

Abstracts

Photojournalist: The Work of Okubo Koroku

Ishida Tetsuro (Curator, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum)

This paper deals with the achievements of Okubo Koroku (1900-1936), a photographer who worked from the early 1920s to the mid-'30s. The museum collection includes some 134 works and other materials related to Okubo. These confirm the fact that he was only active for about 13 years from 1923 to 1935. Due to Okubo's premature death, no comprehensive research has ever been conducted on his work. For this paper, the writer surveyed the pieces in the collection along with issues of *Asahigraph*, a pictorial magazine, and *The Collected Photographs of Okubo Koroku*, a book that was published in 1937. While retracing Okubo's footsteps in his dual roles as an artist and a photojournalist, the paper attempts to shed light on the distinctive qualities of prewar Japan that appear in his works and the charms of his photographic expressions.

Note on Hoda Afshar's work *The Fold*

Yamada Yuri (Curator, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum)

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1983, and currently based in Melbourne, Australia, Hoda Afshar is an artist who works with photography and video. While shifting back and forth between the two media, Afshar fuses documentary and staged drama to produce works that reinterpret existing narratives. In this paper, the writer introduces the artist's latest effort, *The Fold* (2019-2023), which was presented at NGV Triennial 2023 (National Gallery of Victoria, Australia, 2023) while also considering the theme of "clothing" in Afshar's work.

The Early Work of W. Eugene Smith

Muroi Momo (Curator, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum)

This paper deals with the early work of the 20th-century American photographer W. Eugene Smith (1918-1978). In previous research, the start of this early period of Smith's work was defined as 1938. However, Smith actually began his career as a photographer with a picture of damage caused by a drought that ran in *The New York Times* before he started to work part-time at *The Wichita Eagle*, a newspaper based in Wichita, Kansas, in 1934. The museum collection contains approximately 2,000 of Smith's works, including many from his early years. In addition to surveying Smith's work from this period in *The Wichita Eagle*, *Life*, and the materials housed in the W. Eugene Smith Archive in the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, the writer reexamined the works in the museum collection, and set out to provide deeper insight into this early stage of the artist's career.