

# UKIYO-E PROJECTIONS

## EIKOH HOSOE'S PHOTOGRAPHIC THEATER

MARCH 19 – APRIL 24, 2004



***NEW YORK CITY*** - The Howard Greenberg Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work completed in 2002 and 2003 by Eikoh Hosoe, one of Japan's preeminent twentieth-century photographers. The public is cordially invited to attend an artist's reception on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 pm.

During the postwar era, Eikoh Hosoe played a key role in the creation of new graphic style that emerged as a reaction against the realist documentary tradition prevalent in Japanese photography at the time. Hosoe's landmark series include Man and Woman, 1959, Ordeal by Roses (1961-1962), Kamaitachi (1965-1968), and Embrace, 1971. These series demonstrate the rich and diverse style of Hosoe's photography in combining an extremely personal view with radical narrative commentary on sexuality, culture, mortality, and memory. Hosoe set forth "Iconoclasm-by- Photography" a creative theory that placed him at the forefront of the development of a modern Japanese photographic aesthetic.

Eikoh Hosoe's most recent work featured in this exhibition is entitled "Ukiyo-e Projections" and was completed on stage during a series of sessions held with Butoh dancers at Tokyo's famous Asbestos Dance Studio founded by Tatsumi Hijikata, the founder of Butoh dance, and his wife Akiko Motofuji. In this series, photographed entirely in color, Hosoe created what he calls a photographic theater continuing his tradition of exploring dramatic themes in photography. Upon the white painted bodies of young Butoh dancers Hosoe projected slides of Ukiyo-e, the often bawdy woodblock prints from 18<sup>th</sup> century Japanese folk artists. The result is a multi-dimensional tapestry of colors and erotic forms floating in the deep blackness of space. In 2003 the Asbestos Dance Studio, known as an intellectual center for over forty years, was permanently closed. This exhibition is Hosoe's personal tribute to the cultural institution that fostered contemporary Japanese art.

Eikoh Hosoe, born "Toshihio" Hosoe in 1933, was the second son of a Buddhist priest, in Yonesawa, Japan. Following the war, Hosoe adapted the name "Eikoh" as a symbolic gesture acknowledging entry into a new era for Japan. In the early 1950's Hosoe attended The Tokyo College of Photography. While still a student he joined "Demokrato" an avant-garde artist's group under the spiritual leadership of the artist Ei Q. In 1960 he became one of the six founding members of VIVO, a picture agency formed to promote the work of individual photographers. In 1995 Eikoh Hosoe was instrumental in the founding of the Kiysoto Museum of Photographic Arts (K\*MoPA). He directs the museum and Buddhist retreat today.

Eikoh Hosoe's work has been exhibited internationally with major exhibitions at the International Center of Photography and Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Nikon Salon, Tokyo; George Eastman House, Rochester; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.

*For further information or to request visuals in any format, please contact Margit Erb at 212 334 0010, or [margit@howardgreenberg.com](mailto:margit@howardgreenberg.com). Starting March 18<sup>th</sup> Ukiyo-e Projections: EIKOH HOSOE'S PHOTOGRAPHIC THEATER : can be viewed at [www.howardgreenberg.com](http://www.howardgreenberg.com).*

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