023.

1948	Born in Tokyo
1970	Graduated from Saint Paul's University, Tokyo
1974	Graduated from Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles
1974	Moved to New York
	Lives and works in Tokyo and New York

Grant/Award/Honor

2023	Member of the Japan Art Academy
2018	National Arts Club Medal of Honor in Photography, New York
2017	Person of Cultural Merit, Japan
	The Royal Photographic Society, Centenary Medal, London
2014	Isamu Noguchi Award, New York
2013	Officier de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Paris
2010	The Medal with Purple Ribbon, Japan
2009	Praemium Imperiale in Honor of Prince Takamatsu, Painting category, Japan
2006	PHotoEspaña Prize, Madrid, Spain
2001	Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography, Göteborg, Sweden
2000	Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Parsons School of Design, New School University, New York
1999	Glen Dimplex Award, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
	International Center of Photography, Fifteenth Annual Infinity Award for Art, New York
1988	Mainichi Art Prize, Tokyo
1982	National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.
1980	John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, New York
1977	C.A.P.S. (Creative Arts Public Service) Fellowship, New York

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Extinction*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Form Is Emptiness, Singapore Art Museum
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Reprendre la mélodie, Musée Soulages Rodez, France
- 2025 *The Inspiring Aesthetics of "Sukisha"—Sokuō and Hiroshi SUGIMOTO, Tradition and Creation*, Ebara Hatakeyama Museum of Art, Tokyo
Hiroshi Sugimoto, Winsing Art Place, Taipei
- 2024 *Form Is Emptiness, Emptiness is Form.*, Lisson Gallery, Los Angeles
Optical Allusion, Lisson Gallery, New York
Giacometti/Sugimoto: Staged, The Institute Giacometti, Paris
- 2023 *Opera House, a selection for Bergamo*, Academia Carrara, Bergamo
Hiroshi Sugimoto, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco
Time Machine, Hayward Gallery, London; UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2024); MCA Australia, Sydney (2024)
Honkadori Azumakudari, The Shoto Museum of Art, Tokyo
Playing with Fire, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo.
- 2022 *Special exhibition: The Descent of Kasuga Spirit*, Kasugataisha Museum, Nara, Japan
Hiroshi Sugimoto Honkadori, Himeji City Museum of Art, Hyogo, Japan
OPERA HOUSE, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Journey of the Kasuga spirit, Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum, Japan
- 2021 *OPTICKS*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2020 *HYOGU - Frame of Japan*, The Hosomi Museum Kyoto
Hiroshi Sugimoto - Post Vitam, Higashiyama Cube, Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Kyoto
Past Presence, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2018 *Quattro Ragazzi: Hopes and Illusions of the Momoyama Renaissance - Europe through the Eyes of Hiroshi Sugimoto and the Tensho Embassy*, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum, Japan
SUGIMOTO VERSAILLES: Surface of Revolution, The Estate of Trianon, Palace of Versailles, France
Nobunaga and Quattro Ragazzi: Hopes and Illusions of Momoyama Renaissance – Europe through the eyes of Hiroshi Sugimoto and the Tensho Embassy, MOA Museum of Art, Shizuoka, Japan
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Still Life, Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels
- 2017 *Gates of Paradise*, Japan Society, New York
Le Notti Bianche, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino
- 2016 *Lost Human Genetic Archive*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2015 *Art and Leisure*, Chiba City Museum of Art, Japan; Hosomi Museum, Kyoto (2016)
Past and Present in Three Parts, Chiba City Museum of Art, Japan; Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, Russia (2016); Musée des Beaux-Arts, Le Locle, Switzerland (2016)
- 2014 *ON THE BEACH*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Aujourd'hui, le monde est mort [Lost Human Genetic Archive], Palais de Tokyo, Paris
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Past Tense, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
- 2013 *Hiroshi Sugimoto*, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul
- 2012 *Five Elements*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
From Naked to Clothed, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
- 2011 *Hiroshi Sugimoto ORIGINS OF ART | Architecture*, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa, Japan

- 2009 *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Nature of Light*, IZU PHOTO MUSEUM, Shizuoka, Japan
Lightning Fields, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2008 *History of History*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan; The National Museum of Art, Osaka (2009)
- 2007 *Leakage of light*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Hiroshi Sugimoto, K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany; Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany (2008)
- 2006 *Art Capturing*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Mathematical Forms, L'atelier Brancusi, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2005 *History of History*, Japan Society Gallery, New York
Hiroshi Sugimoto: End of Time, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2006)
- 2004 *Étant donné: Le Grand Verre*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris
- 2003 *Hiroshi Sugimoto*, Serpentine Galleries, London
Hiroshi Sugimoto: L'histoire de l'histoire, Maison Hermès Forum, Tokyo
ARCHITECTURE, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Architecture, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
- 2001 *Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Architecture of Time*, Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria
Portraits, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 2000 *Hiroshi Sugimoto*, Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Internacional Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico
Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Architecture Series, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California
Sugimoto: Portraits, Deutsche Guggenheim Museum, Berlin; Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York
- 1999 *In Praise of Shadows*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 1998 *Modernism*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 1997 *Twice as Infinity*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 1996 *Hiroshi Sugimoto — Photographies*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Motion Picture, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
- 1995 *Sill Life*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Sugimoto, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (1996); Hara Museum Arc, Gunma, Japan (1996); Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio (1997)
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed, Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland
- 1994 *Hiroshi Sugimoto*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California
- 1992 *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed*, CAPC Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France
- 1991 *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Exposed*, Sagacho Exhibit Space and IBM Courtyard, Tokyo
- 1989 *Recent Works 5 Hiroshi Sugimoto*, National Museum of Art, Osaka
- 1988 *Hiroshi Sugimoto*, Sagacho Exhibit Space and Zeit-Foto Salon, Tokyo
Hiroshi Sugimoto: Dioramas, Theaters, Seascapes, Sonnabend Gallery, New York
- 1977 *Hiroshi Sugimoto*, Minami Gallery, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2025 *SPRING RISING*, Pola Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan
30th Anniversary of the Museum's Opening Recorded Futures Relived: CCMA and Contemporary Art, Chiba City Museum of Art, Japan
The Emptiness of Eternal Recurrence —2025 Yukio Mishima Centenary = 100th year of Showa, GYRE, Tokyo
Out of focus, another vision of art from 1945 to the present day, Musée de L'Orangerie, Paris
- 2024 *UNSOLD UNSOLD: Hiroshi Sugimoto, Sophie Calle, Ryota Aoyagi*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
Six Lives: The Stories of Henry VIII's Queens, National Portrait Gallery, London
Janus, Berggruen Arts, Culture exhibition Palazzo Diedo, Venice
- 2023 *WORLD CLASSROOM; Contemporary Art through School Subjects*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2022 *Dioses, magos y sabios. Las colecciones privadas de los artistas*, Caixa Forum Madrid; Caixa Forum Barcelona (2023)
- 2020 *STARS: Six Contemporary Artists from Japan to the World*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2017 *What Absence Is Made Of*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.
- 2015 *Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2014 *Simple Shapes*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, France
- 2012 *Phantoms of Asia*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, California
- 2011 *Yokohama 2011 International Triennale of contemporary Art*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2010 *17th Biennale of Sydney*, Australia
Sexuality and Transcendence, PinchukArtCentre, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2009 *Mapping the Studio*, Punta Della Dogana, Venice
The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860–1989, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
- 2008 *Reality Check: Truth and Illusion in Contemporary Photography*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Photography on Photography: Reflections on the Medium since 1960, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
- 2004 *Singular Forms (Sometimes Repeated): Art from 1951 to the Present*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
- 2003 *Happiness: A Survival Guide for Art and Life*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
The History of Japanese Photography, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio
- 2002 *Moving Pictures*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
- 2001 *Yokohama 2001 International Triennale of contemporary Art*, PACIFICO Yokohama Exhibition Hall, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2000 *Gendai: Japanese Contemporary Art – Between the Body and Space*, Center for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland
Expanding Horizons: Landscape Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1999 *Regarding Beauty: A View of the Late Twentieth Century*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.
The Third Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia
The Museum as Muse: Artists Reflect, Museum of Modern Art, New York

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- 1998 *At the End of the Century: One Hundred Years of Architecture*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California
- 1997 *In Visible Light: Photography and Classification in Art, Science and the Everyday*, Modern Art Oxford, UK
- 1996 *10th Biennale of Sydney*, Australia
Prospect 96: Photographie in der Gegenwartskunst, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
By Night, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris
- 1995 *Album: De fotoverzameling van Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam*, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Art in Japan Today: 1985-1995, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
- 1994 *Photography and Beyond in Japan: Space, Time and Memory*, Hara Museum of Art, Tokyo
Japanese Art after 1945: Scream Against the Sky, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan; Guggenheim Museum Soho, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California
- 1993 *Das 21. Jahrhundert*, Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland
- 1992 *Réflexions Voilées*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
- 1991 *Carnegie International 1991*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pennsylvania
A Cabinet of Signs: Contemporary Art from Post-modern Japan, Tate Gallery Liverpool, UK
- 1990 *Japanische Kunst der Achtziger Jahre*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
The Past and the Present of Photography, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 1987 *Contemporary Japanese Art in America (I): Arita, Nakagawa, Sugimoto*, Japan Society Gallery, New York
- 1978 *Recent Acquisitions*, Museum of Modern Art, New York