



‘DAIDO MORIYAMA: A DIARY’

Foto Colectania presents the provocative work of the great Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama

- . Moriyama's images reflect a subjective view of city life and the chaos of everyday existence.
- . Moriyama, one of Japan's most influential photographers of the last decades, has been awarded with the prestigious Hasselblad Award in 2019.



© Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation

Barcelona, March 2020.- On the 12th March, Foto Colectania Foundation, thanks to the collaboration of Banco Sabadell Foundation, inaugurates the exhibition **DAIDO MORIYAMA: A Diary**, curated by Sara Walker and Louise Wolthers, around the figure

of the iconic Japanese photographer, who was awarded with the prestigious Hasselblad Award in 2019.

Moriyama is one of Japan's most renowned photographers, celebrated for his radical approach both to medium and subject. Moriyama's pictures embrace a highly subjective but authentic approach. Reflecting a harsh vision of city life and the chaos of everyday existence and unusual characters, his work occupies a unique space between the illusory and the real. Moriyama became the most prominent artist to emerge from the *Provoke* Movement, which played an important role in liberating photography from tradition and in interrogating the very nature of the medium. His bold, uncompromised style has helped engender widespread recognition of Japanese photography within an international context.

Daido Moriyama earned himself a reputation early on as a provocative street photographer. Every day he was going out with his camera to capture the most inhospitable side of the largest metropolises of Japan, but his work also bears witness to the fact that a life contains so many different encounters and emotional states, from despair to tenderness, from ugliness to beauty, from dirty to clean. The photographs in this exhibition stem from nearly fifty years of photographic creation, which cannot be read chronologically nor thematically.

The photographs of this exhibition come from the Hasselblad Foundation in Gothenburg (Sweden), which produced the exhibition on the occasion of giving the prestigious Hasselblad Award to Daido Moriyama in 2019. The prolific and influential Japanese artist was awarded what is considered to be the *Nobel Prize for photography*, the year the Hasselblad Foundation celebrated its 40th anniversary.



© Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation

A DIARY

The exhibition presented in Foto Colectania is a tour through the work of this photographer that has influenced subsequent generations around the world. *A Diary* is a room filled with many layers of a real life: Daido Moriyama's life is his images. He works insistently every day, collecting what he sees, does and passes by. He has been on a journey his whole life, at times extremely local, photographing his neighbourhood in Tokyo, but also on long trips to America and Europe. The different parts of the world are treated with the same honesty, especially the same frenetic movement forwards. Stop and take a photo, move on. There is no hierarchical idea in his choice of motifs and this is reflected in the works in the exhibition. Certain photographs are raw, almost dissolving into abstraction but they still share a distinctive photographic expression with the quiet, contemplative street scenes or self-portraits in hotel rooms. He has a way of creating decadent still lives out of the most banal objects, giving them an almost fetishist quality.

“Daido Moriyama's representation of life is not censored nor afraid of the ugly nor the beautiful. He is a really innovative photographer and an inspiration for people from many creative fields, not only within art and photography”, Sara Walker and Louise Wolthers, curators of the exhibition, claim.

The reproductive characteristics of photography are important to Daido Moriyama. He sometimes takes photos of his own photos, which he in turn photographs, in something that resembles a game with his own body of work. “I take pictures, but I don't really consider it an art. Sometimes I like making screen shots. I look for different forms of expression... I also like to see my photos printed on T-shirts,” says Moriyama in a video recording, in which the influence of his past as a graphic designer is reflected.



© Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation

About Daido Moriyama

Daido Moriyama was born in Osaka, Japan in 1938. After studying graphic design, Moriyama first explored photography under Takeji Iwamiya. He moved to Tokyo in 1961 to become an assistant to the great Japanese photographer Eikoh Hosoe while the latter was working on his famous series *Ordeal by Roses* with writer Yukio Mishima. Moriyama began to work independently in 1964. His first monograph, *Japan, a Photo Theater* (1968), was immediately acclaimed by the artistic community and was followed by several books that became references in the history of photography, such as *Farewell Photography* (1972), *Hunter* (1972), *Another Country in New York* (1974), *Light and Shadow* (1982), *A Journey to Nakaji* (1987), and *Lettre à St. Loup* (1990), to name only a few. Moriyama has published closet o 300 books to date.

His work, often described as raw and troubled, gave birth to a new street photography practice in which the artist roams the street, confronting and being confronted by public spaces. Moriyama started manipulating silkscreen printing in the seventies, using the technique for his books as well as exhibition pieces. The Japanese artist also organized interactive events and installations as a way to adapt his discourse to different spaces and situations.

Moriyama's work has had a significant impact worldwide. In 1974, the Museum of Modern Art in New York presented his work as part of the first major Western exhibition focused on Japanese photography. His photographs have since been showcased in many major exhibitions: at Tate Modern in London (William Klein + Daido Moriyama, 2012); at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (Stray Dog, 1999); at the Metropolitan Museum in New York (Hunter, 1999); at the National Art Museum in Osaka (*On the Road*, 2011); at Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain in Paris (2003 & 2016); at FOAM in Amsterdam (2006); and at the Rencontres d'Arles (Labyrinth + Monochrome, 2013).

Moriyama's work is in the collections of numerous prominent public institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and Centre Pompidou, Paris.

About Hasselblad Foundation

The Hasselblad Foundation was established in 1979 under the terms of the last will and testament of Erna and Victor Hasselblad. The purpose of the Foundation is to promote education and research in photography and the natural sciences. The Foundation's annual international award for outstanding achievements in photography is considered one of the most prestigious photography awards worldwide.

The Foundation holds a photography collection focusing on Hasselblad Award Winners and Nordic photographers. The Hasselblad Center is the Foundation's exhibition space, situated in the Gothenburg Museum of Art. Further stipends for photographic

advancement are awarded each year, and the Foundation itself is actively engaged in the field of academic and artistic research through the publication of books, organization of symposiums, and collaborations with Swedish and international universities.

About Foto Colectania

Foto Colectania is a non-profit organization, created in Barcelona in 2002, with the aim of disseminating photography and introducing it within the social, artistic and educational field in our country. The programs undertaken at the Foundation, from exhibitions to activities and publications, are based on the creation of an innovative, participatory and inclusive project focused on thought around image and its basic foundations, enhancing its communicative capacity and its suitability to generate critical thinking.

Foto Colectania especially works at two different levels: on the one hand, within the context of the city of Barcelona, presenting a high quality cultural offer focused on excellence; and on the other hand, within the international context, producing and disseminating projects by Catalan and Spanish artists abroad.

The Foundation, housed at 14 Passeig Picasso Road in the heart of the Borne district in Barcelona, has a collection of photographs that holds more than 3,000 works by Catalan, Spanish and Portuguese photographers; besides, the collection includes the archive of the Spanish photographer Francisco Gómez, donated by his family in 2001, as well as the archives of several private collectors. Apart from the main exhibition hall, the new venue has a storage chamber to house the photography collection, a library specialised in photography and an audio-visual hall.

About Fundación Banco Sabadell

Fundación Banco Sabadell is the main collaborator of Foto Colectania and participates in the exhibition *Daïdo Moriyama, A Diary*. Fundación Banco Sabadell was established as a private foundation in 1994 with the purpose of stimulating excellence and promoting knowledge and culture. The aim of the foundation is to promote outreach, training and research activities in the educational, scientific and cultural fields, as well as to promote and support young talent. Throughout its career, it has contributed to promoting activities in these fields and has also established herself as an organizer of the prestigious Banco Sabadell Foundation Award for Biomedical Research, Fundación Banco Sabadell Award for Economic Research and Fundación Banco Sabadell Award for Science and Engineering.

Practical Information

DAIDO MORIYAMA: A Diary

From March 12th to June 21st 2020

Pictures available in:

<https://bit.ly/3cxZZ00>

Fundación Foto Colectania

Passeig Picasso 14

08003 Barcelona

www.fotocolectania.org

Opening hours:

From Tuesday to Friday, 11pm to 20pm; and Sundays 11pm a 15pm.

General ticket: 4 € | Reduced ticket: 3 € | Free entrance: first Sunday of the month

Exhibition produced by Hasselblad Foundation:



Hasselblad Foundation

With the support of:



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