



## **FRACTURE: DAIDO MORIYAMA**

### **DIDACTIC**

Daido Moriyama (Japan, b. 1938) has been at the forefront of Japanese photography since the mid-1960s. His raw, restless, and intensely personal images often result from walks through Tokyo, particularly the dark, labyrinthine streets of the Shinjuku district, though he also takes photographs while traveling on highways and during strolls through other urban centers in Japan and abroad. Moriyama emerged from the postwar generation of photographers as a leading proponent of the are, bure, boke style—"grainy, blurry, out-of-focus"—a radical aesthetic conveying the effects of westernization and consumerism on traditional society. The arrestingly disparate mix of Moriyama's subjects underlines his continuing openness to the allures and anxieties of the urban environment.

Born in Ikeda, Osaka, Moriyama trained in graphic design, then apprenticed with Takeji Iwaniya, a professional photographer of architecture and crafts. Moving to Tokyo in 1961, he assisted Eikoh Hosoe for three years and became familiar with the trenchant societal critiques produced by photographer Shomei Tomatsu. Moriyama also drew inspiration from William Klein's confrontational photographs of New York City, Andy Warhol's silkscreened multiples of newspaper images, and the writings of Jack Kerouac and Yukio Mishima. Since his early career with such important photo magazines as *Provoke* and *Camera Mainichi*, Moriyama has pursued steady experimentation, often using unexpected vantage points, cropping, and high contrast to convey the fragmentary nature of modern realities.

This exhibition ranges from Moriyama's early photographs to the debut of new color work. A selection from his dozens of photobooks suggests the artist's highly influential engagement with diverse reproduction media and the transformative possibilities of the printed page. All of these examples reflect the bold intuition informing his ongoing exploration of urban mystery, memory, and photographic invention