

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUNDARAM TAGORE PRESENTS RARE
HISTORIC PRINTS BY MAGNUM
PHOTOGRAPHER HIROJI KUBOTA**

Exhibition title: *Hiroji Kubota Photographer*

Exhibition dates: June 1 to July 2, 2017

Opening reception with the artist: Thursday, June 1, 7 to 9 pm

Artist Talk: Saturday June 3, 3 pm

Venue: STG Singapore, Gillman Barracks

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Kyaiktiyo, Burma, 1978, dye-transfer print, 20 x 24 inches/50.8 x 61 cm

Singapore, April 25, 2017—Sundaram Tagore Singapore is pleased to present a retrospective of iconic images by renowned Magnum photographer Hiroji Kubota. The artist will be on hand to discuss his work, including his travels in North Korea, during the opening reception and a Saturday-afternoon talk.

More than one hundred of the artist's images will be on view, including color dye-transfer prints photographed between 1978 and 2003 and black-and-white platinum prints from 1961 to 1989. Kubota traveled the globe to capture historic events and gained rare access to countries including North Korea and China in the 1970s when travel was still restricted. His images range from meditative scenes of Burmese monks by Myanmar's sacred golden rock to candid portraits of North Korean youth learning to sing.

Rooted in his experience of Japan, ravaged by destruction and famine at the end of World War II, Hiroji Kubota's work is characterized by a desire to find beauty and honor in human experience. He was born in Tokyo in 1939 and began his career assisting Magnum photographers René Burri, Burt Glinn and Elliott Erwitt on their visit to Japan in 1961 before becoming a Magnum photographer himself. Over a span of more than five decades, he produced major bodies of work on the United States, Japan, China, North and South Korea and Southeast Asia.

Hiroji Kubota was introduced to the dye-transfer printing process at the urging of a friend in the late 1980s. This costly and complicated process used to create high-quality multi-color materials for print advertising was mostly phased out by the 1960s, but a few printers who continued to use it for photographic art. One of those printers, Nino Mondhe—who printed for Irving Penn and Harry Callahan—was known for using twelve colors instead of the traditional three. Kubota, dazzled by the spectrum of vibrant color Mondhe achieved, produced fifty-two prints and two triptychs with the master printer over a twenty-year period, until the materials ran out and Mondhe eventually closed his studio. This exhibition offers an extraordinary opportunity to view Kubota's collection of color images produced with a rarely used technique that is impossible to duplicate today.

Hiroji Kubota's numerous publications include *China* (1985), *From Sea to Shining Sea: A Portrait of America* (1992), *Out of the East: Transition and Tradition in Asia* (1997) and *Japan* (2004). In 2015, the Aperture Foundation organized a retrospective for the artist in partnership with Sundaram Tagore Gallery New York. The show was presented in conjunction with the release of *Hiroji Kubota Photographer* (Aperture, 2015), the first comprehensive survey of the artist's work covering more than fifty years of his extraordinary life and world travels. The book includes all his key bodies of work, including photographs from his many extended trips throughout China, Burma, the United States, North and South Korea and his home country, Japan.

Kubota's work has been exhibited around the world, including at the International Center of Photography, New York; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Tokyo Photographic Art Museum; and CAFA Art Museum, Beijing. He is based in Odawara, Japan.

ARTIST TALK

On Saturday, June 3, Kubota will give a talk at the Singapore gallery about the unique process used to create his dye-transfer prints. He will also speak about his journeys across Asia and photographing in such isolated countries as North Korea.

ABOUT SUNDARAM TAGORE GALLERY

Established in New York City in 2000, Sundaram Tagore Gallery is devoted to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. With spaces in New York City (Chelsea and Madison Avenue), Singapore and Hong Kong, we focus on mounting exhibitions and hosting not-for-profit events that encourage spiritual, social and aesthetic dialogues. With alliances across the globe, our interest in cross-cultural exchange extends beyond the visual arts into many other disciplines, including poetry, literature, performance art, film and music.

For more information about the exhibition, email press@sundaramtagore.com or call **+65 6694 3378**.

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