

Daido Moriyama is a photographer who has always wandered the world's roads. Shinjuku, Paris and New York—wherever Moriyama's travels take him, the cityscapes he etches in black and white are invariably hip, trashy and, above all, sexy. Typical subjects include flashing neon, garish posters, and women. Roaming the backstreets with a compact camera in hand, he sometimes shoots without even using the viewfinder. For his latest exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, he took his camera to São Paulo in Brazil, but his photographic style is constant. "Whether I am in Japan or overseas, I always want to photograph chaotic city scenes where people, objects and buildings are all jumbled together," says Moriyama.

From the 1980s onward Moriyama could generally be found clicking the shutter in cities overseas, but these days he feels he most wants to take pictures in Tokyo. "I always had the thought that New Yorkers shoot New York and Parisians photograph Paris,"



Daido Moriyama | São Paulo | 2008 | B/W print

recalls Morimoto. "And that we shoot Tokyo. But it's not like I felt it was my mission to capture Tokyo on film. Lately when I've been out and about in Tokyo doing things, I've stumbled on many spots I didn't know about. When I glimpse an unknown place, I get antsy. I feel kind of impatient. It's a funny way of putting it, I know, but I feel jealous of that spot."

At 70, Moriyama still stands in the street like a stray dog or a menacing punk from one of his photos; where does his tireless energy for photography come from?

"I've lived a reckless life and never looked after my health," answers Moriyama with a chuckle. "But I've got tough insides. And a photographer lives by his gut! I'm half joking, but it's important to always be true to your current appetites. Once a photographer stops being hungry, it's all over."

FACING: Moriyama at an exhibition of his work, *bye-bye polaroid*, currently showing at Taka Ishii Gallery in Tokyo.



COURTESY OF TAKA ISHII GALLERY

Daido Moriyama | Misawa | 1970 | B/W print

DAIDO MORIYAMA



ON THE ROAD

Born in Osaka in 1938, Moriyama's unique style rocked the world of photography in the 60s and 70s. In 1999, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art hosted an exhibition of Moriyama's work. In 2003, the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain staged another solo exhibition. Through January 12 his work can be seen in the *Daido Moriyama and Miguel Rio Branco Photographic Exhibition: A Quiet Gaze, Echoing Worlds*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo.

ON THE INTERNET

<http://www.mot-art-museum.jp/english>
<http://www.moriyamadaido.com>