

PRESS RELEASE

Meg Hewitt: Tokyo is Yours

Curated by Anne Clergue

Press Preview: Friday, 17th November 2023, 10 AM

Opening: Friday, 17th November 2023, 7.30 PM – 9.30 PM

Duration: 18th Nov 2023 – 27th Jan 2024 / Wed – Sat, 1 PM – 6 PM

Location: CHAUSSEE 36 PHOTO FOUNDATION, Chausseestr. 36, 10115 Berlin



Yoko, Tokyo, 2015 (left) | Love hotel, Tokyo, 2015 (middle) | Owl Café, Kyoto, 2015 (right)
alle: © Meg Hewitt, Courtesy Anne Clergue Galerie

CHAUSSEE 36 Photo Foundation is thrilled to present the solo exhibition **"Tokyo is Yours"** by the Australian photographer **Meg Hewitt**, featuring the artist's work for the first time in Germany.

Meg Hewitt, born in 1973 in Sydney, Australia, studied sculpture, painting and media. Since 2010 she has dedicated herself to photography.

"Tokyo is Yours" is a black-and-white series that came into being between 2015 and 2017 during her travels through Tokyo. The cycle shows Hewitt's deep reflection on Japan and the uncertainties and fragility that followed after the catastrophe in Fukushima. The ecological disaster of 2011 almost led to the evacuation of Tokyo, a city with more than 13 million residents. The title "Tokyo is yours" derives from a graffiti that had been written on the city wall.

The photographer finds her inspiration in manga and movies. It is life in the streets of Tokyo that particularly interest her.

The scenes which Meg Hewitt embeds in her film have movie-like qualities. People converge, and odd situations appear and fade away again. Meg had travelled to Japan seven times between 2015 and 2017. Every day she would walk through the city for twelve hours, taking strolls through parks, stopping by at night bars and the animal park, and traveling to Fukushima or visiting the seafront. She captured the small details that spontaneously caught her interest and eternalized the habitants she encountered. The fact that she can neither speak and read Japanese, nor understand conversations, gave her a feeling of absolute freedom and creativity. The people she met and the scenes she attended were transformed into symbols, archetypes, and metaphors. The photographer Daido Moriyama, whose work Meg Hewitt considers a source of inspiration, describes her photographs as "dangerous".

With her photos, Meg Hewitt explores the space between memories, interhuman relations, and fear. She often photographs at night with flash, through which she can isolate her subject from any context. The utilization of silver film puts an emphasis on the contrasting black tones during the development of the films. Through her special aesthetic, which creates an ominous compression of space, the photographs evoke a feeling of psychological pressure.

Her book *Tokyo is Yours* (first edition 2017, Nayana Press Verlag) is brilliant proof of the strong attraction that the absurd exerts on Hewitt.



Girl with a selfie stick, Kyoto, 2016, © Meg Hewitt, Courtesy Anne Clergue Galerie

Meg Hewitt was chosen as the finalist for the Moran-Price for contemporary photography, the Head On Award, the Lensculture Street Photography Awards, the *Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women* in addition to winning a silver medal des *Prix de la Photographie*, Paris, 2016 and a medal at *Tokyo International Foto Competition* 2018. In 2017 she was named Fringe Artist of the Year at the Ballarat International Photo Biennale. In 2018 she was highly recommended in the Australian Photo Book of the Year.

Exhibition Contact:

CHAUSSEE 36 PHOTO FOUNDATION, Mathilde Leroy, Chausseestraße 36, 10115 Berlin
Tel: +49 (0)30 280 97 647 | E-Mail: ml@chaussee36.photography | www.chaussee36.photography
Wednesday – Saturday, 1 PM – 6 PM | Entry: Free

Press Contact:

Nadine Dinter PR | Fasanenstraße 70, 10719 Berlin
Tel: +49 (0)30/398 87 411 | Mobil: +49 (0)151/123 70 951
E-Mail: presse@nadine-dinter.de | www.dinter-pr.de