

Press release

Masters of Japanese Photography

11 November 2016 – 19 March 2017

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, at the University of East Anglia, Norwich is presenting a new exhibition, *Masters of Japanese Photography* exploring the work of three of the most prominent Japanese photographers of the second half of the 20th century: Nobuyoshi Araki, Eikoh Hosoe and Kikuji Kawada.

This will be the first exhibition on contemporary Japanese photography in the east of England offering visitors a unique opportunity to engage with a remarkable generation of photographers who transformed the genre.

Masters of Japanese Photography features 65 prints drawn from the artists' studios as well as from private collections. Dating between the 1960s and the early 2000s, the images represent a survey of themes that have recurred in Japanese art throughout the 20th century, ranging from the depiction of the human body to the enduring presence of nature.

Witnesses to a generation that grew up in the aftermath of the Second World War, their work addresses both their personal experiences and the evolution of their country. From Araki's exuberant flowers to Hosoe's lyrical portraits and Kawada's unsettling skies, these fascinating images encapsulate the natural beauty and complex society of modern Japan.

The stunning photographs produced by these artists and their contemporaries were not only immensely influential in their home country, but were also appreciated around the world as they documented the transformation of a post-war industrial society through a relatively modern medium.

Monserrat Pis Marcos, curator of the exhibition, said: "*Masters of Japanese Photography* offers an unmissable chance to discover the work of three living artists who have significantly impacted the development of contemporary Japanese photography".

The Sainsbury Centre has a strong connection to Japan with its collections including a large selection of Asian objects and artifacts. The Sainsbury Centre has also collaborated closely with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC) whilst developing the exhibition.

The exhibition is curated by Monserrat Pis Marcos and runs from 11 November 2016 – 19 March 2017.

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Notes to editors:

About the artists:

Nobuyoshi Araki (b. 1940) has attracted international attention by virtue of his erotic, often controversial imagery and his subversive themes. A prolific artist with over 400 published photobooks, Araki started his professional career as a commercial photographer for the advertising agency Dentsu after graduating in photography and filmmaking from Chiba University in 1963.

Eikoh Hosoe (b. 1933), born Toshihio Hosoe, became a freelancer photographer and filmmaker in the mid-1950s, soon after attending the Tokyo College of Photography. He was a founding member of VIVO agency (1957-1961), a short-lived but groundbreaking movement that championed subjectivity in opposition to photorealism and that significantly shaped photography in Japan.

Kikuji Kawada (b. 1933), an Economics graduate from Rikkyo University, steered his career towards photography when he entered Shincho Sha Publishing Company in 1955. Alongside Eikoh Hosoe, he was one of the six founding members of VIVO (the word for “life” in Esperanto) and a teacher of Photography at Tama Art University (Tokyo) between 1967 and 1969.

For further information and images, please contact:

Penelope Lucas, Head of Marketing & Communications

Tel. +44 (0)1603 593649 E-mail p.lucas@uea.ac.uk, Website www.scva.ac.uk

Richard Smith, Marketing & Communications Officer

Tel. +44 (0)1603 593649 E-mail p.lucas@uea.ac.uk, Website www.scva.ac.uk

Listings Information:

Masters of Japanese Photography

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£7/6 concessions. Free for Sainsbury Centre Members

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ

www.scva.ac.uk, 01603 593199, scva@uea.ac.uk

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

The Sainsbury Centre was established when Sir Robert and Lady Lisa Sainsbury generously gave their art collection to the University of East Anglia in 1973. The building was designed by Norman Foster and opened in 1978.

For over 40 years, Robert and Lisa Sainsbury collected works of art which ranged across time and place. They sought work from major European artists, as well as art and antiquities from different periods and cultures around the world. The Sainsburys were equally radical in commissioning the young Norman Foster in 1974 as the architect for the new building to house their works. Robert Sainsbury saw Foster's innovative building as the great jewel of the Sainsbury Collection.

The Sainsbury Centre is one of the most prominent university art galleries in Britain, and a major national centre for the study and presentation of art. As well as housing the Sainsburys' art collection, one of the few intact modernist collections of the twentieth century with many seminal works by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Francis Bacon, Jacob Epstein, Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti, and Amedeo Modigliani, it also displays the Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau and the University's Abstract and Constructivist Collection. Alongside these permanent collections, it hosts a range of temporary exhibitions in the new galleries, which provide the largest climate-controlled exhibition space in Eastern England.