

Press Release



2017

**The 33rd Higashikawa Awards**

**The Town of Photography**  
**Culture Capital of Photography**

Information

Higashikawa International Photography Festival Office

Mayor : Ichiro Matsuoka

HIGASHIKAWA, KAMIKAWA-GUN, HOKKAIDO

\*\*\*\*\*

<Address>

**HIGASHIKAWA PUBLIC OFFICE**

Organizers: Toshiyuki Yanome, Jumpei Shimogomi, Hiroko Yoshizato

1-16-1, Higashimachi, Higashikawa, Hokkaido 071-1492 Japan

TEL. +81 166 82 2111 / FAX. +81 166 82 4704

<http://photo-town.jp/> E-mail: photo@town.higashikawa.lg.jp

## The 33rd Higashikawa Award Winners

- ◆The Overseas Photographer Award: Anna Orłowska (Poland)  
For her ‘*Case study: invisibility*’ Series (2012-2014) and other series.
  
- ◆The Domestic Photographer Award: MOTOHASHI Seiichi  
For his exhibition “*Arika*” [Sense of Place] (Izu Photo Museum, 2016) and other photographic activities.
  
- ◆The New Photographer Award: NOMURA Sakiko  
For her photobook: “*Mō hitotsu no kuroyami*” [Another Black Darkness] (Akio Nagasawa Publishing, 2016) and other activities as a photographer.
  
- ◆The Special Photographer Award: OKADA Atsushi  
For his ‘*Yururitō no yaseiba*’ [The Ephemeral Island, Yururitō] series and photobook “*1999*” (Nagatomo K.K., 2015).
  
- ◆The Hidano Kazuemon Award: KOSEKI Yoshiro  
For his photobook “*Kujūkurihama*” (Shumpusha Publishing, 2004) and his activities over a long period of time, recording social phenomena and local customs or scenery in his hometown of Chiba prefecture.

## Commentary on the Selection of the 33rd Higashikawa Awards

### Osamu Ueno, jury member

The judging committee for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Town of Photography Higashikawa Awards sat on February 21, 2017. This year saw 48 nominations for the Domestic Photographer Award, 62 for the New Photographer Award, 22 for the Special Photographer Award, 26 for the Hidano Kazuemon Award and 21 for the Overseas Photographer Award. In order to involve more people in making recommendations for the awards, we have been gradually expanding the list of nominators, from 106 two years ago to 161 last year and 179 for this year. As is customary every year, the 8 judges came together in the morning to carefully view the enormous quantity of photographs, portfolios, etc., then in the afternoon, we began the judging.

The Domestic Photographer Award went to MOTOHASHI Seiichi. His work stands out for his depictions of the people in the street and the great detail he presents through his work, from “*Arika*” [Sense of Place], which consists of carefully selected works from 9 previous series of work—starting with early works, ‘*Ofuyu*’ and ‘*Yoron*’, which had never been exhibited, then moving on to his most famous series, ‘*Tankō (Yama)*’ [The Coal Mine], ‘*Ueno Eki*’ [Ueno Station], ‘*Toba*’ [Slaughterhouse], ‘*Geinō Tōzai*’ [Performance East and West], ‘*Circus*’, ‘*Chernobyl*’, and finishing with his latest series ‘*Arayashiki*’—to ‘*Tsukiji uogashi hito to machi*’ [Tsukiji Fish Market – A People’s Town] and ‘*Ueno eki no makuai soshite seikan renrakusen*’ [An Intermission at Ueno Station and Seikan Ferry] series. As time passes, the significance of black-and-white photography grows and this makes his work all the more appropriate, as one of the conditions for this award is that ‘from the viewpoint of photographic history and photographic expression, the works should remain meaningful in the future.’

There were six contenders for the New Photographer Award—ISHIKAWA Ryūichi, KATAYAMA Mari, KIKUCHI Tomoko, NOMURA Sakiko, HAYASHI Noriko and YOSHINO Erika, but finally it was presented to NOMURA Sakiko. Using the images from her previous series, “*Kuroyami*” [Black Darkness] and others, she produced an experimental work, “*Mō hitotsu no kurayami*” [Another Black Darkness] in which she employed solarization in her work for the first time, printing the results using black

ink on black paper to produce a photobook. Her ‘*Gun*’ series is a result of her spending 3 days living with 6 male models. Ms. Nomura has received attention for her unique expressions of the physical body, resulting in her also being nominated for the Domestic Photographer Award, but due to the experimental and sensational nature of her work it was decided that the New Photographer Award was more appropriate.

The Special Photographer Award went to OKADA Atsushi, who was born in Wakkanai City and brought up in Sapporo City, both of which are in Hokkaido. Using photographs he had taken while he was a university student of friends, horses and views of the outskirts of Sapporo etc., he compiled a photobook entitled “1999”, employing the latest digital technology and a contemporary sensibility. From 2011 he photographed feral horses and scenery on the deserted island of Yururitō in Nemuro (Hokkaido) to produce the series ‘*Yururitō no yaseiba*’ [The Ephemeral Island, Yururitō]. This work goes beyond the documentary to shine a light on the state of nature there, an element that is also present in his other series. The fact that his work features his home prefecture of Hokkaido, serves to enrichen the world created within them.

The Hidano Kazuemon Award, which is aimed at ‘people who continue to photograph local people, nature or culture over a long period of time and who are recognized as contributing to the area’, was presented to KOSEKI Yoshiro. Born in what was Sakae village (now Sōsa City) in Chiba Prefecture, he worked as an apprentice in a bicycle shop for 6 years before opening a camera shop in 1967, thereafter combining his work in the store with photography. He photographed the endless sand dunes and harsh working conditions of the ‘*oppeshi*’ fisherwomen and ‘*funagata*’ fishermen, to produce “*Kujūkurihama*” and numerous other documentary photobooks, including: “*Narita Kokusai Kūkō*” [Narita International Airport], “*Kokutetsu—Jōkikikanku no kiroku*” [National Railways—A Record of the Steam Lines], “*Kujira kaitai*” [Whale Processing], etc., and continues to create works that could only be achieved by a local photographer.

The Overseas Photographer Award went to Anna Orłowska from the target country of Poland. Having experienced a major political upheaval and possessing a long cinematic tradition, the works from Poland are extremely varied, exhibiting great depth and scope and the final choice was made based on a survey by one of the judges, KUSUMOTO Aki. Orłowska is representative of the young photographers there, her

photographs stir the viewers' imaginations, winning her international acclaim. Recently she has developed the theme of things that cannot be seen in which she questions the visibility of photographs.

The selection this year was not settled simply by unanimous or majority vote, instead, the judges sat at a round table, discussing the merits of each work and the provisions of the awards, exchanging a variety of views and holding deliberations until a winner was arrived at for each award. Even though there may be differences of opinion between the judging committee's members, it is customary to discuss the matter until an agreement can be reached. This year, saw the replacement of 3 members of the committee who retired last year but despite the new blood, the traditional style of judging was retained. As a result, the judging committee was proud to have been able to select outstanding artists befitting the 'capital of photographic culture'.

In this way, it can be said that one of the characteristics of the Higashikawa town is that, despite changes may occur over time, it remains true to its traditions. More than 30 years have passed since Higashikawa declared itself to be a 'Town of Photography' in 1985 and it is through the continual endeavors of the local community, one step at a time, with the support of large numbers of people throughout the world who share our objectives, that it has become what it is today. Higashikawa town is proud of its wonderful environment with 'delicious water', 'clean air' and 'fertile land', but it had a vision of becoming 'a small town where people can come into contact with photographs from around the world, a town where people from around the world can mix, a town that would overflow with smiles from around the world,' and it possesses the charm to be able to realize this dream. We hope that the marvelous artists who won this year's awards will join with the people of Higashikawa town to take the next step forward.

**The Jury Committee of the 33rd Higashikawa Awards**

ASABA Katsumi <Art Director>-----24<sup>th</sup> –  
UENO Osamu <Photo Critic>-----31<sup>st</sup>–  
KITANO Ken <Photographer>-----33<sup>rd</sup>–  
KUSUMOTO Aki <Photo Critic, Curator>-----25<sup>th</sup> –  
NAKAMURA Ikuo <Photographer> -----33<sup>rd</sup> –  
NIWA Harumi <Curator, Photo Critic>-----33<sup>rd</sup> –  
HIRANO Keiichiro <Novelist>-----24<sup>th</sup> –  
MITSUDA Yuri <Art Critic>-----27<sup>th</sup> –

## The Overseas Photographer Award

Anna Orłowska

Lives in Warsaw, Poland



photo: Mikołaj Syguda

Born in Opole, located in the south-west part of Poland in 1986. Graduated from the Photography Department of the National Film School in Łódź in 2011. Completed an undergraduate degree at the Institute of Creative Photography in the Czech Republic in 2013.

In 2010, her work was scheduled for “*ReGeneration2: Tomorrow’s Photographers Today*”, an exhibition showcasing the works of 80 up and coming young photographers from 30 different countries. The exhibition toured the world starting in the Musée de l’Elysée in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Awarded a Photo Global award of the International Festival of Fashion and Photography in Hyeres, France, receiving one-year scholarship at the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Her graduation project ‘*Leakage*’ (2011) consists of images both tranquil and surreal, such as a baby laid among tree branches and a group portrait of with a zombie in the background receiving increased recognition such as being featured in the Rencontres d’Arles 2015.

Her sequence of photographs in ‘*Case study: invisibility*’ (2012-2014) feature a variety of scenes invoking invisible presences, such as stills photography from the movie “*The Invisible Man*”, a secluded mental institution on the outskirts of town, and a pink unicorn.

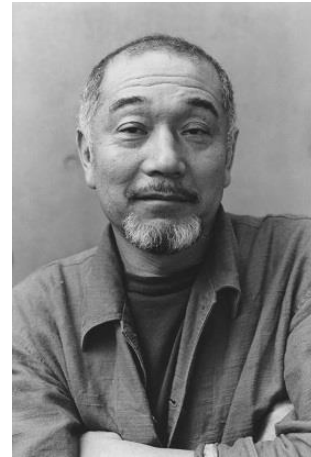
In her works ‘*Effortless exercise*’ (2016-), she uses paraffin on photographs to produce effects which draw out underlying images according to the temperature.

She searches for hidden meaning, subconscious, fear, fantasy in the borders between reality and illusion with invisible presence in everyday life as a theme.

## The Domestic Photographer Award

**MOTOHASHI Seiichi**

**Lives in Tokyo**



Born in Higashi-Nakano, Tokyo in 1940. Graduated from Jiyu Gakuen College in 1963 and Tokyo College of Photography in 1965. Started taking photos of the miners living conditions in Kyushu and Hokkaido over several years as a thesis project and won The 5th Taiyo Prize in 1968 with ‘*Tankō (Yama)*’ [The Coal Mine] series.

His works often feature the powerful and rich ways of life of ordinary people, notably ‘*Geinō Tōzai*’ [Performance East and West] (1972-) records disappearing public performances such as chindon’ya street musicians, vaudevillians, popular theaters, ‘*Ueno Eki*’ [Ueno Station] (1980-) captures the various people arriving from Northern Japan using Ueno Station in its last days as a gateway, and ‘*Toba*’ [Slaughterhouse] (1986-) photographs people working in new and old slaughterhouses in Matsubara city, Osaka.

Since 1991, he has repeatedly recorded the lives of people in Belarus contaminated by the Chernobyl power plant disaster and won the Society of Photography Award for ‘*Infinite Embrace*’ in 1995. Won The 17th Domon Ken Award for “*Nadya’s Village*” in 1998, also filming “*Nadya’s Village*” (1997) and “*Alexei and the Spring*” (2002).

Has released a documentary film “*Take Your Time - Arayashiki*” showcasing people from various background coming together with farming in ‘Maki Cooperative School’, a small commune in Otari village, Nagano in 2015.

Has held many solo exhibitions, notably, “*Nadezhda - Hope*” (The Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, 2002) and “*Sense of Place*” (IZU PHOTO MUSEUM, 2016).



## The New Photographer Award

### NOMURA Sakiko

Lives in Tokyo



Born in Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi in 1967. Graduated from the Department of Photography, Kyushu Sangyo University in 1990. Has been mentored by Araki Nobuyoshi since 1991. Has held a prolific number of solo and group exhibitions concentrated in Tokyo as well as Europe and Asia since the “*Hari no nai Tokei*” [A clock without hands] (egg gallery, 1993).

Her first photography book “*Hadaka no Jikan*” [Time for naked] (Heibonsha Limited, Publishers, 1997) captures dense time and space through black and white images of a naked man lying on the bed with dim light coming from the darkness.

Her first colored photography book “*Yakan hiko*” [Night Flight] (Little More Co., Ltd., 2008) features nighttime landscapes, never published in her photo books, captured over 7 years using a tiny spy camera, and also images of naked men in wet atmosphere.

Her work “*NUDE/ A ROOM / FLOWERS*” (MATCH and Company Co. Ltd., 2012) was awarded the Sagami-hara Newcomer Photographer Award. It contains more than 20 years of works and weaves together disparate images starting with the funeral portrait of her friend and longtime model, nudes, portraits, landscapes, children, and flowers heavily foreshadowing life and death hidden in an intimate and tranquil world.

In 2016, the exhibition “*Gun*” [Wild Geese] (BA-TSU ART GALLERY) was held featuring works created through spending 3 intense days with 6 male models, the same year, “*Mō hitotsu no kuroyami*” [Another Black Darkness] (Akio Nagasawa Publishing), an experimental work solarizing the images from her previous book “*Kuroyami*” [Black Darkness] (2008) and other series, was published.

She continues to showcase deep, often unseen, emotions quivering inside through naked bodies appearing in the darkness and through the outer world.

## The Special Photographer Award

### OKADA Atsushi

Lives in Tokyo. Born in Wakkanai, Hokkaido



Born in Wakkanai city, Hokkaido in 1979 and raised in Sapporo city. Graduated from Osaka University of Art, Photography Department in 2003. Completed a PhD in arts at Tokyo Polytechnic University in 2008.

In 2003, he published “*Platibe*” and “*Cord*” (Mado-sha Publishing Co., Ltd., 2003) focusing on ‘living’. Won 33th Kimura Ihei Award for his work “*I am*” (Akaaka Art Publishing Inc., 2017) which features images of 50 young people who reexamine their way of existence. He has published a number of books including “*ataraxia*” (Seigensha Art Publishing Inc., 2010) and “*The WORLD*” (Akaaka Art Publishing Inc., 2012) in which he shows the sublime beauty hidden in the world, also “*MOTHER*” (Hakurosha, 2014) where he captures the unrestrained instant of birth.

His book “*1999*” (NAGATOMO Co, Ltd., 2015) blends together works from both his student days in his homeland Hokkaido reflecting emotional landscape and the latest digital techniques and current sensibilities.

Since 2011, commissioned by Nemuro city, Hokkaido, he has photographed the wild horses on the deserted Yururitō island, off the Nemuro Peninsula. Yururitō island was once known as ‘horses paradise’. In the 1950s, horses were imported here to help with the labor of collecting kelp. In 1971, the last fisherman left the island, but the descendants of the horses still live there. The horse’s numbers are dwindling and they are destined to disappear. So he is trying to preserve evidence of an important chapter in Hokkaido’s history and culture. He received The Hokkaido Cultural Development Incentive Award in 2014.

## The Hidano Kazuemon Award

### KOSEKI Yoshio

Lives in Chiba



Born in Sakae village, Sousa county, Chiba (now Sousa city). Graduated from the junior high school under the new education system. While being apprenticed in a bicycle shop, he self-taught himself photography. Won a number of magazine photography competitions. In 1962, his photos of a fisherwoman ‘*Oppeshi warming themselves*’ was published in “Camera Mainichi”, winning the photo of the year. Opened his photography shop in Yokoshiba town, Chiba in 1967 and balances taking his photos with running his business.

In 1973, he won a Newcomer’s Award of the Photographic Society of Japan for “*Kujukuri hama*” (mokujisha, 1972) for his long-term works where he proactively took photos of hardy fisherwomen called ‘*Oppeshi*’ and fishermen called ‘*Funagata*’ who live with the sea as the *Oppeshi* help to bring fish and boats from the sea which cannot reach the town since its beach is wide and shallow without a fishing boat.

His works include, “*Narita International Airport*” (mokujisha, 1982), a reportage document of the time leading up to the opening of the airport including local protests, “*Kujukuri ujo*” (1993), photographs paired with his essays seeking out the failing nature of Kujukurihama beach and sea life, “*Kokutetsu—Jōkikikanku no kiroku*” [National Railways—A Record of the Steam Lines]” (Archives Publishing, 2007), emphasizing the train engineers who maintained the locomotives of the time in Sakura garage National Railways, Chiba in the early 1960s, “*Kujira kaitai*” [Whale Processing] (Shumpusha Publishing, 2011), the Japanese whale catching culture in Chiba, Wakayama and Miyagi at its crossroad. “*Kujukurihama*” (Shumpusha Publishing, 2004) was also re-released with newly taken photographs.

Until now, he has taken photos of the place he was born and raised, showcasing the everyday lives and works of people, creating an important document which challenges modern society and culture.

## Higashikawa International Photography Festival

### Photo Fiesta 2017

#### **Award Winners' Exhibition**

Date: 29 July (Sat.) – 30 August (Wed.), 2017

Venue: Higashikawa Bunka Gallery

Time: 10:00 - 17:30

Admission: ¥200 ( ¥100 for residents )

Organize: The Town of Photography: Higashikawa

Address: 1-19-8 Higashi-machi, Higashikawa-cho, Kamikawa-gun, 071-1423 Hokkaido

Tel: (+81)-(0)166-82-4700 Fax: (+81)-(0)166-82-4704

Artists:

Anna Orłowska (The Overseas Photographer Award)

MOTOHASHI Seiichi (The Domestic Photographer Award)

NOMURA Sakiko (The New Photographer Award)

OKADA Atsushi (The Special Photographer Award)

KOSEKI Yoshiro (The Hidano Kazuemon Award)

#### **Event Schedule:**

29 July (Sat.) 14:00-14:30 Award Ceremony

15:30-17:00 Opening Reception

30 July (Sun.) 13:00-17:30 Panel Discussion

Panelists: award winners, judges and guests

## Higashikawa Awards

### **[Purpose]**

With the idea of contributing to and fostering photographic culture as well as raising the cultural consciousness of Higashikawa residents, starting this year, 1985, we will annually be awarding prizes accompanied by monetary gifts to the photographer for his / her works.

### **[Awards]**

The Overseas Photographer Award

\*1,000,000 yen to a overseas photographer

The Domestic Photographer Award

\*1,000,000 yen to a Japanese photographer

The New Photographer Award

\*500,000 yen to a Japanese photographer

The Special Photographer Award

\*500,000 yen to a photographer from Hokkaido

The Hidano Kazuemon Award

\*500,000 yen to a photographer who contributed to society through photography

### **[Conditions]**

The Overseas Photographer Award is presented to a photographer in a specific country or region chosen each year. He / She must be either living or born in that country or region.

The Domestic and the New Photographer Awards are presented to photographers whose work has been taken within the past three years that has significance either in the history of photography or as some unique expression of the art of photography.

The Special Photographer Award is presented to a photographer living or born in Hokkaido or whose theme and / or object concerns this island.

The Hidano Kazuemon Award is presented to a photographer in acknowledgement of his longtime contributions in taking photographs of local people, nature and culture. (The prize is open to both professional and amateur photographers.)

Of all the prizes, no specific restrictions are applied concerning the year it was taken for the Overseas Prize, the Special Prize and the Hidano Kazuemon Prize.

**[Selection]**

The works selected by nominators charged by the executive committee are judged by the Jury Committee of the Higashikawa Award. The awards ceremony is held each year during the period of the Photo Fiesta in Higashikawa Town and is accompanied by commemorative symposiums and other events.

**[Other Stipulations]**

The monetary gift presented with the Higashikawa Awards is meant to purchase the original prints of the awarded photographs. Each awardee is requested to voluntarily submit original print(s) of his / her choice from among the awarded works to the residents of Higashikawa town.

The residents of the town shall be responsible for storing the photographs with care and for exhibiting them to visitors to Higashikawa, the Town of Photography.

These awarded photographs are exhibited at the Higashikawa Photography Museum in order to contribute to promoting a friendship and cultural development of the Town of Higashikawa.

We may present other awards to the photographs of outstanding works in order to contribute to photographic culture as well as to development of the Higashikawa Awards. For this reason, awards from other committees and sponsors are negotiable.

## The Town of Photography

### Culture Capital of Photography: Higashikawa

Higashikawa Town is located in central Hokkaido, northernmost of Japan, and is a part of Japan's largest national park "Daisetsuzan National Park" with Higashikawa's eastern part forming a large-scale forest. Blessed with natural beauty, lots of places in Higashikawa have been the subjects of many photographs.

Higashikawa, firstly cultivated by a group of settlers in 1895, has a shorter history compared to that of photography invented in 1839. Higashikawa declared the "Town of Photography" in 1985 aiming to create a town of "being a good subject to be photographed" co-existing with beautiful nature inhabited by many species of animals and plants.

Higashikawa established the Higashikawa Awards in the same year and started the annual summer festival of photography with the idea of contributing to and fostering photographic culture as well as raising the cultural consciousness of Higashikawa residents. With a history of more than a quarter of a century, it has been the nation's prestigious photography awards and the longest-running photography festival.

Higashikawa awards can also be noted in that it has rewarded overseas outstanding photographers such as Joel Sternfeld, Lewis Baltz and Jan Saudek as well as domestic photographers and introduced them to Japan. Through this, we meet people from abroad and exchange with them. By doing so, we believe we can entrust prayer for peace and our dreams to the future generation.

Since the declaration of the Town of Photography, Higashikawa has been a platform of meeting people, photography culture and nature over the last 30 years. Celebrating 120 years of resource development of the land, we declared the Culture Capital of Photography in May 2014, keeping in mind our motto "Take a picture, Save the picture, Share it with others" and with the determination to link photography and people across the world.