

POLA MUSEUM ANNEX
Keiichi Tahara:OPÉRA de PARIS

Opening June 21 (Fri.), 2024



POLA Museum Annex (Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo) is proud to announce OPÉRA de PARIS, an exhibition by Japanese photographer Keiichi Tahara, who forged an international art career exploring the theme of “light,” winning honors such as the French Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier grade), the Grand Prix d’Art de la Ville de Paris, and the Ihei Kimura Award. The exhibition will run from June 21 (Fri.) to July 28 (Sun.), 2024.

Tahara spent eight years photographing the Paris Opera, from 1987 to 1994, on the request of the government of France. Pierre Bernard, then general manager of the Paris Opera, felt that Tahara’s distinctive style of capturing his subjects in dramatic moods and textures using long exposures in natural light was ideally suited to the task of photographing the opera house and company. Tahara’s photographs documented not only the magnificent architecture and furnishings, but the life of the Paris Opera in its entirety, from the glamorous costumes and jewelry to the front and back of the stage sets. In 1995, a selection of about 550 of his photographs were published under the title OPÉRA de PARIS, consisting of four large-format books on ARCHITECTURE, COSTUMES, BIJOUX, and MAQUETTES. These photographic books earned worldwide acclaim and helped to convey the beauty of the Paris Opera to countless people.

This exhibition, featuring approximately 30 photographic works carefully selected from the collection OPÉRA de PARIS, will be exhibited in a setting inspired by the grandeur of the Paris Opera. Visitors can also see a rare original copy of the book OPÉRA de PARIS, of which only 2,000 copies were published, as well as a video presentation created based on the book.

|| General Information ||

Title	Keiichi Tahara: OPÉRA de PARIS
Term	June 21 (Fri.) - July 28 (Sun.), 2024
Hours	11:00 - 19:00 (Last entry by 18:30) *Open every day of exhibition period
Admission	Free
Venue	POLA MUSEUM ANNEX https://www.po-holdings.co.jp/m-annex/en/
Address	POLA Ginza Building 3F, 1-7-7 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061
Organizer	POLA ORBIS HOLDINGS INC.
Supported by	Ambassade de France au Japon / Institut français du Japon
General inquiries	050-5541-8600 (Hello Dial, only within Japan)

Top image: From Keiichi Tahara's photo collection "OPÉRA de PARIS" (Photography: 1987-1994, Published: 1995)

|| Comment by the Artist ||

A long while has passed since I set out to photograph the Paris Opera, and when I try to recall that time, I can't remember when I actually started.

Maybe the markers of each passing year that serve as clues for my memory are getting fainter?
Or perhaps I've just been caught up with too many things?

Even as I need to plan for an exhibition three or four years from now, I am also preoccupied with the work of tomorrow and the work of next month.

As days, months, and years pass seamlessly into each other, everything seems interwoven.

But the days I spent photographing the costumes, jewelry, and architecture of the Paris Opera were special.

Touching, holding, viewing, and observing costumes and jewelry from the 18th and 19th centuries. There was a real pleasure in thinking back at all the time that had passed; how many hours and how much human labor went into making the items; and all the people who had worn and performed with them.

Perhaps it's good these days to keep in mind that instead of only moving forward, on and on, it's also interesting to look back and reflect on the past.

Keiichi Tahara
November 15, 1996

Keiichi Tahara

Keiichi Tahara was born in Kyoto, Japan. Tahara began working as a photographer after his visit to France in 1971, where he was struck by the piercing intensity of the European light, which was completely new to him, and his experience with the soft Japanese light. Since then, Paris has been the artist's base, as he actively participated in a wide range of fields via the theme of light, from photography to sculpture, installations, and architecture. In 1977, the artist was placed into the global spotlight when his series "Fenêtre" (Window) was recognized with the Newcomer Prize at The Rencontres d'Arles, France, and was followed by numerous exhibitions hosted in Japan and Europe. Since then, Tahara has become the recipient of numerous prestigious awards such as the Ihei Kimura Award, the Niépce Prize and the French Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier grade), and the Grand Prix d'Art de la Ville de Paris. Tahara was also a branding consultant for world-renowned luxury brands, such as Cartier and Dom Perignon, for numerous advertisements and projects. In 2017, the world's first-large scale exhibition of Photosynthesis, a series featuring the dancer, Min Tanaka was presented in "Keiichi Tahara: Photosynthesis 1978–1980" by the National Gallery in Prague.

<http://www.keiichi-tahara.com/html/>



From Keiichi Tahara's photo collection "OPÉRA de PARIS" (Photography: 1987-1994, Published: 1995)

Press Contact

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