

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO **Japanese artist**

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO is a major Japanese artist, an internationally recognized photographer. With cumulative sales of \$ 2.2 million, he ranked 81st in the ArtPrice (Product Sales) Ranking of the global art market in 2016/2017

The artist

He graduated from St. Paul University in Tokyo (1970) and from the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles (1974). He moved to New York in 1974. He lives and works between New York and Tokyo.

Artwork

Hiroshi Sugimoto started his work in 1976 with his "Dioramas" Series, for which he photographed displays in natural history museums. They featured stuffed wild animals in a trompe l'oeil scenery. For his Series Theaters in 1978, he photographed old American cinemas and drive-ins. Photography helps preserve and fix memory and time. "I imagine my vision and I try to make it happen, just like painting," explained the artist. Hiroshi Sugimoto is also known for his series "Seascapes": seascapes that he photographed with an identical proportion of sea and sky. With his series "Portraits", started in 1999, he moved from photography to painting using wax figures of King Henry VIII and his wives, from Madame Tussauds museum. In the early 2000s, he embarked on another Series on architecture 'The Architecture Series', photographing 20th century architectural buildings ALL around the world.

In 2012 the artist produced another Series called "Plant and Tree" which "offers a fantasy vision of the earth at the end of humanity". Also in 2012, in collaboration with Hermès-Paris, 20 among Hiroshi Sugimoto's abstract color studies were transposed onto silk scarves, in a limited edition called "Colors of Shadow". The artist also creates Buddhist sculptures. Hiroshi Sugimoto was very early interested in the writings of André Breton who led him to the discovery of surrealism and dadaism. Throughout his life, he was also inspired by Marcel Duchamp's work, ready-made objects and philosophy. His series "Conceptual Forms" (2004), was inspired by "The large glass" (1923) by Marcel Duchamp. Sugimoto scrutinizes with the eye of a sculptor, a painter, an architect and a philosopher. Hiroshi Sugimoto dreamed of exposing his photographs with Rothko's paintings: the two artists were exhibited together at the Pace Gallery in London in 2012. From 10 October 2013 to 6 January 2014, Pierre Bergé Foundation - Yves Saint Laurent had offered him a 'carte blanche'. "For the event, the artist made a video work of the thousand statues of Bodhisattva Sanjūsangendō, a temple of Kyoto dating from the thirteenth century. By a process of gradual acceleration of clichés, the spectator saw thousand Buddhas multiplying up to a million in five minutes. He exhibited at Palais de Tokyo in spring 2014: "Today the world is dead" where he juxtaposed his collections of objects, from disparate times and cultures, and his photographic works. The artist works in a traditional way, printing his photos with care and sensibility for the colors, white, gray, black. After forty years of work in photography, the artist turned to architecture he practices as "unlicensed architect". He received his first order in 2002 when he was selected to adapt a 15th century Shinto shrine for the Benesse Art site on the island of Naoshima. Recent achievements include The Glass Tea House "Mondrian", The Stanze del Vetro, Venetia (2014-2016) and the Enoura complex. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington announced March 11, 2019 the renovation and redesign of its Sculpture Garden with a new concept in development by Architect/Artist Hiroshi Sugimoto. Hiroshi Sugimoto created his own museum, the Odawara Art Foundation's Enoura Complex, on the east coast of Japan, which opened in 2017. It is a traditional Japanese style structure: it includes a tea house, an exhibition venue and two outdoor theaters. In April 2018, the photographer proposed at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels, a breathtaking dialogue:

forty black and white photographs that echoed the great Flemish masters, whom he considered the pioneers of photography. Hiroshi Sugimoto is currently working with a choreographer and ballet designer influenced by the No Theater, commissioned by the Paris Opera. He is also preparing a Bunraku, a Japanese puppet show to be scheduled at the Lincoln Center in New York.