

Metamorphosis of Japan

After the War: 1945-1965



Ken Domon
Children looking at picture-card show
Tokyo, 1953



Takeyoshi Tanuma
Dancers resting on the rooftop of the
SKD Theatre, Asakusa, Tokyo

In 1945, postwar Japan made a new start from the ashes of devastation, and, in the twenty years leading up to the Tokyo Olympics of 1964, it succeeded in undergoing a dramatic transformation, embarking on a path towards becoming an economic power. These two decades constituted a period truly brimming with creative energy - a time in which democratization led to the restoration of vitality through free photographic expression and in which new talent pioneered postwar photography.

This new exhibition looks back on this turbulent period that followed the war, exhibiting 123 black-and-white photographs by 11 leading artists of postwar Japan photography, including **Yasuhiro Ishimoto**, **Shomei Tomatsu**, **Eikoh Hosoe** and **Ken Domon**. Rather than arranging the works by period and author, this exhibition is divided into three sections - "The Aftermath of the War," "Between Tradition and Modernity," and "Towards a New Japan." Although the arrangement may seem at first glance to be random, the sequence in fact provides a vivid narrative of the convoluted aspects of this complicated era.

The exhibition has been put together by **Marc Feustel**, a young researcher of Japanese photographic history now living in Paris, and **Tsuguo Tada**, editor of *Japan: A Self-Portrait, Photographs 1945-1964*.

Photographers exhibited:

11 photographers: Yasuhiro Ishimoto, Kikuji Kawada, Ihei Kimura, Takeyoshi Tanuma, Shomei Tomatsu, Ken Domon, Shigeichi Nagano, Ikko Narahara, Hiroshi Hamaya, Tadahiko Hayashi and Eikoh Hosoe.

UK Host Venue:

Open Eye Gallery – 22 January – 26 April 2015