

JAPAN'S MODERN DIVIDE

THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF
HIROSHI HAMAYA AND KANSUKE YAMAMOTO

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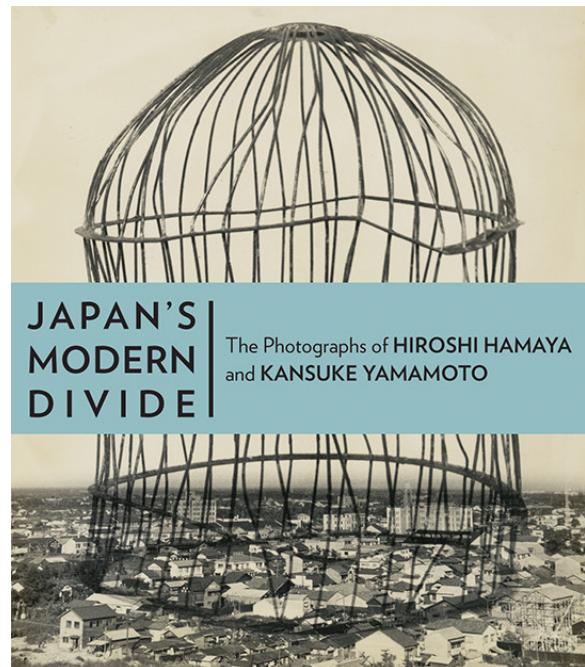
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**HISTORY OF MODERN JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPLORED
IN NEW BOOK AND EXHIBITION AT THE GETTY**

Japan's Modern Divide: The Photographs of Hiroshi Hamaya and Kansuke Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—In the 1930's, the history of Japanese photography evolved in two very different directions: one toward documentary photography, examining everyday life, traditional practices, and cultural struggles; the other favoring an experimental, or avant-garde, approach that was strongly influenced by Western Surrealism. *Japan's Modern Divide: The Photographs of Hiroshi Hamaya and Kansuke Yamamoto* (Getty Publications, \$49.95, hardcover) explores two strains of modern Japanese photography through the work of these two remarkable figures.

Hiroshi Hamaya (1915–1999) was born and raised in Tokyo and, after an initial period of creative experimentation, turned his attention to recording traditional life and culture on the coast of the Sea of Japan. In 1940 he began photographing the New Year's rituals in a remote village, which was published as *Yukiguni* (Snow country). He went on to record cultural changes in China, political protests in Japan, and landscapes around the world.



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Kansuke Yamamoto (1914–1987) became fascinated by the innovative approaches in art and literature exemplified by such Western artists as Man Ray, René Magritte, and Yves Tanguy. Influenced by Surrealism, he promoted surreal and avant-garde ideas in Japan through his poetry, paintings, sculptures, and photographs.

Along with essays by the book's coeditors, Judith Keller and Amanda Maddox, are essays by Kōtarō Iizawa, Ryūichi Kaneko, and Jonathan M. Reynolds, life chronologies, and a selection of poems by Yamamoto translated by John Solt. This book, which features more than one hundred images by the two photographers, accompanies an exhibition of the same name on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum from March 26 to August 25, 2013.

About the Editors—**Judith Keller** is senior curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum. She is the author of *Jo Ann Callis: Woman Twirling* (Getty, 2009); *Walker Evans: The Getty Collection* (Getty, 1995); and *Graciela Iturbide: Juchitán* (Getty, 2008). **Amanda Maddox** is assistant curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

About the Contributors—**Kōtarō Iizawa** is a photography historian, critic, and curator based in Tokyo. **Ryūichi Kaneko** is a photography historian and guest curator at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. **Jonathan M. Reynolds** is associate professor of art history at Barnard College.

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Japan's Modern Divide

The Photographs of Hiroshi Hamaya and Kansuke Yamamoto

Edited by Judith Keller and Amanda Maddox

J. Paul Getty Museum

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