

HIROH KIKAI – PERSONA: THE FINAL CHAPTER

“Tripping the shutter is a bit like sumo wrestling”

- Hiroh Kikai

On the occasion of this year's Photo+, basedonart gallery is dedicating a solo exhibition to the Japanese artist Hiroh Kikai. Born in 1945, Kikai has carried out an ongoing series of portraits in the Asakusa district of Tokyo since the 1970s. Until 50 years ago, Asakusa was a thriving pilgrimage center and popular pleasure quarter; still today, it provides the supportive backdrop for a flourishing of individuality. In this special place, against the vermilion walls of the ancient Sensoji Temple, more than 600 unique personalities have posed in front of the lens of the artist's Hasselblad camera.

The black and white portraits of the “Persona” series are intrinsically linked to their titles. Based on his personal conversation notes, Hiroh Kikai develops captions that lend the photographs an almost poetic dimension. A reciprocal dialogue emerges between image, text and viewer.

In our fast-paced consumer society, Hiroh Kikai's photographic approach might seem outdated – but upon closer inspection, the Asakusa portrait series poses a question of universal value: “What does it mean to be human?”

“Hiroh Kikai – Persona: The Final Chapter” is the artist's first solo exhibition in Germany. His works have been exhibited, inter alia, at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, the International Center of Photography in New York and the Nara City Museum of Photography.

14.03. - 09.05.2020 Wed - Fri 1 - 6 pm Sat 12 - 4 pm and by appointment.

basedonart gallery

Evers&Mass GbR Birkenstraße112 40233 Düsseldorf
+491732991900 boa@email.de www.boa-basedonart.com