PRESS RELEASE 2013.07.08





Exhibition Celebrating Mt.Fuji's Registration as a World Heritage Site

Documentary FUJI

2013 July 17 (Wed.) - September 16 (Mon./Holiday)



Documentary Fuji

2013 July 17 (Wed.) – September 16 (Mon./Holiday)
Part 1: 2013 July 17 (Wed.) – August 11 (Sun.)
Part 2: August 13 (Tue.) – September 16 (Mon./Holiday)
Organizer: Shizuoka Tokaido Hiroshige Museum of Art (Designated Manager: NPO Hexaproject)
Cooperation: JAPAN AIRLINES



Mount Fuji, a mountain that has since ancient times been treated as an object of worship, a famous mountain landscape and as artistic inspiration, has become known throughout the world and people have been attaching their various beliefs to it. Mount Fuji is also the most photographed mountain in the world and many Fuji have been created. This exhibition presents Ukiyo-e as a documentary of the Edo Period and features works from 2 series of the Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji made by the meisho (famous places) artist Utagawa Hiroshige in his late years, as well as 40 Views of Mt. Fuji by the Ukiyo-e enchanted English photographer Chris Steele-Perkins.

As if he was using camerawork techniques with modern composition, Hiroshige sometimes presented Mount Fuji as the main subject of his work, but in fact he was realistically portraying its existence through the Edo residents' lives. Perkins uses Mount Fuji as just a focal point in his works, but from them tries to present Japanese society. Through Ukiyo-e and photography – the media of their time – moments of everyday landscape are captured and preserved crossing time and countries. How has the role of Mount Fuji in the lives of the Japanese changed since the Edo Period to today? Without a doubt this change clearly reflects just how different modern-day Japan is since the Edo Period.

◎Artwork

 $*\ensuremath{\mathsf{Changes}}$ may be made to the exhibit and its displayed works.

Utagawa Hiroshige	Part1	Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji (富士三十六景) [31 pieces; inc. List of Works]	
		Famous Places in Japan, Fuji Yama viewed from Satta Pass [1 piece]	
		Famous Places in Japan, Fujikawa River Ferry Boats [1 piece]	
		Scenery of Seven-Mile Beach in Kamakura [1 piece]	
		Children's Daimyo Procession [3 serial pieces]	
		Total: 37 pieces	
	Part2	Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji (不二三十六景) [28 pieces]	
		The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido - Tsutaya Edition - [6 pieces]	
		Tokaido Kawazukushi Oigawa-no-zu [3 serial pieces]	
		Total: 37 pieces	
Chris Steele-Perkins	Part 1	& 2 40 Views of Mt. Fuji	
		Total: 40 pieces	

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Hiroshige Utagawa

Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji (冨士三十六景)

The vertical oban nishiki-e works of *Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji* ($\exists \pm \exists + \exists + \neg \exists \end{pmatrix}$) were made in 1858, the year Hiroshige passed away, and published by Tsuta-ya Kichizo the following year. These innovative compositional works make use of the paper's vertical structure by using an overhead view to create depth and perspective as well as using *Kinzo-gata Kozū* by enlarging objects in the foreground.



The Sea off Satta in Suruga Province

This print shows Mount Fuji viewed between the rocky coastline of Satta Pass and an incoming large wave, the shape of the wave reminiscent of Hokusai's Under the Wave off Kanagawa.



The Sagamigawa River

This work is famous for being included in the background of *Portrait of Père Tanguy* by Van Gogh who was a Ukiyo-e collector. The raftsman going down the Sagamigawa are drawn large from behind creating perspective.



Koganei in Musashi Province

An interesting composition with the trunk of the cherry tree drawn large in the foreground and Mt. Fuji is just visible through the hole in the tree. The curvature of the the flowing Tamagawa creates even more perspective.

Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji (不二三十六景)





Under Ryogokubashi Bridge

Composed as if peering out through the bridge columns of Ryogokubashi, the viewer can get the feeling of traveling under a bridge down the Sumida River in a boat.

Rough Seas off Shichirigahama Beach in Sagami Province

The left-half of Enoshima Island and Koyurugi Point appear between the rolling waves. The beach is not drawn in the foreground making the viewer feel they are out at sea.





Tagonoura Bay in Suruga Province

The sharply pointed drying fishing net in the center of the image contrasts with the gently flowing lines of Mt. Fuji's ridge. The triangular shapes of the nets and the circular motif of the waves are expressed geometrically.

The Seashore in Izu Province

An unusual composition with the view of Mt. Fuji shown through a cave wall that had been eroded from the ocean waves, it brings a sense of reality with the strong rock presence and a far-away faint Mt. Fuji.



Chris Steele-Perkins

40 Views of Mt. Fuji

40 Views of Mt. Fuji by the Ukiyo-e enchanted English photographer Chris Steele-Perkins.

The Ukiyo-e works of Utagawa Hiroshige and Katsushika Hokusai fulfilled a role similar to the social documentary photographer of today and tell much about the world we live in. Like Hiroshige and Hokusai, the documentary photographer Perkins shows modern Japan from the viewpoint of a foreigner with the subject of Mount Fuji and its existence in modern life.



© Chris Steele-Perkins / Magnum Photos



© Chris Steele-Perkins / Magnum Photos

Coaching baseball between Fujinomiya and Gotemba. 2001.

Road works and Fuji near Kawaguchiko. I stopped at some road works at night and Fuji was visible. I made a 4-minute exposure and the flashing red lights combined with the green fluorescent light of Fujinomiya city reflecting from the clouds was almost hallucinogenic. 1999.



© Chris Steele-Perkins / Magnum Photos

Hot spring with reflected Fuji, near Kawaguchiko. 1999.



© Chris Steele-Perkins / Magnum Photos

Filling station near Shiraito Falls. 2001.



Comment from the Artist

In 1997 I met the Japanese woman who was later to become my wife. I was determined to work on a series of photographs that would help me discover more about the country that had produced this wonderful woman. But what was this project to be?

Like many westerners I became interested in ukiyo-e prints, particularly those of Hokusai and Hiroshige. Apart from their aesthetic brilliance they had a compelling documentary quality that celebrated the look, feel, texture and energy of the life of that time, over two centuries ago. I loved the work they both produced that was inspired by Mt Fuji. I admired the boldness with which they pushed their main subject: Fuji, into the background, some-times so it was almost hidden, from where it oversaw the rich tumble of human activity.

At the same time I saw many photographs of Mt Fuji by contemporary Japanese photographers and was surprised by how they seemed to search only for an immaterial beauty: fuji bathed in early sunlight, Fuji rising from fragrant mists, Fuji crowned by mysterious clouds, Fuji juxtaposed with cherry blossom of golden leaves. It was as if they wanted to rescue Fuji from the messy reality of our time. I could find some sympathy for that approach; a dream of uncontaminated beauty, but finally it was a denial of reality.

My surprise was compounded by my experience. Like most foreigners my first glimpse of Mt Fuji was from the Shinkansen traveling south from Tokyo to Kyoto. It was not a view of uncontaminated beauty. There was a shift in the carriage, people pointed out of the window, nodded, as Fuji came into view through the window, rising from a sea of houses, rising from a network of roads busy with trucks and cars, drifting behind high striped chimneys belching smoke and steam. Electric pylons flashing by. This was the vigourous reality of modern life, and there, in the distance was Fuji, immutable, still overseeing the rich tumble of human activity. What would Hokusai and Hiroshige make of this view of Mt Fuji? Thrilled at it I am sure.

Here was my project. I would explore Japan through Fuji, through the life that surrounded Fuji. I would visit it and circle it and climb it and breath it and photograph it around the seasons. I would rely upon my own eyes and follow my own instincts as a documentary photographer. But, I would borrow, in homage, one key aspect of the ukiyo-e masters; Fuji, in some form, would be a common presence in all of my photographs. Japan would be my subject, Fuji my guide.

Chris Steele-Perkins



Profile

Chris Steele-Perkins moved from Rangoon to London with his family in 1949. He graduated with honours in psychology at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1967-70) while working as a photographer and picture editor for the student newspaper.

In 1971 he moved to London and started working as a freelance photographer and started his first foreign work in 1973 in Bangladesh followed by work for relief organizations and travel assignments. In 1975 he worked with EXIT, a group dealing with social problems in British cities. He then joined the Paris-based Viva agency in 1976.

In 1979, his first book, The Teds, was published. Chris joined Magnum and soon began working extensively in the Third World. His latest large-scale project in the developing world was on the situation in Afghanistan. He is now also working extensively in Japan and England.

Steele-Perkins has two sons, Cedric, born 16th November 1990, and Cameron, born 18th June 1992. With his marriage to the Japanese broadcaster Miyako Yamada he has a stepson, Daisuke and a grand-daughter, Momoe.

Award

- 1988 Oskar Barnack Award
- 1988 Tom Hopkinson Prize for British Photojournalism
- 1989 Robert Capa Gold Medal,
- 2000 World Press Photo
- 2008 Terence Donovan Award

Public Colection

- Arts Council of Great Britain
- Photographers' Gallery (London)
- British Library of Political and Economic Science (London)
- Victoria and Albert Museum (London)
- Side Gallery (Newcastle)
- National Media Museum (Bradford)
- National Portrait Gallery (London)
- Irish Museum of Modern Art (Dublin)
- Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris)
- Fnac (Paris)
- Tokyo Fuji Art Museum (Hachiōji, Tokyo)
- National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne)
- Corcoran Gallery of Art (Washington, DC)

1979 The Teds 1980 About 70 Photographs 1981 La Gréce au Présent

1982 In Britain's Inner Cities (with Nicholas Battye and Paul Trevor) 1983 Beirut: Frontline Story
1989 The Pleasure Principle
1992 St. Thomas Hospital
2000 Afghanistan, Marvel
2001 Fuji, Umbrage
2002 The Teds (reissue) Dewi Lewis
2004 Echoes, Trolley
2007 Tokyo Love Hello, Intervalles
2007 Northern Exposures, Northumbria University Press
2009 England, My England, Northumbria University Press
2012 Fading Light, a portrait of some British centenarians, McNidder and Grace



Related Event 1:

Talk Event

"Mount Fuji Through the Eyes of a Foreign Documentary Photographer – Another Side"

□ Participating Artist: Chris Steele-Perkins (English with Japanese interpreter.)

□ When: July 27 (Sat.) 13:00–14:30

□ Cost: Free, but museum admission fee is required

□ Limited to the first 40 people to register. (Pre-registration recommended.)

□ Registration: Use the web-form at https://tokaido-hiroshige.jp/inquiry/

Related Event 2:

Photo Contest "GREAT MOUNT FUJI / My Heritage"

What type of Mt. Fuji exists in your life? A view of Mt. Fuji from your bathroom window, a commuting train or bus, a favorite shop or dog-walking path... that everyday landscape just may become your personal heritage of memory. "GREAT MOUNT FUJI / My Heritage" is now accepting submissions. Send us a photo of your Mt. Fuji. Selected works will be exhibited in the museum's entrance hall during Part 2 of the exhibition.

Contest Starts : 2013 July 17 (Wed.)

Submission Deadline : 2013 August 18 (Sun.)

Who May Enter : Anyone may enter, both amateurs and professionals, with no restrictions on age or nationality. *Entrants under the age of 18 will need to submit parent/guardian permission.

What to Enter : \Box Unpublished work (has not been shown nor plans to show in other contests) which was photographed been by the entrant who holds copyrights.

□ May be digital or film and either color or black & white.

□ Composite or retouched photos may be submitted.

□ Size •Online Entry: less than 3mb per image; JPEG

•Mail-in Entry: 240mm x 290mm (yotsugiri) print

* Winning entrants will be asked to submit originals (digital, negative or positive film) by a designated date. Entry Methods : Entries may be sent either online or by mail.

> • Online Entry / Follow the rules and submission requirements on the contest webpage at https://www.tokaido-hiroshige.jp/fujisan/

•Mail-in Entry / Attach the artwork entry form to the back of the work and send it with the entry form. *The entry form is available at the museum or can be downloaded from our website.

Judges : Photographer/ Chris Steele-Perkins (Magnum Photo),

Shizuoka Tokaido Hiroshige Museum of Art/ Hideyuki Kume (Director), Hisami Omori (Head Curator)

Prizes : 1 Grand Prize: ¥30,000 QUO card; 2 Top Prizes: ¥10,000 QUO card; 3 Finalist Prizes: ¥5000 QUO Card; 3 Special Recognition Prizes: Exhibit Goods

Exhibit of Winning Works : 2013 September 3 (Tue.) – 16 (Mon./Holiday)

Contest Page http://www.tokaido-hiroshige.jp/fujisan/

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Press Images

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Utagawa Hiroshige "Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji The Sea off Satta in Suruga Province" From the Shizuoka Tokaido Hiroshige Museum of Art collection



Chris Steele-Perkins "40 Views of Mt. Fuji" © Chris Steele-Perkins / Magnum Photos

Hours : 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (last admission 30 minutes before closing time)

- Closed : Mondays (if it falls on a holiday, then the following Tuesday)
- Admission : Adults: 500 (400) yen / University/High School Students: 300 (240) yen *Junior high students and younger as well as Shizuoka City residents over 70 are admitted free of charge * () indicates prices for groups of 20 or more * Persons with proof of disability and one accompanying person are admitted free of charge
 - Organizer : Shizuoka Tokaido Hiroshige Museum of Art (Designated Manager: NPO Hexaproject)
- Cooperation :





Shizuoka City 421-3103 Tel 054-375-4454 / Fax 054-375-5321 [URL] www.tokaido-hiroshige.jp [facebook] www.facebook.com/tokaido.hiroshige

Access by train: Take the JR Tokaido Line and get off at Yui Station.

It is a 25-minute walk or 5-minute taxi ride from there.

 \Box Access by car:

Exit the Tomei Expressway at the Shimizu IC and it is 20-minutes by Route 1 from there. There are 21 parking spaces at the museum (Yui Honjin Park Parking).



For more information on this exhibition and press inquiries pr@tokaido-hiroshige.jp



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Press Image Data Request

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- \Box 1. Poster image
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- □ 3. Chris Steele-Perkins "40 Views of Mt. Fuji"

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