

tokyo

JUNE 2017

# weekender

Japan's number one English language magazine

## SHOWA IS NOT DEAD

**TOKYO'S OLD SOUL  
IS ALIVE AND WELL**

THIS MONTH, WE DISCOVER ITS ESSENCE  
IN A RETRO SHOTENGA, EXPLORE ITS  
RENAISSANCE IN MODERN JAPAN, AND  
FIND IT IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS  
ON THE CITY STREETS



**PLUS:** Japan's Archaic Sex Crime Laws Are Finally Changing, Secret Gardens in Tokyo, and Is North Korea a Real Threat?





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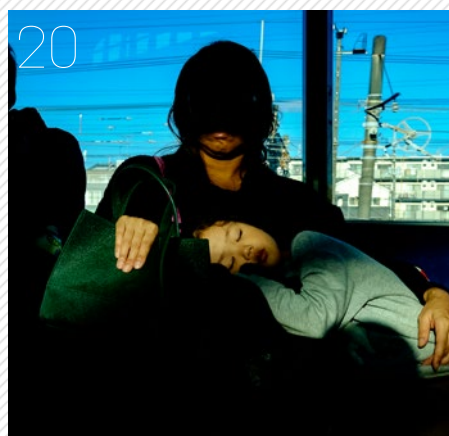
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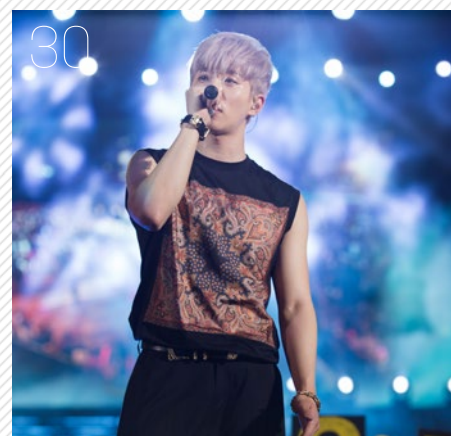
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**weekender**

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*Cover photograph by Luca Eandi*

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**@mizrama:** Alec, I have so many questions for you this month, but first of all, is North Korea a real threat?

**@bapawn:** Well, it is one of the most serious security concerns Japan has faced in a while, and the fact that Japan, the US, and South Korea's combined military wouldn't be able to prevent serious casualties is alarming.

**@mizrama:** You interviewed Waseda Professor Sachiko Hirakawa on the subject this month [page 28]. Did she offer any possible solutions as to how Japan can avoid an attack?

**@bapawn:** While she admitted that Japan finds itself in a difficult position because it doesn't have official diplomatic relations with North Korea, this unofficial position does leave the door open for Japan to come up with a creative diplomatic solution. But that's easier said than done when sitting across the table from the Kim Jong Un regime. And as the article shows, there's a long history of bad blood between the two countries, and it's not easy to set aside.

**@mizrama:** Speaking of long histories, I was shocked to learn that Japan's sex crime laws have not been updated since 1907 [page 26]. Even though they're set to

be revised this month, I'm wondering how much longer it's going to take for the culture of victim blaming to change.

**@bapawn:** It may take decades, but a big step forward like this has to be commended. Looking through the rest of the mag, it's nice to know there is some positive history around the city that's being revitalized.

**@mizrama:** Indeed, I'm kind of loving the Showa era revival that's been happening lately [page 24]. As a fan of anything vintage, I'm enjoying discovering the nostalgic side of Japan.

**@bapawn:** I like it too, but I have a hard time putting my finger on it. How would you characterize the Showa spirit?

**@mizrama:** I think it depends which decade we're talking about, but for me its spirit is felt every time I walk down one of Tokyo's old-school *shotengai*. The feeling is perfectly described in this month's Oyama area guide [page 7]. And possibly also in the atmosphere captured by Luca Eandi on our cover.

**@bapawn:** And that shot is certainly a testament to just how *genki* Japan's senior citizens are.

*Annemarie & Alec*



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## 21st Century Education Begins in Chiyoda April 2018

Chiyoda International School Tokyo (CHIST) is set to open in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo—the bustling center of Japan. Located in an excellent environment for international education — surrounded by a concentration of embassies, international organizations, multinational companies, and other such offices — CHIST aims to provide cutting-edge global education for the children who will grow to create the fabric of the 21st century.



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### Contact

**Chiyoda International School Tokyo Preparatory Office**

Ⓔ <http://www.chist.jp> ✉ [chist@musashino-u.ac.jp](mailto:chist@musashino-u.ac.jp)



R

THE WEEKENDER

radar



## WHAT'S ON OUR RADAR THIS MONTH...

First stop on this issue's Showa-era exploration is a trip down Happy Road: the old-school shopping street, or *shotengai*, of Oyama.



# TAKE A TRIP DOWN HAPPY ROAD

Words by Paul McInnes and Photos by Stephan Jarvis

*As author Yukari Sakamoto recently wrote: If you want to know Tokyo, visit the shotengai. And here's why your first stop should be the old-school shopping street of Oyama*

*Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping  
for action, cunning as a savage  
pitted against the wilderness,*

*Bareheaded,  
Shoveling,  
Wrecking,  
Planning,  
Building, breaking, rebuilding*

These words were penned by Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet Carl Sandburg early last century, about his adopted home of Chicago. This stanza, from his seminal "Chicago" collection of poems, however, also perfectly describes contemporary Tokyo with all its myriad imperfections and idiosyncrasies.

Anyone who keeps abreast of Tokyo's ever-changing architectural and cultural (r)evolution knows that faceless shopping malls, office blocks and high-end apartments are unfortunately the sign of the times. The Tokyo Metropolitan government is even considering a plan to eradicate the over ground telephone and electricity poles, which mark the city, to make room for a clean, more uncontaminated aesthetic. The consequence of this movement, however, is the destruction of old Tokyo and the acceptance of a bland and soulless new.

Respected Japanese journalist and author Yukari Sakamoto wrote recently, for online magazine Eater: "If you want to know Tokyo, visit the shotengai." Shotengai is the Japanese word for traditional shopping arcades found dotted around the metropolis, with the most famous and popular ones







being in Sugamo, Asagaya and Kichijoji. Over the last few years, however, many of Tokyo's shotengai have been destroyed to make way for the inevitable wave of gentrification and regeneration. Examples of this are found in the striking and disappointing development of locations such as Musashi Koyama.

However, there are still a few of these old-school shopping streets begging to be explored. A few minutes from Ikebukuro, nestled quietly in Itabashi ward, is Oyama – a tiny town that

plays host to one of the most thriving shotengai in the capital. "Happy Road," as it's cutely named, was born out of the ashes of the war and was initially just a small road of shacks, stalls and stores (originally named Oyama Ginza) selling essentials to the local people. In 1977 a merchant's union was established and in turn it created a proper shopping arcade and gave it the name Happy Road. In 1996 the arcade's roof was repaired and replaced and it has evolved organically from there.





## KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

There are presently 209 stores raging from the ubiquitous pachinko parlors, 100 yen stores and chemists that can be found in most towns in Japan. What makes Oyama special is not these bland chain stores but the thriving family-run businesses which contribute, in a huge way, to the town's success and bustling reputation. Independent tea stores, a plethora of *wagashi* (traditional Japanese sweets) shops, Americana apparel store Frontier, butchers with national acclaim such as the glorious Arai Meat – try

the ham *katsu* (ham cutlets), crepe and confectionary legend Pierrot, outrageously delicious sandwiches courtesy of K's Kitchen and some of the best yakitori in the city found in spots such as Funachu and Ippo.

When Weekender chatted with Koji Yamanaka of the Oyama Happy Road Shotengai Promotion Union, he stressed the strength of community in the shopping arcade with many stores being run by third and fourth generations of local families: “The lively atmosphere is mostly down to





## MANY PEOPLE HERE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE THEY WERE CHILDREN

the effort of the staff and the people that work [in Happy Road],” says Yamanaka. “People who live in this area want to buy things from people they know. That’s why they come. They don’t need to go to a department store when they can buy from here.”

“Most of the customers are locals and we want to work hard for them and we help each other. Many people here have known each other since they were children and played around this shotengai area. This is our life. Sometimes we wouldn’t even need money. We could go to the local store and drink milk straight from the carton or bottle. The owner knew us so he would add the cost to our parents’ tab at a later date. In Japan it’s very important to have trust, and trust makes good business.”

Yamanaka, himself, is a third generation Oyama shotengai business owner but he is adamant that the shotengai still has a future in Japan. Although Happy Road is proud of its tradition and roots in the local community, it is also embracing technology to spread the word. The shotengai has its own Youtube and TV channel (Happy TV), idol, and even its very own pro-wrestler (Happy Road Man).

Yamanaka explains that rather than Happy Road being perceived as an outdated 20th century concept, it is, conversely, helping influence modern day buyer/seller relationships. He says, “If you go to the supermarket yourself you pick vegetables on your own, but if you come here to a local store you can often find out where the food comes from and what the shopkeeper recommends for that specific day. Or in the case of tea, someone who wants to send some tea to a friend can ask the store staff for specific suggestions. In supermarkets and chain stores people don’t usually look for advice. In fact, employees from major department stores sometimes come here to find out how to sell directly to customers. They want to know how to have more contact with people.”

It would be easy to dismiss the Japanese shotengai as antiquated and parochial. They are, however, not only a direct link to the past – a glimpse into Showa-era Japan [see page 22] but also, especially in the case of Happy Road, the vital beating heart of local communities in the 21st century. Happy Road is a vibrant and incredible place full of energy and atmosphere, and in Itabashi Ward is seen as the main artery of the community. It also has an abundance of time and hospitality for tourists and guests who come from far and wide to witness the road in all its glory.





## ➔ GUCCI EARRINGS

It's no wonder Gucci is currently experiencing a major moment – the iconic brand keeps releasing covetable pieces, and these bird earrings are definitely one of those. The swallow motif is a recurring theme for the Italian label, and has appeared in various collections. These earrings are embellished with faceted green, purple and clear crystals on a silk base, and finished with faux-horn posts inscribed with the GG emblem.

[gucci.com](http://gucci.com)

# MOOD: PLAYFUL

OUR JUNE STYLE GUIDE –  
SNEAKERS AND SUNGLASSES IN  
THIS SEASON'S HOTTEST HUE,  
ANIMAL-THEMED ACCESSORIES, A  
FESTIVAL TEE, AND A SCENT THAT  
ADJUSTS TO SUIT YOUR SKIN

*Compiled by Vivian Morelli*

## ➔ CUTLER AND GROSS SUNGLASSES

Once we get through the dreaded rainy season in June, you'll be ready for something a little more cheerful, and these heart-shaped sunglasses fit the bill. Part Lolita, part stylish, but mostly just playful, this pair of Italian-made sunglasses is that pop of color you need to spruce up any outfit. Made from frosted pink acetate, they're just waiting to be paired with some light denim, bright red lips and an ice cream cone. [cutlerandgross.com](http://cutlerandgross.com)





## ⬇ COMMON PROJECTS SNEAKERS

Common Projects, a relatively unknown brand until a few years back, is currently achieving cult status in the fashion world. After you're done gasping at the price tag (around ¥45,000), rest assured that each pair of sneakers sports a 10-digit serial number (printed in gold) that denotes their size, style and color. If that's not enough to convince you to spend that much on sneakers, then bear in mind the so-hot-right-now millennial pink hue, the supple leather and the clean-lined aesthetic. [commonprojects.com](http://commonprojects.com)



## ⬆ FREDERIC MALLE EAU DE PARFUM

Frederic Malle fragrances are suddenly all over the place, and for a good reason. This isn't your typical mass-produced cologne – the unique scents are designed to last well after the first spray, and truly adjust to the wearer's skin. This particular scent has been imagined by French creator Jean-Claude Ellena (who was once the exclusive perfumer at Hermès) and features bitter orange on the main stage, layering hints of rose, hay and cedar in the background. [fredericmalle.com](http://fredericmalle.com)



## ⬅ CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA FLATS

Handmade in Italy, Charlotte Olympia's designs are said to be inspired by a bygone era of old Hollywood glamour. Here, the designer reworks her super famous Kitty flats to transform them into a summer version. Sporting a delicate ankle strap, gold studs and her signature cat face, these are just the ideal pair of shoes with which to kick off summer. Pair them with your favorite pair of jeans and flash those gold-toned heels. [charlotteolympia.com](http://charlotteolympia.com)

## ⬅ A.P.C. T-SHIRT

Right on time for music festival season, this T-shirt is printed with a concert scene in hazy focus – as they should be. The Paris-based label (the acronym stands for Atelier de Production et de Création) was founded in 1987 and has established itself as a leader in cool urban wear. The label is especially big in Tokyo, with a number of themed boutiques around the city. Wear this shirt to the next gig you're attending, or gift it to a music fan in your life. [apcjp.com](http://apcjp.com)



# Body, Baby, Beauty

Compiled by Vivian Morelli

*Natural, nourishing body creams, butters, soaps, and oils for new and expecting moms, as well as babies and tots*



## SKIN HAPTICS DRY OIL

Baby massage can soothe the little ones and help improve their sleep. It's also a wonderful way for mothers and fathers to create a bond with baby and make them feel at ease. To relax baby (and yourself), you can gently manipulate their ankles, wrists and fingers, and stroke their back. This dry oil from French company Skin Haptics is enriched with vitamin E and is a great addition to baby's massage routine. Its thin and light texture is immediately absorbed and is totally safe for their delicate skin. It can also be used to heal dry and cracked skin and even for stretch mark prevention. ¥2,716 (100ml), [www.skinhaptics.com](http://www.skinhaptics.com)

## CALENDULA SHAMPOO AND BODY WASH

Free of sulfates, parabens and mineral oils, this calendula shampoo and body wash from Weleda is a smart choice to get baby squeaky clean. Not only is it convenient to use as a two-in-one product for the squiggly little ones, it's also gentle for their delicate skin and hair. Only fragranced with pure essential oils such as coconut and almond, this is all you'll need for bath times ... and moms won't be able to resist using it! ¥2,592 (50ml), [www.weleda.com](http://www.weleda.com)





## MAMA & KIDS UV LIGHT VEIL

With summer fast approaching, mamas and toddlers should never skip the essential sunscreen application in order to shield those harsh rays. It is generally recommended to use sunblock on babies older than six months and to stick to natural ingredients. This Japan-made Mama & Kids Light UV Veil is a great place to start. The milky, lightweight formula is smooth, easy to apply and ideal for daily use in the city. ¥5,184, [www.natural-s.jp/brand/mamakids](http://www.natural-s.jp/brand/mamakids)



## MAMA BUTTER FACE AND BODY CREAM

Mama Butter is a Japanese brand that has recently been getting lots of attention thanks to its organic, non-perfumed products. This face and body cream is made of shea butter and is 100% natural, meaning pregnant women and new mothers can safely use it. It's also safe for baby's sensitive skin, which easily gets dry after the bath. While solid at the touch, the shea butter instantly melts when you rub it on the skin. It is recommended to use it on the lips, face, body and even hair to moisturize those dry ends. ¥1,900 (60g), [www.bxe.co.jp/mamabutter](http://www.bxe.co.jp/mamabutter)



## BAMFORD HAIR AND BODY WASH

Made in England, Bamford baby products are known for their high quality, natural products. Specifically formulated to be kind to babies' delicate skin, this two-in-one hair and body wash (because with babies, all-in-one is the best way to go!) is ideal for washing newborns. Its gentle cleansing formula, packed with chamomile, lavender, geranium and tea tree, is softly scented and leaves babies (and tired mothers) feeling refreshed, soothed and protected. ¥2,929 (100ml), [bamford.co.uk](http://bamford.co.uk)

## MAMA MIO TUMMY BUTTER

While a baby bump is the cutest part of pregnancy, it can also leave the dreaded stretch marks post-baby. However, with a daily moisture regimen and the right products, it's possible to leave your belly completely stretch-mark free. Packed with omegas 3, 6 and 9 to build strength and elasticity, this belly butter is blended with argan oil to nourish, coconut oil to soothe and heal, and rosehip oil to regenerate damaged cells. ¥4,090 (120g), [www.mioskincare.com](http://www.mioskincare.com)







# NEW FLAVORS

INTRODUCING TOKYO'S NEW CRAFT DRINK, KOMBUCHA TAP BAR, DESSERT PIZZA, AND SALAD SHOP - ALL JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER

Words by Lisa Wallin and Annemarie Luck



## KIMINO

**THE STORY** While the rest of the world is only just catching on to the wonders of yuzu, Japan has long been singing its praises. Now, thanks to Tokyo's latest craft drink, Kimino Yuzu, you can enjoy the citrus superfruit as a sparkling drink as well as a range of original cocktails. To try it out, stop by the brand's pop-up bar, Kimino Aoyama, at Commune 246.

**WHY WE LOVE IT** To ensure you get the most intense yuzu flavor, the whole fruit is used when extracting the juice. Plus, the drink features just three pure ingredients - yuzu juice, sparkling water from Aichi Prefecture, and a hint of organic sugar.

**WHAT TO TRY** The Yuzu Shiso cocktail, a crisp, herbaceous mix with vodka and the Japanese *shiso* herb; and the yuzu rice burger, which features breaded chicken breast in spicy yuzu sauce sandwiched between a crisped rice "bun."

3-13 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku.  
[www.kiminodrinks.com](http://www.kiminodrinks.com)







## GOOD LIFE FACTORY

**THE STORY** Good Life by name, good life (and food) by nature. This farm-to-table salad shop is a diner with a difference. Not only do they provide locally sourced vegetables from neighboring Chiba and Ibaraki prefectures, they also make their own special blend of fermented brown rice, multi-grained rice and adzuki beans to give their salads an extra hit of minerals and fiber.

**GET YOUR GREENS** Packed with everything you need for the day – greens, proteins (vegan-friendly ones, too!) and superfoods – these salads will leave you satisfied and stress-free.

**WHAT TO TRY** You can either design your own bowl, or choose one of the suggested combos on the menu.  
1F H.T. Minami-Aoyama Bldg III,  
7-11-4 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku.  
[goodlifeactory.jp/en/](http://goodlifeactory.jp/en/)

## MAX BRENNER CHOCOLATE PIZZA BAR

**THE STORY** Make your childhood dreams come true, one slice at a time. Following the success of Max Brenner's Chocolate Bar in Omotesando Hills, this worldwide chocolate giant has taken one of its most popular items – the dessert pizza – and devoted a whole dining establishment to it. Enter Max Brenner Chocolate Pizza Bar, now open in Harajuku's home for fashionistas, the LaForet department store.

**TOP TIP** While there is no specific eat-in area inside the shop, diners can eat their slices at the mini food court, Good Meal Market.

**WHAT TO TRY** The iconic chocolate pizza is now customizable with five different chocolate bases and 15 different toppings to choose from.

2F LaForet Harajuku, 1-11-16 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku.  
[maxbrenner.com](http://maxbrenner.com)



## KOMBUCHA

**THE STORY** It's finally here: Tokyo's first kombucha tap bar!

**SAY WHAT?** For those still scratching their heads, kombucha is a fizzy, fermented tea that purports to have numerous health benefits including better sleep quality, and improved digestion and liver function.

**WHAT TO TRY** The tap bar's namesake comes in two flavors – original (plain), and a limited-edition flavor that changes regularly. There are also raw juices, cold press juices, shot juices, and, for those feeling peckish, kale salads and a selection of brown rice onigiri should hit the spot nicely.

2-13-13 Nishi-Azabu, Minato-ku. [oks-nishiazabu.com](http://oks-nishiazabu.com)





# the. concierge

Looking for a great place to eat, shop, sleep or play in Tokyo? Welcome to Weekender's roundup of recommended restaurants, hotels, stores, salons and more. Here, we share this month's editor's picks, but for the full lineup – as well as reader discounts and special offers – simply head to [www.tokyoweekender.com/the-concierge](http://www.tokyoweekender.com/the-concierge)

## Elana Jade

Summer is just around the corner, and Elana Jade offers a range of deluxe beauty treatments that will have you looking beautiful from head to toe. Know someone in need of pampering? We also have gift vouchers for all occasions. **Special offer:** Get radiant, supple skin with the **relaxing Conditioning Facial** (includes cleanse, steam, exfoliation, massage, mask and moisturize), 60 minutes for ¥10,000 (normal price ¥13,000), valid until the end of June.



[www.elanajade.com](http://www.elanajade.com)

03-6453-9319

4F NS Azabu Juban Building, 3-6-2 Azabu Juban, Minato-ku

## Owl Café Search

Japan is famed for its wide variety of animal cafés, with owl cafés being one of the latest to join the lineup. This new website provides all the information you need to help you locate one of these feathery creatures to pet while sipping on a cuppa. Launching their English site this month, Owl Café Search lets you search by area, and includes details such as price, opening hours, and contact info for each café listed.

[www.owlcafe-search.com](http://www.owlcafe-search.com)



## Ruby Jack's Steakhouse & Bar

Welcome to steakhouse heaven. Whether you're looking for a succulent ribeye or a hefty tomahawk, Ruby Jack's Steakhouse & Bar uses only the best meats from their suppliers in the US, Australia and Japan. If you're in the mood for a splurge, go for their 50-day dry-aged, bone-in Hokkaido Holstein beef. Start off with a tempting array of appetizers and an expertly blended cocktail from the bar, and savor your meal with a bottle drawn from their wide-ranging wine list. **Special Promotion:** Visit Ruby Jack's on the 29th of every month for "Meat Day" (Meat = Niku = 2 [Ni] 9 [ku]) and enjoy a la carte beef at a 50% discount!

**Average Price:** Lunch ¥3,000 Dinner ¥12,000

[rubyjacks.jp/en](http://rubyjacks.jp/en)

03-5544-8222

2F Ark Hills South Tower, 1-4-5 Roppongi, Minato-ku







THE WEEKENDER  
**in-depth**



## STEPPING INTO OTHER WORLDS

From traveling to far corners of Africa and meeting tribal warriors (above and page 34) to slipping back in time to Japan's Showa era (page 22), this month we take you to several places you've most likely never been before.





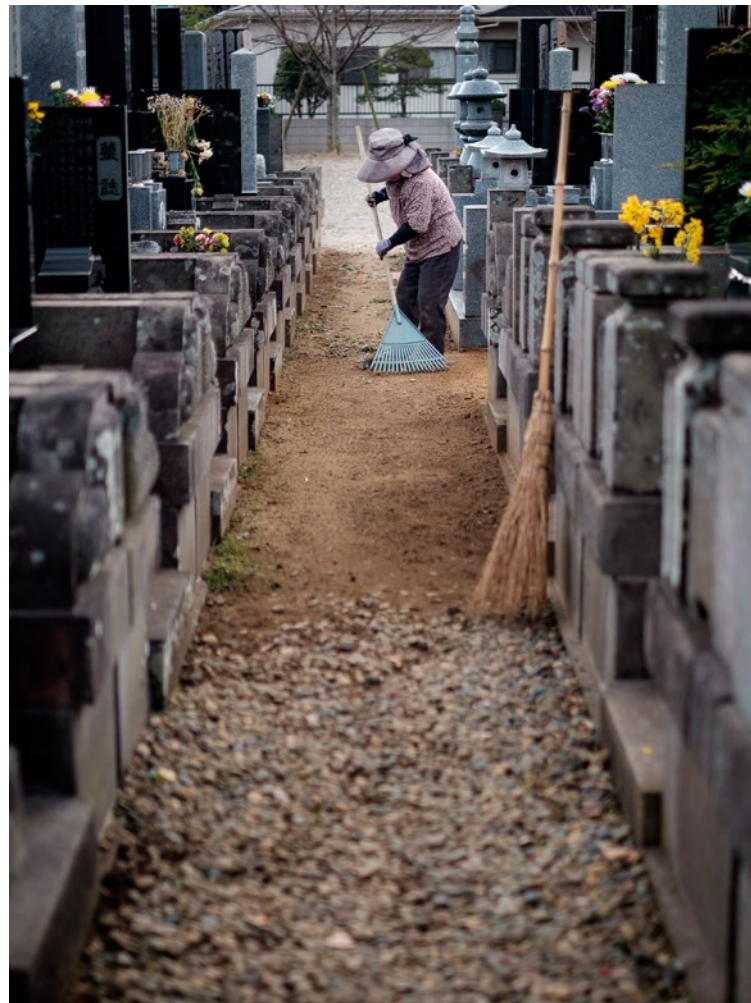
# “SHOOTING IN PACKED TRAINS IS ALWAYS FUN”

*What is it that draws photographers to Tokyo's streets? We ask Weekender's former man behind the lens, Luca Eandi, to describe the appeal and the experience of capturing everyday moments in Japan's capital*

Part of street photography's appeal is its capacity to make you look at the objects and people that you pass by every day in a different way. There's something in another person's decision to frame, capture, and share those mundane moments or objects that pushes us to give it more consideration, to hold it in our mind's eye for just a bit longer – to recognize its beauty, its humor, its wonder, or perhaps its fundamental sadness. In a city that changes as fast as Tokyo does, it's even more important to record the fleeting past as neighborhoods change, block by block and building by building – particularly in neighborhoods like Yanaka, or

Shimokitazawa, or Tomigaya; places where the Showa spirit [see page 22] can still be felt, and which are even being curated by a younger generation.

That's certainly the feeling we get when we look at the body of work of photographer Luca Eandi, who has been responsible for the pictures and words of our area guides for the past year. As he was getting ready to move back to the United States after several years in Japan, we wanted to know more about how he ended up doing an interview with a German radio station about Japanese signs, the lessons he's learned from street photography in Tokyo, and the shot he never got that will draw him back to Japan – some day.





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#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED AS A PHOTOGRAPHER?

Both my uncle and older sister are into photography so I grew up around it. I had my first film camera by age seven and have owned a dozen cameras along the way, but I really didn't obsess over it until my wife gifted me my first Fujifilm Mirrorless a few years ago for my birthday. It felt like a serious tool, capable of so much. We had just moved to Japan and everything was new, interesting and worth documenting, so it was the perfect opportunity. Plus, Tokyo has great camera stores for legacy lenses and rare gear.

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES YOU'VE HAD WHILE OUT SHOOTING?

One of my favorite ways to see a new place is to hit the pavement and just walk around until I get a feel for it. What's made places like Tokyo, Bangkok or Hong Kong memorable is getting lost in the backstreets and following my instincts in search of images – eyes open, camera in hand, ready to capture the right moment. Those days of exploration are always memorable. Having said that, street photography is not always guaranteed to produce results. I may have one picture per month that I like, and maybe a couple per year





that I love. I did an all-nighter walking tour of Tokyo with a friend once and it was surprisingly uneventful. However, shooting in packed trains is always fun.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY TECHNIQUES THAT HELP YOU TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS UNNOTICED?

I've tried deceptive things like pretending to capture something behind the subject or "shooting from the hip" with the camera around my neck, but I've realized that it's best to take shots out in the open. If people see me, I just smile, nod and move on. I've never really had a problem with this approach. By the time people notice me, I'm usually done taking the shot. Recently I started handing out contact cards and telling people to email me for a copy.

smiling. At the same time, people in Tokyo are notoriously reserved and pretty camera-shy. There's also a tremendous amount of sadness and loneliness – people seemingly trapped in their existence – and it can be unbearable.

## WHY DO THE SIGNS OF JAPAN APPEAL TO YOU SO MUCH, AND HOW DID YOU END UP DOING AN INTERVIEW ON GERMAN RADIO ABOUT THEM?

At first, being that I couldn't read the language, the illustrations caught my attention. They're so vivid and expressive that I was able to interpret the signs immediately. Then, as themes started to emerge, I felt that they expressed so much about Japanese culture that it felt important to document them.



## HAS SHOOTING IN THE STREET TAUGHT YOU ANY GREAT LESSONS?

From a technical standpoint – timing, alertness and quick decision-making. I really learned to use my camera. On more general terms, it taught me confidence, patience, and it has emboldened me to engage with strangers.

## YOU'VE SAID BEFORE THAT THE HUMAN ELEMENT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY. CAN YOU MAKE ANY GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT THE HUMANS OF TOKYO AS PHOTOGRAPHIC SUBJECTS?

Tokyo is one of my favorite places to shoot, not only for its sheer number of humans living public lives, but because there's so much uniformity that it makes it easier for things to stand out. For example, when you have a train full of black-suit-wearing people staring at their devices, it's really easy for one person to look heroic just by wearing red, looking up and

Construction-related signs are everywhere because Tokyo is constantly rebuilding itself. Signs dictating behavior in public spaces uphold conformity. Kids grow up having no choice but to play in traffic, so "tobidashi" [kids dashing out in the street] became a recurring character in residential areas. I started a Tumblr page and it took off in popularity. Someone at Kotaku saw it, they ran an article about it and other blogs picked it up from there. I ended up doing an interview with German public radio about it, of all things. I ended up with photos of over 2,000 unique signs. I'm currently trying to find a publisher for a book project.

## WHAT IS TOKYO LIKE AS A CITY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY?

It's a great background and wonderful as a subject on its own. The architecture in residential areas is often puzzling or even atrocious, but it's unique to the city, so it serves as a strong setting.







#### WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR SHOOTING?

Neighborhoods like Shinjuku, Shibuya and Akihabara are great to shoot at night because they're so well-lit and filled with people. Ueno, Shimokitazawa and Asakusa are great daytime subjects. I always preferred the old storefronts and abandoned buildings around Tomigaya, Jimbocho and Yanaka, or biking around my old neighborhood, Maku-hari-hongo.

#### ARE THERE ANY THINGS AROUND TOKYO THAT YOU REALLY WISHED YOU COULD HAVE PHOTOGRAPHED, BUT DIDN'T?

I never photographed Tsukiji Fish Market, but plenty of people have done that, so I never felt the need. Never once went to Zojo-ji. Never got a good shot of the city with Mt. Fuji in the background. Most of all though, I really wanted a shot of a sumo wrestler riding a small bicycle, but alas, it never materialized. I'll be back to get that shot alone for sure.



# The Showa Revival

IN RECENT YEARS, THERE'S BEEN TALK OF A SHOWA BOOM AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN JAPAN. LISA WALLIN TRACKS THE RENAISSANCE, AND RECOMMENDS TOP SPOTS FOR YOUR RETRO FIX

Often referred to as Japan's Golden Age, the Showa period technically spans the entire reign of Emperor Hirohito, from 1926 to 1989. As it lasted for most of the 20th century, it encompassed the identity of a whole generation. Showa saw the lead up to WWII, the starvation and poverty during the war, and the dramatic economic growth in Japan's post-war period. It is usually this intensive period – between the 1950s and 1970s (Showa 30s and 40s) – that Showa nostalgia reflects.

Though Japan faced many hardships during this time, it also experienced a burst of technological advancement and opportunities. With this came prosperity, and

then excessive materialism-led happiness – especially through modern luxuries that made daily life more convenient. This tenet to work hard and buy many things has endured even after the bubble burst in the late 1980s. It is no surprise, perhaps, that after the experience of long, severe poverty and a ban on many things Western, that Japan adopted so much so freely, albeit with their own interpretation.

## THE SHOWA RENAISSANCE

Over the last decade or so, there has been a steady growth in interest in the Showa period. Once thought of as *dasai* (tacky) and shunned by modern youth, the era has found its own in a time where retro chic is cool. This wave of nostalgia has permeated every aspect of modern culture from fashion, to media, and even travel.

Showa period-based popular culture made its way back into mainstream media in the mid-Noughties: among many romanticized TV dramas and films, the 2005 movie *Always: Evening Sun on Third Street* was a huge hit, and its 2007 sequel was equally well received. Last year's NHK morning drama, *Toto Nee Chan* (alternative title *Fatherly Sister*), hit home with many as it captured the feeling of possibility and the drive for people (especially women) to be and do more.

Businesses have capitalized on this interest in nostalgia with retro Showa 30s theme parks in Odaiba and Shibamata, and Showa-styled sweet shops in Ikebukuro and Yokohama. Regional areas like Atami and Ome have benefited

from promoting their retained Showa-ness, and even *taishu sakaba* – blue collar drinking places for the masses – have been experiencing an upturn in business. Vintage fashion, including kimono, has seen a rise in popularity among those in their 20s. All these cultural and physical aspects are enjoying a Showa retro boom, but the question remains: why?

## GET YOUR SHOWA ON

*Parties and markets for Showa hunters*

**RAW TOKYO** This new vintage clothes market started last year and features several well-known vintage shops touting their wares. *First weekend of every month, [www.rawtokyo.jp](http://www.rawtokyo.jp)*

**SHOWA KAYO DJ NIGHT** Event at Hop Scotch Tokyo in its fourth edition, playing oldies from the 50s to the 80s. *June 3, [www.hopscotchtokyo.com](http://www.hopscotchtokyo.com)*

**SHOWA KAYO** Monthly DJ event playing old Showa pop tunes at Shibuya's Rhythm Cafe. *Fourth Thursday of every month, [showakayonight.com](http://showakayonight.com)*

**JUNK SHOW** A treasure trove of pre-loved toys, homeware and accessories. *July 1-2, [www.toysshow.co.jp](http://www.toysshow.co.jp)*

**SHOWA RETRO ICHI MARKET** A biannual event where original Showa period furniture, accessories, and more are on sale. *October (date TBA), [www.mihonichi.com/showaretro](http://www.mihonichi.com/showaretro)*





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”

## WHERE DID THE RETRO REVIVAL COME FROM?

There is a lot of speculation on why this wave of wistful yearning for the past holds on so strong, but there are a couple of factors that seem to be prominent. Rie Tanaka\*, an employee within the Tokyo tourism industry, explains that during the post-war period, and pretty much ever since, Japanese people have looked towards the latest new thing, and forgot about or simply have not been interested in the recent past. With current economic stagnation, however, young people now look inward and backward: they save money by traveling domestically instead of internationally, and are learning to appreciate what came before them. In parallel, an interest in Japan's history – and increasingly not just the Showa period – seems to have increased in her field. “Because many Japanese millennials only see hardship in their future, it's no wonder they look to the past. They see a time that still had a bright and hopeful future.”

Interestingly, Hosei University professor and specialist in social psychology Tatsuo

## WHERE TO FIND THAT SHOWA FEELING

*While you can find little bursts of post-war atmosphere in Tokyo's shotengai [see page 8], kissaten coffee houses and yokochō, to really submerge yourself in the Showa experience we recommend these spots:*

**OME** This city in western Tokyo actively promotes its Showa-ness, and visitors will find original movie signs posted all over, as well as old-style shopping streets and even a Showa Retro Packaging museum. [www.omekanko.gr.jp/us/us.php](http://www.omekanko.gr.jp/us/us.php)

**ATAMI** Once touted as the French Riviera of Japan, Atami fell out of favor after the bubble burst. Several restaurants still serve original recipes of Japan's first take on Western cuisine (*omurice*, *tonkatsu*, spaghetti Napolitan) and many shops retain their original decor. Others, previously shuttered away, have been renewed. [travel.ataminews.gr.jp](http://travel.ataminews.gr.jp)

**OTA WARD** Famous for having the largest number of sento of any ward in Tokyo, Ota is home to many well-preserved traditional houses (one of which has been turned into the Showa Lifestyle Museum) and shops. You may even catch someone grilling *senbei* (rice crackers) on the sidewalk. [ota-tokyo.com](http://ota-tokyo.com), [www.showanokurashi.com](http://www.showanokurashi.com)

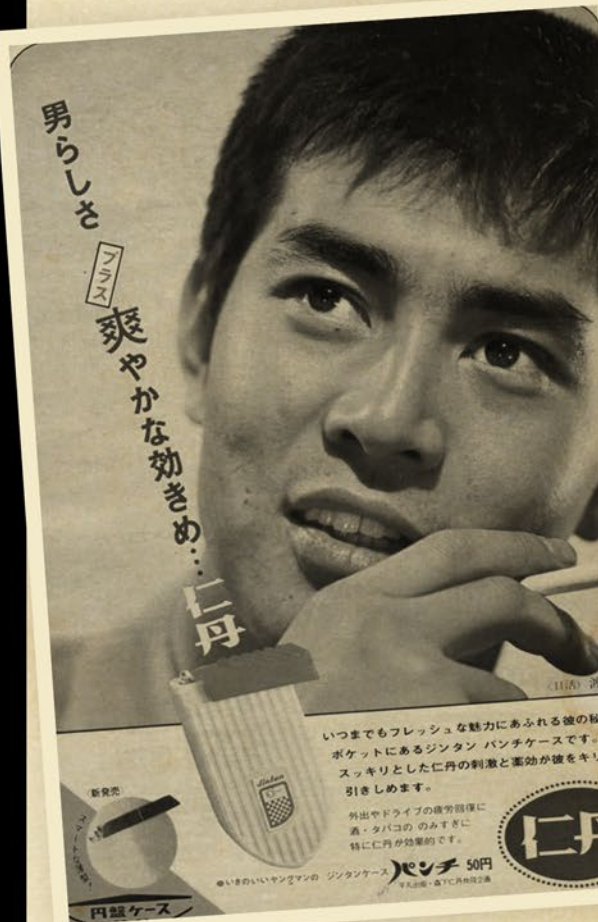
**IKAHO TOY, DOLL & CAR MUSEUM** Ikaho in Gunma is famous for its rustic onsen resort, but is also home to a delightful toy museum that doubles as a classic car museum, and a tribute to Showa idol posters. [www.ikaho-omocha.jp](http://www.ikaho-omocha.jp)

**KIRAKIRA TACHIBANA SHOTENGAI** Old shops galore line this street in Kyojima, Sumida ward, selling oden, nori and more. There are monthly morning markets on the fourth Sunday of each month for an extra local feel. [kirakira-tachibana.jp](http://kirakira-tachibana.jp)

**TIRE ICHIBA SAGAMIHARA** Although this shop's main business is selling tires and hubcaps, it's almost equally famous for its old-school vending machines selling popcorn, cup noodles, soba, udon and even hamburgers. [www.tire-ichiba.co.jp](http://www.tire-ichiba.co.jp)

**NATIONAL SHOWA MEMORIAL MUSEUM** This national facility collects, preserves and exhibits everything related to Japanese citizens' lives during and after the Second World War. [www.showakan.go.jp/pdf/showakan\\_en.pdf](http://www.showakan.go.jp/pdf/showakan_en.pdf)

Inamasu predicted this retro revival would be different from other fads. In a 2006 article in Japan Economic Forum's *Japan Spotlight*, he said the reason for this is because the generation who lived it – the *dankai sedai* (“baby boomers”) – are not only still alive and well, but are actively promoting its appeal themselves. As many of that generation have retired and volunteer in their local communities, they are able and willing to meet the demand for a glimpse of Japan's good ol' days.



## SHOW-A, WHAT NOW?

There is no doubt that Showa-era items and places are sought out by both native Japanese and non-natives alike, whether it is for the period's old world charm or its avant-garde design. It has yet to be seen if the revival will continue to thrive, but perhaps there is an advantage in considering the past for inspiration. Japan may have lost something in its rush to consumerism, and now both younger and older generations are trying to get that back. If that search includes taking off the rose-tinted glasses once in a while, the embrace of a slower charm from a bygone era may just be what this hyper, sped up, stressed out everyday needs.

\*Name has been changed





# WHY SEX CRIMES IN JAPAN GO UNREPORTED

Words by Matthew Hernon

*For starters, the country's sex crime laws have not been updated since 1907 and don't sufficiently support those who are assaulted, but there's also a culture of victim blaming. Change is on the horizon, but will it be enough to encourage people to speak out?*

**F**or the first time in more than a century the Japanese government is planning to significantly amend the country's archaic sex laws. The hope is that the legislation will be passed before the end of the Diet session on June 18, though with the attention now focused on the anti-conspiracy bill, it may be postponed until September.

The proposed revisions, which have been approved by the Cabinet, include plans to raise the minimum sentence for rapists from three to five years as well as the removal of a provision that requires victims of sexual crimes to press charges in order to prosecute. The definition of rape will be expanded to include oral and anal sex, while a new penalty will also be established for parents or guardians who sexually abuse children under the age of 18.

The prospective overhaul of the penal code is a boost for victims and support groups who believe the current laws are too lenient towards sex offenders. As things stand the minimum sentence for rape is less than that for robbery. Many perpetrators aren't taken to court as victims are often too afraid or ashamed to pursue charges. Men aren't considered potential victims as the definition of rape only covers vaginal intercourse. Also, in the eyes of the law, unless there's some form of violence or intimidation it can't be viewed as rape.

"These laws were established in 1907 and are obviously outdated," says Sachiko Osawa, co-founder of Chabudai-Gaeshi Joshi Action, a grassroots organization aimed at empowering Japanese females. "Back then women were effectively the property of households





without any rights. The minor changes since haven't made a serious difference so former justice minister Midori Matsushima pushed the Diet to act.

"The modifications are a step in the right direction, but they don't go far enough. Parents and guardians who take advantage of children are included in the legislation, but not people in power such as teachers, bosses or relatives. In countries like America and Britain rape is defined as a sexual act without consent; a word that doesn't exist in Japanese law. The new code doesn't take into account people who are scared or unable to resist."

*Mens rea* (Latin for "a guilty mind") is extremely difficult to prove so the chances of securing a rape conviction without evidence of violence or intimidation is small. False accusations, though rare, can destroy lives so authorities are cautious when it comes to sexual assault, particularly in Japan. Osawa feels this attitude can deter accusers from pursuing cases.

"Victims are asked by officers whether they're really sure about going through with the claim, why they were at the location as well as questions about clothing," Osawa says. "It leads to victim-blaming and self-doubt. The media's no different. With [actor] Yuta Takahata's case, which was settled out of court, newspapers focused heavily on the lady's attire which was irrelevant."

Concerned about how they'll be viewed, many victims fail to report sexual crimes, particularly when they know the offender.

"Contrary to popular belief, research shows that in more than 70 percent of cases the victim is familiar with the attacker," says Osawa's colleague Moe Suzuki. "Often there's no violence so people think it's acceptable. Around ten years ago a middle-aged golf instructor told his teenage student she needed to have sex with him to improve. He was found not guilty. One 24-year-old man pretending to be 18 raped a 14-year-old, but was let off because she didn't resist when he opened her legs. Whether it's judges or the police, there's simply no understanding of the word consent in this country. TV shows and films don't help. Girls are portrayed as passive and those that resist are viewed as playing hard to get."

## THE RAPE OF CATHERINE JANE FISHER

Osawa and Suzuki believe it's important, not only to change the laws in this country, but also the cultural mindset on sexual assault by educating children, police officers, judges and politicians. This is a drum that Australian mother of three Catherine Jane Fisher has been banging for more than 15 years. In 2002, she was drugged and then raped in the back of a van by former US sailor Bloke Deans at a parking lot near Yokosuka Naval Base. The attack was just the start of her ordeal.

"I thought the procedure would be to report the crime and then be escorted to the hospital," Fisher tells Weekender. "I was wrong. After 12 hours of questioning they said we'd have to return to the scene



## I HAD TO RE-ENACT THE ASSAULT WITH OFFICERS STOOD AROUND LAUGHING

of the crime to save evidence. They didn't understand that the evidence was on my body! Forensic samples were needed, not pictures of the location. I had to re-enact the assault with officers stood around laughing. It was horrific. I was finally allowed to go to hospital the next morning and they didn't even have rape kits."

Unsure of where to turn, Fisher called a rape crisis center, but only got through to an answer machine as telephone counselling services were only open a few hours a week. The case was then dismissed by Japanese courts and Deans was given an honorable discharge by the US military.

"It was like I was facing *niten ichi-ryu* (two swords at once)," Fisher says. "First the rapist struck; then the police, whom I expected to take the initial sword out, put another one in. You look to society and the courts for help and it feels like you're being stabbed again. I'm walking around with these invisible swords waiting for someone to release the pain. Finally, I realized the only solution was to rip them out myself."

Battered but not beaten, Fisher went to the civil court and won, but received no compensation. Deans had been ordered to pay ¥3 million; however, as the US navy had given him permission to leave the country, the ruling couldn't be enforced. Fisher then spent almost a decade pursuing Deans, eventually tracking him down in a prison in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

With the Japanese government refusing to help she turned to Perkins Coie law firm who took on her case pro bono.

"We did it; the original ruling from the civil case was upheld," she says. "It was the first time a foreign judgement for rape had been recognized and enforced in an American court. It was about more than the money, so I decided to settle for \$1 because I believe in the power of one. A single voice can make a difference."

"This was for all those women and men who suffer in silence. It was for the 70-year-old lady in Okinawa who told me she was raped half a century ago by an American serviceman, but kept quiet. We'll never know how many victims held their torment in over the past 70 years. In Article 16 of the States and Forces agreement it says US military men and their counterparts have to respect the laws of Japan. If the government is as adamant, as it claims to be, about eradicating sexual crimes, it must change the word respect to obey."

Since 2002 Fisher has been on a personal crusade to raise awareness of sexual assault in this country. The first individual to speak publicly about being raped in Japan, she's a regular speaker at rallies and recently launched the "I am Jane" crisis center to support and empower victims afraid to speak out.

"I've lobbied the government, achieving limited progress with funding, but the most important factor is we've given hope to victims who've contacted us," she says. "A few rape centers have popped up, but many people aren't satisfied. Some hospitals have rape kits, though one wonders whether the police are using them. Crimes go unreported and rapists continue to escape justice. I had to pursue my attacker because the laws of this land didn't protect me. Even with the revisions I don't believe much will change. To make a real difference we must treat victims with dignity and give them a voice. Silence is the friend of predators, so to break the cycle of violence we need to break the silence."



# IS NORTH KOREA A REAL THREAT?

AS KIM JONG UN CONTINUES TO LAUNCH MISSILES, AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RELEASES A GUIDE ON WHAT TO DO IN THE CASE OF A NUCLEAR ATTACK, WE DISSECT THE MOTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE RISING TENSIONS

Words by Alec Jordan

**W**alking through the arrivals section of Narita Airport earlier this week, I spotted a TV crew with mikes and cameras at the ready, looking for foreigners whose telegenic responses would explain for the thousandth time what people are looking for when they come to Japan. But along with that group of interviewers was a more ominous one: police and security forces conducting random checks on foreigners and Japanese alike. “North Korea fired another missile yesterday,” the Chiba Prefecture police officer said apologetically as he checked my papers and took down my name. “Security is tightening up.”

It’s said – and rightly so – that Japan is one of the safest countries in the world. But not too far beyond its borders, the rising specter of missile attacks from North Korea has the country weighing the feasibility of missile defense systems and its people worrying about just how quickly they might be able to seek shelter if salvos of North Korean missiles were fired at major Japanese cities.

The relationship between Japan and North Korea has been fraught with distrust and resentment since before the Korean War [see sidebar], but North Korea’s current actions have brought relations to what might be an all-time low. In this year alone, the country has test-fired 11 missiles, many of which have splashed down into the seas around Japan. President Kim Jong Un boasts of his country’s nuclear prowess, and promises to rain down destruction on the nations that lie within his missiles’ reach.

Along with the fear and anger comes curiosity: what exactly does the Hermit Nation want? According to Waseda





## “ COERCIVE AND FORCEFUL MEANS ARE ONLY POSSIBLE AT THE TREMENDOUS EXPENSE OF SOUTH KOREAN LIVES ”

University Professor Sachiko Hirakawa, the saber-rattling can be attributed to a single concern: “State survival. Maintaining this statehood ensures the permanent security of Kim’s family dynasty. People within the North Korean government are afraid that their legitimacy could easily be crushed by external powers – in their thinking, countries such as Iraq, Libya, and Syria were attacked by the US because they did not possess nuclear weapons. So they are convinced that nuclear weapons are fundamental and essential for their survival.”

This gamesmanship has brought North Korea face to face with two global super powers: the US, which is led by a figure who is almost as unpredictable, and less experienced as a national leader than Kim Jong Un; and China, which is ostensibly North Korea’s ally, but has made it clear that its tolerance for the country’s repeated nuclear tests are being sorely tested. Meanwhile, following the impeachment of former president Park Geun-hye, South Korea is being led by Moon Jae-in, a figure who has spoken of taking a more conciliatory approach with its northern neighbor – an approach that runs the risk of seeming weak.

And it is just this concern about seeming weak – in the eyes of one’s populace, and in relation to other nations – that lies at the heart of diplomatic difficulties in the region. It’s a fundamental part of the problem with North Korea, Hirakawa explains: “In order to stem the tide of North Korean aggression and military build-up, the US, Japan, and Korea need to make it clear that their joint security ability is far beyond that of North Korea ... At the same time, these countries – and China as well – must provide credible reasons and excuses for North Korea to formally abandon their current policy. Saving face, and protecting the pride of North Korea domestically and externally is extremely important.”

Having a US president who is just as prone to making extreme statements as Kim, and one who has even less

national leadership experience, doesn’t help matters. Here, Hirakawa sees that the resuscitation of multiparty talks and the work of international organizations can serve multiple purposes: “Multilateral systems such as the UN, six party talks, and the ASEAN Regional Forum, should play a role to domesticate North Korea as the long-term goal. Similarly, these institutions are useful even without North Korean participation because all of the member nations can find common interests regarding regional stability. These multilateral frameworks should replace US (Trump)-centric power politics.”

For those who might really want to pursue a military option, why doesn’t a joint US/Japanese/South Korean force just blast Kim out of power? Many an armchair diplomat or general has brought the idea up, but they’re failing to recognize just how dangerous a violent approach might be, as Hirakawa points out: “It is widely believed that US-Japan-South Korean joint operation would easily defeat North Korea and would quickly remove North Korean nuclear facilities. However, before the operation would be finished, North Korean conventional armies could retaliate on Seoul and kill a huge number of people. For example, in 1994, the US simulated that its own military action would lead to the deaths of approximately 500,000 South Korean victims, so they abandoned the military option. Geographically, Seoul is too close. Coercive and forceful means are only possible at the tremendous expense of South Korean lives.” And, it should be added, if North Korea does manage to arm its cruise missiles with nuclear payloads and make even one successful strike, there could also be a tremendous loss of lives in Japan.

These kinds of calculations may need to become more common for Japanese leaders. Fears of North Korean aggression may help drive public opinion in the direction of supporting an amendment of the Japanese Constitution’s Article 9, which currently prohibits the country from maintaining a standing army or waging war. North Korea is a safer bugbear to conjure with too, as Hirakawa points out: “bringing the issue of North Korea to the national constitutional debate is desirable [for Prime Minister Abe] because – unlike the case of China – we have no contacts at any level with North Korea and we won’t do any damage to currently existing relations.”

There are no clear signs that tensions over North Korea will abate. And with Japan rightfully ready to take a more active role in global political – and military – matters, visitors to Japan may now want to prepare both a cheerful comment for the inevitable TV crews and some sober responses for the Chiba Police.

## KEY MOMENTS IN JAPANESE/ NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS

### 1949-50

North Korea voices its disapproval of negotiations between South Korean President Syngman Rhee and Japan. (These talks would reach a boiling point over the so-called Syngman Rhee Line, which put the islands known as Takeshima, or Dokdo in Korean, within South Korean territory.)

### 1955-64

Then Foreign Minister Nam Il makes a call for cultural and financial cooperation between Japan and North Korea. Business ties between the two countries expand.

### 1960

A program, run in part by the Chongryon, an organization run by ethnic Koreans in Japan who identify with North Korea, repatriates some 600,000 Koreans from Japan to North Korea.

### 1977-83

Over a period of six years, North Korean operatives kidnap Japanese citizens (17 are officially recognized by Japan and 13 have been acknowledged by North Korea; however, an independent organization in Japan puts the number in the hundreds) in order to steal their identities or to teach Japanese to would-be spies.

### 1991

Attempts at normalization talks break down over North Korean demands for wartime compensation and Japan’s requests for nuclear inspections.

### 1998

North Korea fires a ballistic missile over Japan and into the waters off its east coast.

### 2002-04

Five Japanese kidnap victims are allowed to return to Japan, following a visit to North Korea by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Two years later, after another visit by Koizumi, five children of two of the returned couples are allowed to come to Japan.

### 2014

A BBC World Service poll finds that 91 percent of Japanese respondents view North Korea’s influence on the world negatively, the worst estimation recorded by any other country in the world.

### 2016-17

A series of missile tests by North Korea land projectiles in waters off the coast of Japan – both inside and outside of the country’s exclusive economic zone.



# FROM GANGNAM STYLE TO GLOBAL STARDOM

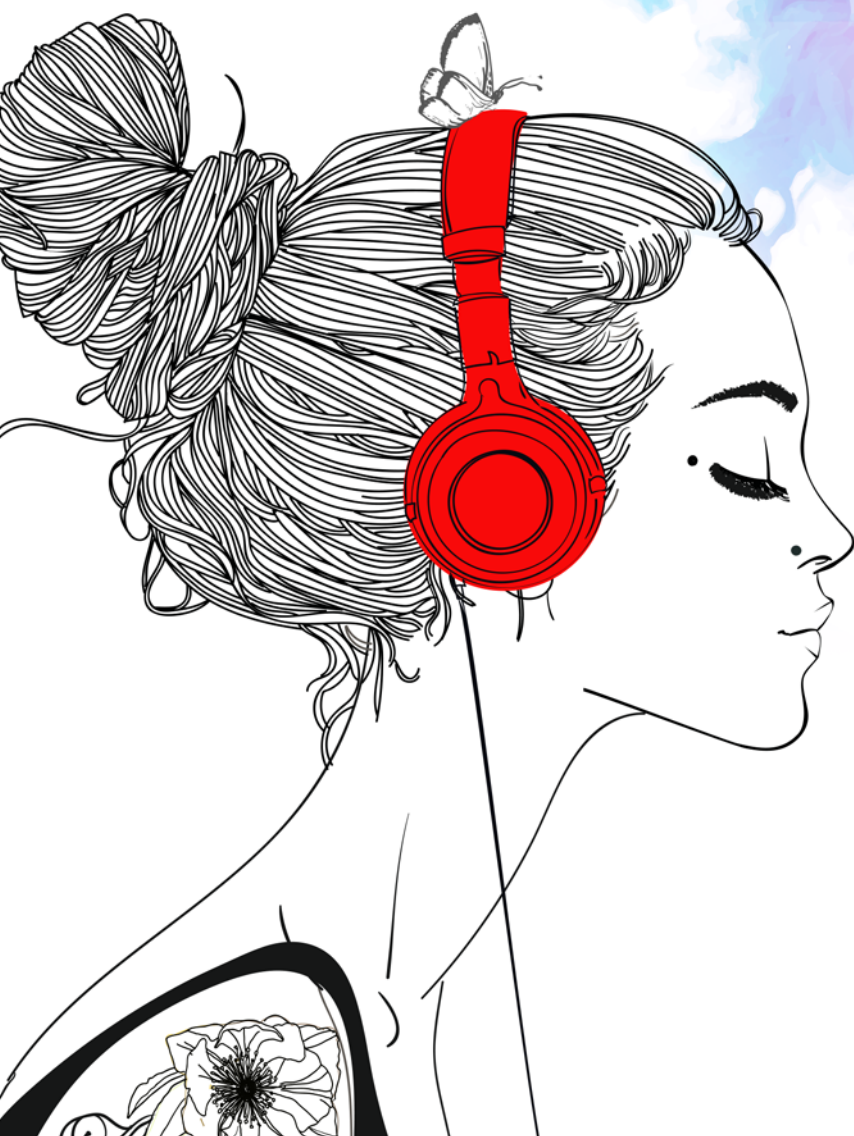
MEANWHILE IN SOUTH KOREA ...

K-POP IS GOING GLOBAL. BUNNY BISSOUX

EXPLORES THE NEW KOREAN WAVE, AND

SHOWS THERE'S MORE TO K-POP THAN

"THAT GUY DOING THE HORSE RIDING DANCE"



May was a good month for K-pop fans. Five years after “Gangnam Style” mania, PSY released his latest album, *PSY 8th 4X2=8*. In Tokyo, the world’s largest Korean culture festival, KCON, was held over three days at Makuhari Messe, attracting more than 30,000 visitors. And seven-member boyband BTS won the Billboard Music Award for Top Social Artist, defeating Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez in an impressive landslide voting victory – and leaving mainstream American media awash with confusion at exactly who BTS is, and how, as CNN Entertainment put it, they are “Bigger than Bieber?”

The unmitigated scale of K-pop’s popularity is becoming impossible to deny, as fans’ enthusiasm co-opts Google search results and hashtags for everything from awards shows to the recent South Korean presidential election. The artists might not yet be established as household names, but people everywhere are finally noticing that there’s more to K-pop than “that guy doing the horse riding dance.” So how did the genre rise through Asia and beyond?

## FIRST STOP, JAPAN

Hallyu, or The Korean Wave, first washed over Japan’s shores in the early 2000s as romantic Korean TV dramas captivated housewives with their sentimental stories and handsome stars. Soundtracks packed with heart-felt, tender ballads served as the perfect bait to hook a fanbase for the singers and numerous idol groups, which had become a bubbling trend in South Korea. TVXQ (a.k.a. Tohoshinki) and BIGBANG were some of the first





to succeed in the overseas market with original

Japanese songs and charming TV appearances.

As Japan's interest in K-pop began to increase, Super Junior, Girl's Generation, KARA and dozens more groups followed suit. By 2011 K-pop had swept across the nation, topping the charts and selling out arenas.

Korean idol groups were exotic and exciting, strikingly different from the cute and wholesome J-pop idols that had remained relatively unchanged (both visually and musically) since the 1980s. The public was captivated by impeccable dance routines, fresh fashions, long legs and sex appeal. The music also brought something new to the charts: impressive vocalists and charismatic rappers on top of progressive production which introduced contemporary Western influences, mixing elements of EDM, dubstep and R&B. K-pop steadily saturated the airwaves, shops and streets, earning its own section in record stores and perpetuating a thriving industry of unofficial goods and K-culture tourism in Shinjuku's Korean neighborhood.

Though many underestimated its staying power, and political tension between Japan and Korea yielded occasional protests, new groups and performers promote relentlessly, continuing to compete for fans' affections. It seems that nothing can stop the enduring Hallyu obsession: last month, bigger-than-Bieber boyband BTS topped the Oricon singles chart with the Japanese version of their song "Blood, Sweat & Tears." The original Korean version had been the group's biggest hit to date, with over one million domestic sales, later appearing on what became South Korea's best-selling album of 2016: *Wings* (re-released as *You Never Walk Alone*).

## NEXT, THE WORLD

The same album reached number 26 on the American Billboard 200, the highest-ranking position of any K-pop artist to date. Overseas popularity snowballed, and the past few years have seen numerous groups including BTS, BIGBANG and EXO embarking on world tours.

Before BTS's overseas success, however, most people outside of Asia had been oblivious to the rising K-pop boom until PSY's "Gangnam Style" took the internet by storm in 2012. The viral hit remains the most

watched video on YouTube, nearing three billion views to date. A middle-aged man's novelty party song is an unlikely representation of the K-pop realm, but it showed fellow Korean artists the power of YouTube, vivid music videos, slick production and catchy songs.

These days, Korean entertainment companies, such as YG Entertainment, have the resources to work with handpicked international songwriters, producers and visual creatives. These powerhouse teams combined with group members' painstakingly maintained good looks and years of intense (and allegedly sometimes unreasonably strict) dance and vocal training are producing some of the most musically interesting and aesthetically inventive movements in modern pop.

BIGBANG's leader – rapper, singer-songwriter and producer G-Dragon – has long held Korea's fashion icon crown. In fact, his unique personal style found him appearing in the Western press long before anyone overseas had even heard his music. He makes regular appearances at Fashion Weeks, is on first-name basis with Karl Lagerfeld, and launched his own fashion brand, Peaceminusone, last year. In terms of his music, G-Dragon is adept at spanning genres and blending inspirations to create new trends, and his

work as part of YG Entertainment's production team has become synonymous with the agency's recognizable trademark sound: classic old skool hip hop beats reinvented and injected with dance music breaks and swooping melodic hooks.

## AND BACK HOME AGAIN

K-pop's overseas expansion is, in turn, feeding back into the domestic market where masses of wannabe stars now have their eyes fixed on a global stage. The sheer number of K-pop groups has led to increasingly fragmented sub-sections appearing on the musical landscape, and a blurring of genres and boundaries. Indie musicians and underground rappers are regularly absorbed into and usurped by major companies. Some "manufactured" idols play their own instruments and write their own songs, yet it's rare for independent rock bands to survive when it comes to chart rankings or TV exposure.

Hyukoh, a four-piece indie band, seems to be an exception. The band's anthemic pop songs feature jangling guitars over driving basslines, mixing influences from Britpop, American rock, folk, Korean and Chinese music, led by trilingual frontman Oh Hyuk's distinct and powerful vocals. Within South Korea, Hyukoh's widespread appeal seems to transcend predisposed musical tastes, which could simply be a testament to their music or perhaps a precursor to a shifting appetite towards more analog-based guitar bands.

Where there was once a clear divide between Korean hip hop (with its roots in the underground rap scene and B-boy culture) and the less respected "hip-hop style" idol groups (where rappers were often criticized for lack of talent and inauthenticity), the two sides seem close to converging. *Show Me The Money*, a reality TV show where aspiring rappers compete under the guidance of famous rappers, seems to bridge the gap between the underground and mainstream: the contest's third season was won by Bobby, a trainee at YG Entertainment, who earned the respect of the audience and judges despite simultaneously preparing to debut in an idol group (IKON).

Big names like G-Dragon, Jay Park and Zico could all be described as crossover artists. Zico is a successful songwriter as well as the leader and main rapper of mainstream idol group Block B. He also maintains an active presence in the Korean hip hop scene, frequently collaborating with solo singers like Crush and Dean, who ironically both receive idol-like levels of fame and adoration from fans. It's difficult to define what exactly constitutes an idol these days and where the defining factors of the K-pop label begin and end. To overseas listeners, in particular, diverse genres have become assimilated under the same bracket.

Even if you *can* settle on a definition of K-pop, when it comes to idols it would be a mistake to judge them on audio output alone – after all, this is an industry that has been designed to be both seen and heard.

## WHERE TO GET A DOSE OF K-POP

*Three upcoming gigs and where to go for a meet-and-greet*



**BTS:** 2017 BTS Live Trilogy Episode III: The Wings Tour, June 20-22, Saitama Super Arena

**HYUKOH:** Summer Sonic Festival, August 19, Makuhari Messe

**G-DRAGON:** ACT III, M.O.T.T.E World Tour, September 19-20, Tokyo Dome

**SHOWBOX:** To experience live K-pop in a more intimate setting, this is the place to go. The venue hosts events, fan meetings and concerts by new or lesser-known groups in addition to a revolving regular schedule of Japan-based K-idols. Fans (and performers) can often be spotted loitering outside, and if you find yourself joining them you might even be charmed into paying extra for meet-and-greet privileges (think Polaroid pictures and hugs). 1-17-8 Okubo Shinjuku-ku, [www.showbox.jp](http://www.showbox.jp)



# SECRET GARDENS IN TOKYO

WITH SUMMER ON ITS WAY, GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY OUR SELECTION

OF SOME OF TOKYO'S LESSER-KNOWN GARDEN TREASURES

Words by Bunry Bissoux



## TONOGAYATO GARDEN

This Japanese garden in Kokubunji was constructed in 1913 and has been open to the public since 1974. Taking advantage of the natural valley terrain, the garden's charm lies in the stark contrast between the lush open lawn at the top and the bamboo forest and waterfall below. The large fresh water pond boasts a natural spring, in addition to smaller goldfish ponds. A wide array of flowers, a wisteria trellis and a delightful tea house can also be enjoyed in the appropriate seasons. **Admission:** ¥150. 2-16 Minami-machi, Kokubunji City. [teien.tokyo-park.or.jp/en/tonogayato](http://teien.tokyo-park.or.jp/en/tonogayato)

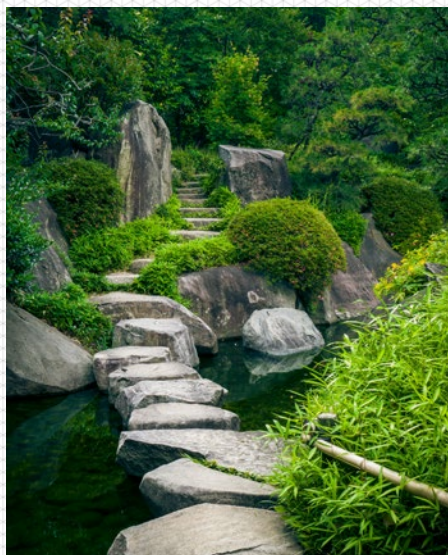


## MUKOJIMA-HYAKKAEN GARDEN

This historic Edo flower garden is located in a quiet corner of Sumida-ku with clear views of the nearby Tokyo Skytree. Originally it was populated mainly by plum trees, many of which were replaced over time to make sure the garden would be in bloom all year round. Though small in number, the variety of flowers and plants from all over Japan provide a wonderful setting for quiet contemplation, or perhaps a romantic stroll. A welcome respite from the urban landscape of the modern metropolis. **Admission:** ¥150. 3-18-3 Higashi-Mukojima, Sumida-ku. [tinyurl.com/TWmukojima](http://tinyurl.com/TWmukojima)

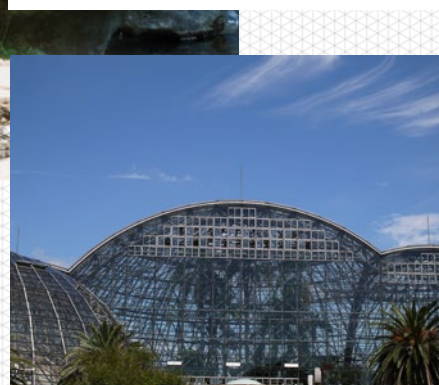
## MEJIRO TEIN

The perfect sanctuary to escape from busy city life. Hidden away in a quiet residential area, this impeccably maintained garden centers around a pond with stepping stones and hexagonal shaped floating hall. The construction and design make the most of the garden structures, creating a harmony between nature and manmade elements. A wide variety of plants and trees can be experienced all year round, and there is also a small grass area suitable for a relaxing picnic. As you look out across the water, the beautiful Zen atmosphere is guaranteed to offer a moment of calm. **Admission:** Free. 3-20-18 Mejiro, Toshima-ku. [www.seibu-la.co.jp/mejiro-garden](http://www.seibu-la.co.jp/mejiro-garden)



## YUMENOSHIMA TROPICAL GREENHOUSE DOME

Located on the reclaimed landfill Yumenoshima ("Dream Island"), this botanical garden was opened in 1988. Over 1,000 species of tropical and semi-tropical plants are housed inside the three interconnected domes, in addition to an exhibition hall, theater, café and shop. Each dome presents a different climatic zone – from rain forest to "tropical village" and plants from the Ogasawara Islands. Alongside the ferns, palms and rubber trees, there are other unusual plants on display, including aquatic and carnivorous varieties. **Admission:** ¥250. 2-1-2 Yumenoshima, Koto-ku. [www.yumenoshima.jp/english.html](http://www.yumenoshima.jp/english.html)



## NEZU MUSEUM GARDEN

The private garden of Nezu Museum is only open to exhibition visitors but well worth the admission price to marvel at the architecture and grounds. The garden was severely damaged during the Second World War but still retains many period features, including several tea houses and various statues. Two ponds are connected by small streams amongst the dense foliage and natural landscape. A modern glass-walled café overlooks the gardens so you can enjoy the view whilst you dine. **Admission:** ¥1,000 for museum (includes garden access). 6-5-1 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku. [www.nezu-muse.or.jp/jp/guide/garden.html](http://www.nezu-muse.or.jp/jp/guide/garden.html)





# 4 UNUSUAL WAYS TO ENJOY YOKOHAMA

SERVING AS A KIND OF PORTAL BETWEEN PAST AND FUTURE, YOKOHAMA BOASTS BOTH RETRO AND MODERN ATTRACTIONS. HERE ARE A FEW TOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A DIFFERENT DAY OUT

Yokohama Port opened to the world in 1859 and the city served as a gateway to the West, creating a cultural exchange between Japan and the rest of the world. These early influences on people's lives can still be seen, as the city embraces both modern technology and traditional aesthetics...

## SIGHTSEEING IN STYLE: THE HAKAMA EXPERIENCE AT KIMONO STATION

Many visitors rent kimono, but the hakama is a rare sight. The hakama is a form of traditional Japanese clothing, combining a kimono with a large, pleated skirt. Worn daily as a school uniform in the early 1900s, the hakama silhouette is usually only seen in spring these days, when young women wear them to their university graduation ceremonies. Yokohama was, and still is, particularly famous for the signature style of combining hakama with Western accessories – black high-heeled boots in particular. The hakama's wide skirt not only makes it easier to walk than when wearing kimono, it's also devilishly stylish. To make a memory that'll last a lifetime, guests should book their appointments early in the day to make the most of the one-day rental system.

[yokohama.kimonostation.com](http://yokohama.kimonostation.com)



## RETRO TRAVEL: AKAI KUTSU BUS

Transport yourself into another time with this charming retro-style bus that serves almost 50 of the city's most popular tourist destinations on several different routes. For just ¥220 per ride for adults (¥110 for kids), it's a great way to see Yokohama. The Minato Burari one-day pass is also a steal, starting at ¥500, for those wanting to hop on and off throughout the day, as well as use municipal subways and buses (limited to certain areas) – and it also offers discounts at 90 facilities in the city. The bus's namesake, Akai Kutsu, means “red shoes” and comes from a traditional song that is famous in Yokohama, telling the bittersweet story of a girl who was adopted by missionaries from America and sailed across the ocean. This girl wore red shoes, and there is a statue dedicated to her in Yamashita Park, one of the bus's many destinations.

[tinyurl.com/TWakai-kutsu](http://tinyurl.com/TWakai-kutsu)

## BRAVE THE WAVES: SEA BASS

As Yokohama is a port city, traveling on the waves is surely a must. The Sea Bass is a water bus that drops by Minato Mirai and the Red Brick Warehouse, among other popular tourist stops. Visitors can choose between the outdoor deck at the back of the water bus to embrace the sea breeze, or

pop indoors to enjoy the ride with a view in comfort. The boat leaves every 15 minutes, and the fee depends on how far you want to go. It's a great way to see the harbor and you can go straight from Yokohama Station all the way to Yamashita Park, avoiding all the crowds while you take in the city and ocean views. [tinyurl.com/TWcruise-guide](http://tinyurl.com/TWcruise-guide)

## STATE-OF-THE-ART NATURE ADVENTURE: ORBI

Yokohama is home to one of the most innovative interactive museums in the world, offering a supercharged nature experience without having to worry about bad weather. This giant facility, located inside shopping complex Minato Mark IS, integrates SEGA's technology with BBC Earth's in-depth knowledge of nature to create a unique experience taking visitors across the world into the skies, under the sea, into the jungle and more. Along with interactive screen exhibits and animal-inspired selfie booths, there is a movie experience with a difference at Theatre 23.4 (named for the Earth's axial tilt). The theater's 40-meter-wide and eight-meter-high screen, and special wind, fog and vibration effects will take you deep into the wilderness. [orbiearth.jp](http://orbiearth.jp)





**Q:** WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

**A:** AN AFRICAN TRIBAL WARRIOR

MEET THE JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO HAS VISITED AROUND 17 AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO DOCUMENT LOCAL TRIBES AND SHOW THE CONTINENT IN A MORE POSITIVE LIGHT



Words by Matthew Hernon

At the age of five Nagi Yoshida was clear in her mind about what she wanted to be as an adult. While other kids dreamed about becoming superheroes, professional athletes and astronauts, she had already decided on a career as an African tribal warrior. Not exactly an obvious choice for a young girl growing up in Japan, but she didn't care about that. A TV program about a Maasai village in Kenya convinced her that it was the only way to go.

Unfortunately for Yoshida, due to her background and ethnicity, it was a dream that was about as realistic as becoming a superhero. To experience the life of a tribesperson in Africa she would have to go down a different route, so that's what she did. Here, she shares her story with Weekender...

**AT TEN I WAS TOLD BY MOTHER THAT IT WASN'T A JOB** so it would be impossible for someone like me to be part of a tribe. While this was heartbreaking to hear, it didn't put me off going to Africa. People around me only seemed to speak about the negative aspects of the





“

THEY STARTED TALKING ABOUT THIS CRAZY JAPANESE  
LADY WHO STRIPPED OFF AND TOOK PART IN THE RITUALS  
OF THE HIMBA TRIBE OF NAMIBIA

”





continent: corruption, disease, war, and so on. This annoyed me as they'd never been there. It made me more determined to go. After working as an illustrator, I finally went at the age of 23.

### **MY MAIDEN JOURNEY TOOK ME TO ETHIOPIA.**

Having never been officially colonized [Mussolini's Italy did conquer the country in 1936, but during a five-year period never maintained full order], I felt it would be the best place to meet tribal people. It wasn't quite as I envisaged. The tribes I visited were very business-orientated: give us money and you can take a picture. Of course, I understand why, it was just a bit disappointing. The warmth I felt from locals, however, was like the Africa I'd imagined as a child.

### **THE NEXT COUNTRIES I VISITED WERE MALI AND BURKINA FASO.**

In both places, I had selfish guides who tried to have sex with me. These experiences didn't tarnish my impression of Africa; they just made me realize I needed to be stronger and less naive. Over the past eight years I've visited around 17 African nations and learned so much in each. I've also traveled around much of Asia. Spending time in India with Sadhus – Hindu men who shun the material world for a life of asceticism – was particularly fascinating.

### **I ONLY STARTED TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS PROPERLY TWO YEARS AGO.**

In Japan, the image people have of Africa is often based on Kevin Carter's Pulitzer Prize-winning picture of the







famine-stricken Sudanese girl lying on the floor while a vulture eyes her from behind. Of course, in certain areas, this is a realistic portrayal, but I wanted to show the continent in a more positive light. I've stayed in homes made of cow faeces and you think these people are so poor, yet they don't feel like that. There's so much joy within the communities and that's what I hoped to convey in my photos.

**MY MOST RECENT TRIP WAS ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE.** I visited the Boro-oro tribe in Niger where they have a male beauty contest. Participants emphasize the whiteness of their eyes and teeth, which is meant to look cool, though some might find it bizarre. I also enjoyed Kibish in Southern Ethiopia, where I met the Suri tribe. Unlike the tribes during my first trip, they were just fun people that look amazing. It was





**IN THAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT, IT'S COMPLETELY NATURAL TO BE NAKED** so I wasn't nervous at all; just excited. I probably felt the way kids do when they dress up in their favourite superhero costume. My dad's not very happy about seeing me without clothes, though. When he Googles my name the words "nude" and "nipple" come up. He worries about me going out there, but I have no intention of stopping. The next African country on my list is South Sudan. Before that I'm planning to visit the indigenous Yanomami tribe of the Amazon rainforest.

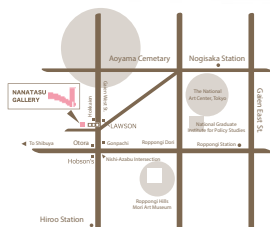
*Yoshida's photos are on display at Seibu Sogo Shibuya's gallery until June 26. 8F, 21-1 Udagawa-cho, Shibuya-ku. More information at [nagi-yoshida.com](http://nagi-yoshida.com)*

well worth the three-hour bumpy drive from Addis Abba. The kids asked me how long it would take in the car to Japan.

**ONE MEMORY THAT STICKS IN MY MIND WAS WHEN I DRANK WITH CITY-DWELLING MAASAI IN TANZANIA.** I told them where I was from and they started talking about a crazy Japanese lady they'd seen online who they respected because she stripped off and took part in the rituals of Namibia's Himba tribe. They obviously didn't recognize me so I told them I was the girl, and showed pictures on my cellphone. They were very excited and everyone wanted a photo. It was a surreal night.







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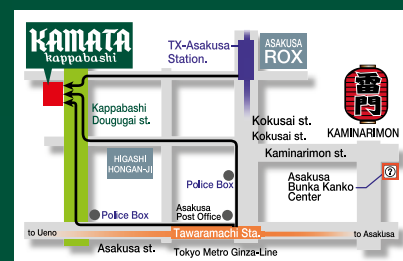
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# CAREERS

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Sunny Side Up Career and  
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opportunities

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## PHP ENGINEER

A digital solutions company working with luxury fashion brands is seeking a PHP engineer. The company works with small, luxury companies, providing e-commerce services, website design, customer services etc. Their ideal candidate is someone capable of troubleshooting, testing and maintaining the core product software and databases to ensure strong optimization and functionality.

### Requirements:

- Proven PHP development experience
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to keep code clean
- Japanese language level: proficient

**Location:** Central Tokyo

**Salary:** Competitive (based on experience)

## WEB DESIGNER

Advertisement and sales promotion production company is seeking a web designer for its IT team. The company deals with the planning and production of a wide variety of media such as advertisements, editorials and digital tools. They have recently acquired a number of international clients, so a candidate with excellent English skills is required.

### Requirements:

- Proven work experience as a web designer
- Proficiency in HTML
- Excellent visual design skills with sensitivity to user-system interaction
- Portfolio
- Japanese language level: proficient

**Location:** Central Tokyo

**Salary:** Competitive (based on experience)

## PRODUCT PR ASSISTANT MANAGER

Louis Vuitton Japan is looking for a PR Assistant Manager to maximize on editorial exposure for their womenswear range. The job will entail maintaining smooth communication with internal and external parties, managing seasonal product presentations, and supporting product placement amongst opinion leaders and influencers.

### Requirements:

- Minimum seven years' experience in the fashion industry, with a focus on womenswear
- Strong media network
- English language level: business

**Location:** Tokyo

**Salary:** Competitive (based on experience)

## RETAIL MARKETING ASSISTANT

Triumph is seeking a candidate to help improve the consumer experience and brand perception across all key touch points in store with the end goal of driving commercial success. The role involves partnering with the sales team to create in-store strategies, and establishing a collaborative leadership style of trust and integrity.

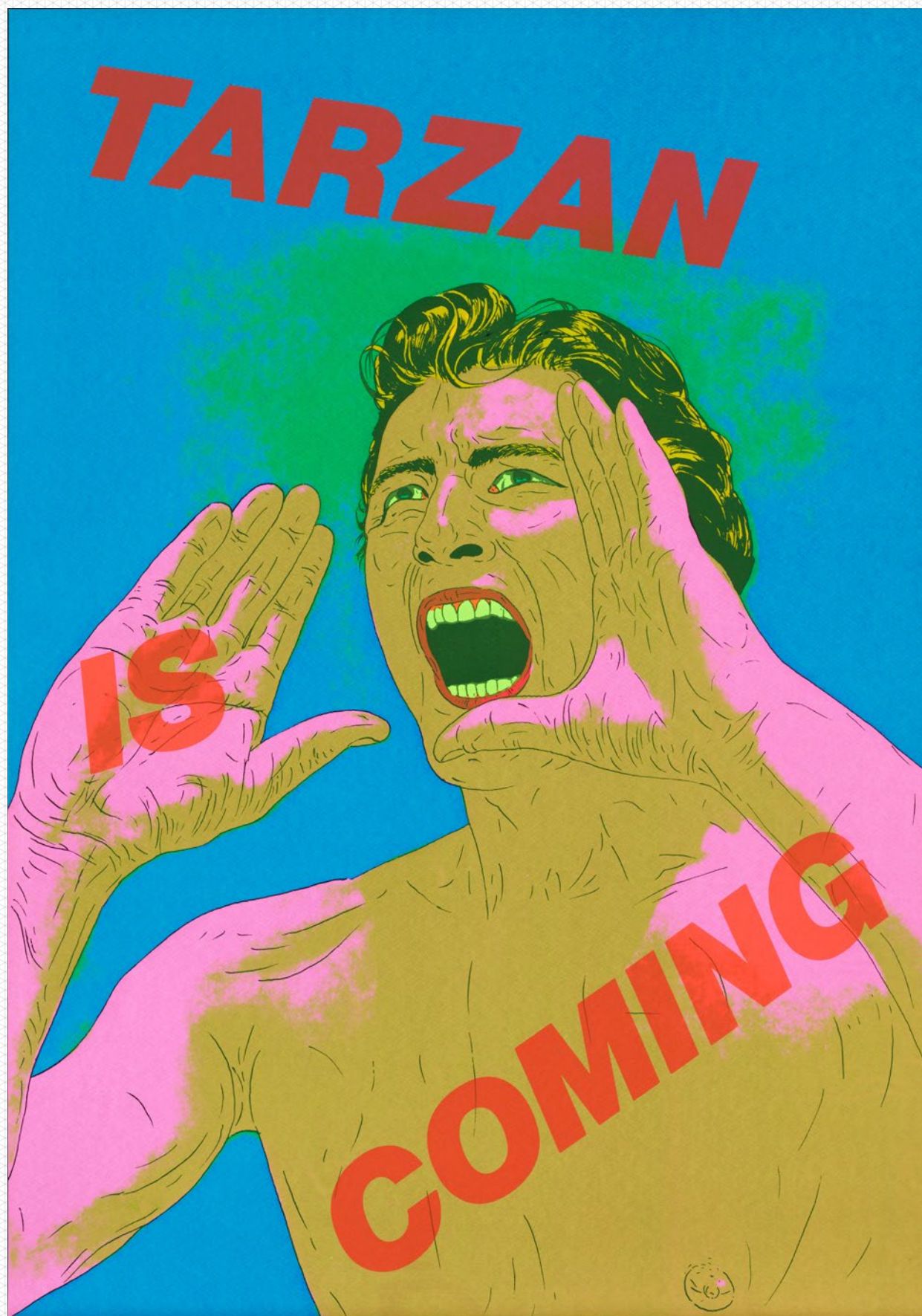
### Requirements:

- Minimum five years' marketing experience in multinational consumer goods companies, retail or fashion industry experience in areas of in-store communication, preferably in Japanese market or culture
- University degree and proficiency in Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suite
- Japanese and English language level: business

**Location:** Central Tokyo

**Salary:** Competitive (based on experience)





Tarzan is Coming (Green), 1974, Yayoi Kusama, Collection of the Yayoi Kusama Museum of Contemporary Art

## LISTEN UP!

This month, discover the work of a street photographer who finds beauty around every corner, trip out on psychedelic prints, and spend an evening among the fireflies.





Blue Wonderland, 1965, Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts

## YOKOO TADANORI PRINTS RETROSPECTIVE – HANGA JUNGLE

Take a long, psychedelic gander at the work of Yokoo Tadanori at this retrospective exhibit at the Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts. Yokoo cut his teeth producing posters for underground theater productions in the 1960s, and he developed his signature style at the time – dense, multilayered prints in which the organizing principle is instinct and impulse, giving colorful examples of the “jungle” that makes up part of the exhibition’s name. As you browse the some 250 works on display, you’ll see why famed photographer Mika Ninagawa ranks this seminal figure from the 1960s as one of her most significant visual influences. **Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts** Until June 18 [hanga-museum.jp/english/exhibition\\_yokoo](http://hanga-museum.jp/english/exhibition_yokoo)

# THE ART WORLD

## OUR PICK OF THE CITY’S BEST EXHIBITIONS

Compiled by Alec Jordan



Eric Carle, Walter The Baker, original print, 1972. The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, ©1972 and 1995 Eric Carle

### THE ART OF ERIC CARLE

Best known for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, a book that has entertained generations of children from around the world, illustrator Eric Carle’s bold use of color and inventive use of collages constructed from pieces of hand-painted paper has created a body of work that deserves to be appreciated in its own right. This exhibition puts together more than 160 items that range from original drawings to various odds and ends drawn from his decades-long career. **Setagaya Art Museum** Until July 2 [ericcarle2017-18.com/](http://ericcarle2017-18.com/)





Saul Leiter, Footprints, circa 1950, color print, Saul Leiter Foundation Collection ©Saul Leiter Estate

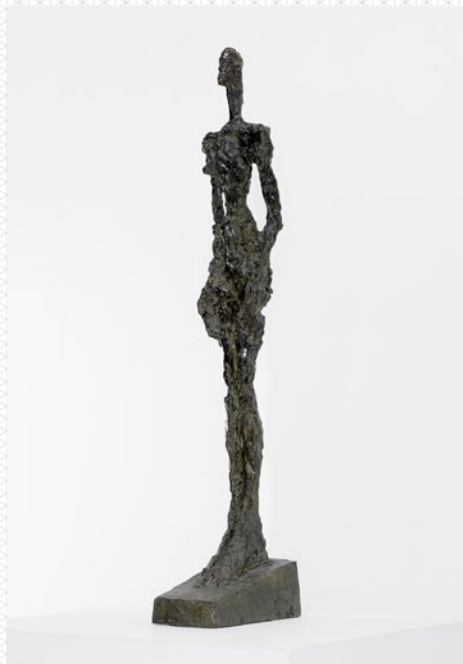
## SAUL LEITER: A RETROSPECTIVE

Saul Leiter is one of the grand figures of American street photography. He was also unapologetic about seeking out scenes of beauty on the streets of New York City. Here quoted in the film dedicated to his life and work, *In No Great Hurry*, Leiter says, "I may be old-fashioned, but I believe there is such a thing as a search for beauty – a delight in the nice things in the world." Stroll through the decades and streets of Leiter's metropolis at this extensive Bunkamura exhibit. **Bunkamura The Museum** Until June 25 [www.bunkamura.co.jp/english/museum/](http://www.bunkamura.co.jp/english/museum/)

## ALBERTO GIACOMETTI COLLECTION FONDATION

### MARGUERITE ET AIMÉ MAEGHT

The extraordinarily attenuated figures that the Swiss-born Alberto Giacometti is known for bear little resemblance to the human beings that we see around us, but they are the product of the artist's struggle to represent what he actually did see. In doing so, he provided a visual metaphor for the idea of human beings stretched too thin by the demands of modern life. This more than 135-piece exhibit brings together pieces from the collections of the Fondation Maeght, the Fondation Giacometti, and those of domestic collectors of this seminal figure of modern sculpture. **The National Art Center, Tokyo** Until September 4 [www.tbs.co.jp/giacometti2017/](http://www.tbs.co.jp/giacometti2017/)



Alberto Giacometti, Woman of Venice I, Bronze, 1956, Archives Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul de Vence (France)

# F FILM

*We dropped by the press preview of film distributor GAGA's lineup for the year to come, and these were three of the movies that we can't wait to see on Japanese screens*



### FULL SPEED

At the beginning of the French summer holidays, a family – dad,

very pregnant mom, two kids, and grandpa – and one hitchhiker all find themselves in a cherry red minivan. So far, so boring, right? But set the cruise control at about 130km/h, with no way to change it back, and send it full speed ahead towards a monster traffic jam? Well, you've got one of the most popular French comedies of 2016. *In theaters July*



### HOW TO TALK TO GIRLS AT PARTIES

Your standard boy meets girl, boy finds out

that girl is actually one of a colony of space aliens visiting the planet to learn about earthly ways kind of film, but this one is set in 1977 with a punk soundtrack and starring roles by Elle Fanning, Alex Sharp, and Nicole Kidman. Based on a short story by Neil Gaiman. *In theaters December*



### KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS

Rendered in stop-motion animation that is meant to look like a

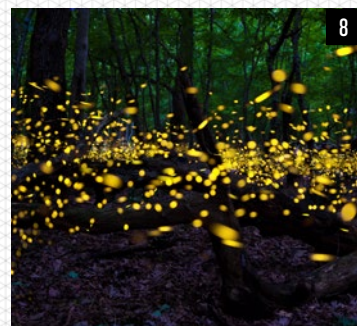
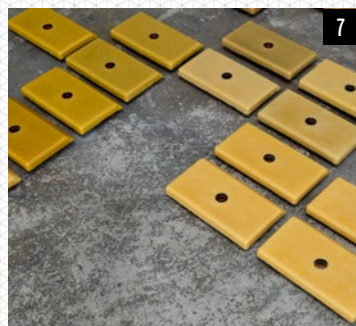
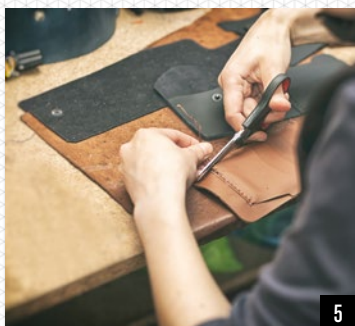
woodblock print in motion, this film features the voice talents of Charlize Theron, Matthew McConaughey, Ralph Fiennes, and George Takei, and tells the tale of a young boy named Kubo, who uses the magic of his shamisen and the power of his ancestors to vanquish a series of villainous threats. *In theaters Fall 2017*

Image credits

*Full Speed*, © 2016 Chic Films – La Petite Reine Production – M6 Films – Wild Bunch  
*How to Talk to Girls at Parties*, © COLONY FILMS LIMITED 2016  
*Kubo and the Two Strings*, ©2016 Two Strings, LLC



# G@guide AGENDA



## AGENDA: THE WEEKENDER ROUNDUP OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE

1 JUN 6-11

### TSUKIJI SHISHI MATSURI

Held over a five-day period, this is a fairly raucous festival featuring shishi lions with origins in the Edo period, originally celebrating the successful reclamation of land from the ocean.

**Where:** Tsukiji Namioka Shrine

**How much:** Free

**More info:** [www.namiyoke.or.jp](http://www.namiyoke.or.jp)

2 JUN 7-17

### SANNO MATSURI

Apart from the typical mikoshi procession through the streets, this action-packed matsuri also has traditional Kagura Hayashi dance performances, children's parades, Sanno-taiko drum acts, and more.

**Where:** Hie Shrine

**How much:** Free

**More info:** [www.tenkamatsuri.jp](http://www.tenkamatsuri.jp)

3 JUN 25

### OEDO ANTIQUE MARKET

An offshoot of the largest outdoor antique market in Japan, this once-a-month fair has about 150 dealers touting old heirlooms and more.

**Where:** Yoyogi Park Events Square

**How much:** Free

**More info:** [www.antique-market.jp/english](http://www.antique-market.jp/english)

4 JUN 1-18

### KATSUSHIKA IRIS FESTIVAL

This flower festival spans two areas – a verdant garden and an expansive park – with 6,000 and 14,000 blossoms respectively.

**Where:** Horikiri Shobuen Iris Garden, Mizumoto Park

**How much:** Free

**More info:** [www.tokyoweekender.com](http://www.tokyoweekender.com)

5 JUN 1-30

### LEATHERWORKING WORKSHOP

Learn a new skill and make a keyring, a pencil case or a pleated wallet. Held every Saturday and Sunday in June at 1pm and 3:30pm. Reservations required.

**Where:** Yazzie Taise

**How much:** From ¥2,000

**More info:** [www.yazzietaise.co.jp](http://www.yazzietaise.co.jp)

6 JUN 29

### TEA CEREMONY AT SUNTORY MUSEUM OF ART

A few times each month, the museum invites you to experience a traditional tea ceremony inside its beautiful Genchoan Tea Ceremony Room.

**Where:** Suntory Museum of Art

**How much:** ¥1,000

**More info:** [www.tokyoweekender.com](http://www.tokyoweekender.com)

7 JUN 18-25

### DANIEL SILVA - HND

This first segment in a series of cohesive art interventions begins with an immersion in the Setouchi Inland Sea, featuring a body of work that transcends traditional art spaces.

**Where:** Outpost-81

**How much:** Free

**More info:** [www.tokyoweekender.com](http://www.tokyoweekender.com)

8 JUN 3-18

### EVENING LIT BY FIREFLIES

Spend a magical evening viewing roughly 2,500 fireflies float gently in the evening sky near the Kitaasa river.

**Where:** Yuyake Koyake Fureai no Sato

**How much:** Free between 6pm-9pm

**More info:** [www.tokyoweekender.com](http://www.tokyoweekender.com)





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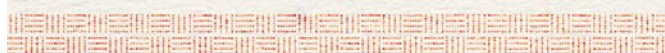


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# People, Parties, Places

## TOKYO'S LONGEST RUNNING SOCIETY PAGE WITH BILL HERSEY

**M**y travel plans for Golden Week just didn't work out, so I postponed them until after the holidays. I was feeling sort of down about this but ended up having some great times with long time friends – some whom I had lost track of over the years – meeting some new and interesting people, and going to all kinds of special happenings right here in Tokyo. Like everyone I know, I love your city Koike-san: keep up the good work!

I got a lovely letter from Heather Foley, the wife of the late and great US Ambassador to Japan, Tom Foley. Heather lives in Washington DC now, but has been to Tokyo several times in search of funding to help support a program established in honor of Tom. The Japan US Friendship Commission hopes to honor Tom's legacy by building new relationships between Japanese elected officials and policy experts. For more information, you can email Heather at [hsfoley@gmail.com](mailto:hsfoley@gmail.com).

It was also a pleasant surprise to hear from Chino d'Avilla, a Puerto Rican breakdancer who was one of a talented group of three Latin girls and six Latin guys. I went to New York to audition them and bring them to Japan in 1983. Back then I was working for A-Project, whose owners, Reiko Ikeguchi and her brother Shozo Tanimoto, were real pioneers in Tokyo's night life, and between them

had dozens of different discos, restaurants, bars and clubs, all of them really first class. At the time I was working on a big promotion for the hit film *Flashdance*. I knew the stars, Jennifer Beals and Michael Nouri, were coming to promote the film, so I brought the New York group Dancers Dimension over for several weeks. In addition to performing some dynamic shows at A-Project's many venues, they joined Jennifer and Michael in judging young Japanese dancers in a *Flashdance* contest and gave many of the contestants the chance to win several days in Los Angeles with a schedule of activities that included a night out at LA's top clubs. Sometimes we had a few problems: minor things like smudging off makeup or ripping off fashion accessories – remember, these were mostly street kids – but it wasn't ever that bad. Anyway, Reiko and Shozo were great and we were even able to take Dancers Dimension to Tokyo Disneyland for a full day. In 1983 Chino – whose real name is Irving Lavilla – was just 15, and his 18-year-old brother was also in the

group. Chino doesn't dance much any more, but he did do a show in Israel with Mick Jagger and George Michael a while ago. He still does some DJing in the Big Apple and sometimes judges dance contests.

### LOTS OF HAPPENINGS IN OLD EDO

Tokyo was super busy during Golden Week, with fun and interesting things for just about everyone. I really enjoyed the Cambodian song, dance, food and culture at the embassy's festival in Yoyogi Park. I also had a great time at the Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Odaiba, at Yoyogi Park, and in a few clubs. When I lived in Phoenix, Arizona, for three years and then three years in San Diego, the majority of my friends

were Native Americans or Mexican. I used to drive to Nogales and Tijuana almost every weekend to see the bull fights, enjoy the music, food, culture, and people. To be truthful, Latin life is one of the things I miss the most here in Japan. Cinco de Mayo is growing in popularity here, and there are more and more Mexican and Tex-Mex restaurants popping up here all the time. I think that's great.

Omotesando and Yoyogi Park were even more colorful and fun than usual, too. The annual Tokyo Rainbow Parade attracted thousands

of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender participants – and their many kind, accepting friends. The event was sponsored by 190 companies, which included big names like Sony, Diesel, Google, and NTT. Some of the fashion on display that day had to be seen to be believed, but acceptance and good vibes really made it all well worth it for everyone involved. One of the highlights for me was the big, multicolored military tank on a float with a sign that read "MAKE LOVE NOT WALLS." I do hope someone sends a photo of it to the Trump family.

In Roppongi, there have been several changes going on at the Tokyo Midtown mall. One of the biggest is the closing of one of our city's many Starbucks. The new Starbucks will be on Roppongi's main drag – Gaishi Higashi Ave., near Fujifilm Square. At the old Starbucks location, they've been building a quality health bakery and restaurant called Le Pain Quotidien, which should be open now. Another new restaurant in the neighborhood is The Counter, which is a hamburger



Miss Supranational 2016 Srinidhi Shetty,  
Bill, Miss Universe Japan 2008 Hiroko Ima



## MIN-ON'S/LONDON SYMPHONIA – ROTHSCHILD CONCERT

1. London Symphonia CEO Matthew Swann, Teruko Iwanaga, British Amb. Paul Madden and his wife, Charlotte de Rothschild, HIH Princess Takamado, Simphonia Pres. John Singer, Simphonia Conductor Michael Collins, Min-On's Hiroyasu Kobayashi, 2. Soprano de Rothschild, Brit. Amb. Madden and his wife 3. Charlotte de Rothschild, HIH Princess Takamado



## MARIA ANDERSON'S LUNCH AT THE GRAND HYATT

4. Tobi Matsubara, Toshiko Yanai, Kazuko (Kay) Siazon, Maria Anderson, Emiko Matsuzaki 5. Lilo Maruyama, Sadako Nagano, Maria Anderson, Hisako Uemura, Joan Yoshizawa

## TUNISIAN GALA NATIONAL DAY – OKURA HOTEL

6. Tunisian businessman Salah An Khalfallah, his wife Shorouk Khalfallah 7. Kuwaiti Amb. Abdul Raman Al-Otaibi and NHK news commentator Hisanori Isomura 8. The hosting couple Tunisian Amb. Kais Darragi, and his wife Wided 9. Jamila Al-Gunaid (Yemen), Jamilal Bilal (Qatar), Jamilh Al-Otaibi (Kuwait), Maha Mohamed Osman (Sudan) 10. Amb. Darragi and politician turned professor, Kiyoko Kusakabe 11. International cultural chairperson Akemi Shimomura, Hisanori Isomura and Michiko Akiyama





## SLOVENIAN SAYONARA PARTY FOR PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR AMIL

1. The hostess Slovenia Amb. Simona Leskovar, German Amb. Hans Carl Von Werthern, Myrtha D'Angelo, Irish Amb. Anne Barrington, guest of honor Pakistan Amb. Farukh Amil, Romanian Amb. Tatiana Iosiper



## THE MARUYAMAS' ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER – HILTON HOTEL'S DYNASTY

2. Hisako Uemura, Hikari Tsugahara and Utako Arour 3. Mexican Amb. Carlos Fernando Almada Lopez and his dynamic wife Maria del Carmen 4. Party guest, Russian Amb. Afansiev, Lilo, Maali Siam, outgoing Moroccan Amb. Samir Arour, Djibouti Amb. Ahmed Arita Ali, Olga Afansiev, Utako Arour 5. German Amb. Hans Carl Von Werthern, outgoing Bosnia Herzegovina Amb. Anesa Kundurovic, Lilo Maruyama, Mexican Amb. Carlos Almada 6. Hungarian Amb. Dr. Norbert Palanovics, Austrian Amb. Hubert Heiss, Emiko Matsuzaki 7. Elizabeth, Bill, Palestine Amb. Waleed Siam, Kazuko Kay Siazon 8. Tongan Amb. Tania Tupou, Amb. Anesa Kundurovic, Lilo, Oman Amb. Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi, Natalia Poghosyan (Armenia) 9. Greek Amb. Loukas Karatsolis, his wife Katerina, Abeer Aisha (Oman) 10. Fatiha Bouhlal (Morocco), Lina Chikada, Ariata, Algerian Amb. Mohamed Rachad Bouhlal, Djibouti Amb. Ahmed Arita Ali, Bangladesh Amb. Rabab Fatima, Angola Amb. João Vahekeni 11. Shipping magnate Chikada-san, Akio Matsuzaki, the host Mitsuo Maruyama, Tobi Matsubara





lover's dream. You have a choice of 80 toppings with which you can create your own hamburger. Be sure to check it out. Our congratulations to the many who have devoted and continue to devote so much thought, time and effort on the 10th anniversary of their truly special Tokyo Midtown Mall.

## THE MARUYAMAS' CHINESE DINNER

Mitsuo, Lilo, and their son Helge's Chinese dinner at the Hilton Tokyo's Dynasty Restaurant is always very special, and this year was no exception. Sorry – my coverage is a bit late, but there were lots of recent arrivals there, and it was difficult meeting everyone, but thanks to Lilo's help, I was able to get caught up.

The Dynasty was tastefully decorated for the occasion, which was a sit-down, 14-course dinner. When guests entered, they chose a tiny miniature of a Japanese or Chinese figure (samurai, geisha, etc.) and sat where a matching figure had been placed by their plate. It was a great way to get to know everyone there. Kudos to the Dynasty staff: they were really efficient and their service of many Chinese specialties, which were all beautifully prepared and delicious, couldn't have been better. It was easy to see why the Hilton's Dynasty has long been a favorite with those who want the best, and the Maruyamas are one of Tokyo's most gracious hosting couples.

## MIN-ON LONDON SYMPHONIA – ROTHSCHILD CONCERT

"It's a grand night for singing," as the old song goes, and these words were certainly true for the marvelous Min-On Concert Association Program at Bunkamura's Orchard Hall. The program featured the City of London Symphonia, conducted by Michael Collins, and featured wonderful Japanese children's songs beautifully sung in Japanese by the soprano Charlotte de Rothschild.

I could tell by her stage presence and personality that she was a warm and gracious woman. I had the opportunity and privilege of meeting and talking with her at the reception later, and my first impression was quite right. She was super nice and we talked about one of her relatives, whom I met at a Club Med opening in Asia where she was guest of honor and I had been invited for the event. As I often say, the world keeps getting smaller.

HIH Princess Takamado was a special guest at the Min-On concert. She, as usual, made a short but very meaningful speech, mingled with the guests, smiled a lot and was very kind to everyone.

## AMBASSADOR LESKOVAR'S SAYONARA FOR AMBASSADOR AMIL

There was party after party for outgoing Pakistan Ambassador Farukh Amil after he received very short notice that he had to move for his new posting at the UN in Switzerland. Farukh was very popular and he has a huge variety of friends from all over the world and from all walks of life.

I couldn't get to all the parties for him but did get to three of them. The first was an intimate gathering hosted by Slovenian

Ambassador Simona Leskovar at her high-rise apartment with its beautiful view of Tokyo Tower. It was a casual, relaxed evening with a wholesome buffet of healthy food. I was happy to have the opportunity to congratulate Irish Ambassador Anne Barrington on the many St. Patrick's Day celebrations all over Japan. In fact, that evening, she had to leave early for yet another St. Patrick's event.

The evening also gave me the opportunity to talk with another great diplomatic couple, German Ambassador Dr. Hans Carl von Werthern and his wife Elisabeth. I love how smaller parties give us the opportunity to get to know people who we might previously have only seen around at social occasions.

## TUNISIAN NATIONAL DAY GALA

Tunisian Ambassador Kais Darragi, his wife, and their staff went all out to make their national day celebration at the Okura Hotel very special. The evening started out with a seminar and lecture by the highly regarded NHK news reporter and TV presenter Hisanori Isomura. The following reception opened with a speech by the Ambassador and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nobuo Kishi. In addition to a lavish buffet that included delicious Tunisian specialties, it was an evening of mixing with long-time friends and meeting many new and interesting people for the first time.

It was a musical evening as well, with both Japanese and Tunisian national anthems played by a well-known pianist, and classical Tunisian and Japanese music played on traditional instruments such as the koto, the flute and the violin. I really was happy to see old friends, who included former politician Kiyoko Kusakabe, who now is a well-known university professor at the Asian Institute of Technology. It was also nice seeing one-time fashion model Toto Hattori, and I appreciated her introducing me to Akemi Shimomura, who is the chairperson of the International Cultural Association and whose projects include the Miss International Pageant in Japan.

If you've followed my travels at all then you know one of my favorite destinations in the world is beautiful Tunisia. Highlights of my 12 visits there included the Sahara Festival in Douz, and four trips into the Sahara on both camelback and horseback, as well as several nights spent in an underground hotel in Matmata, which is where they did some filming for the first *Star Wars* film. It's a wonderful country and I'm really happy to hear they're solving some of the problems they've had, and that the tourism business they so truly deserve is picking up.

## RIP, WAYNE GRACZYK

Finally, our condolences to the friends and family of Wayne Graczyk, a long-time member of the Tokyo Weekender family, and guru of all things baseball in Japan, who died last month. He announced at many baseball games, and people really loved his personality on the mike. He also wrote extensively for the *Japan Times*. Wayne was one of the kindest, gentlest, most considerate guys you could ever meet. I joined many of his friends at his memorial on May 20 at the Foreign Correspondents'

Club of Japan, where we reminisced about the good times we shared with a really great guy. He will be sorely missed.

In &  
Around



Alastair Prentice and Argentine embassy master chef develop Barboza at Hiro Segafredo



Lance and Keiko Lee, with their four sons – Lance, Lewis, Lucian and Lonnie – at Keiko's birthday dinner at the Grand Hyatt's French Kitchen



Wayne Graczyk broadcasting with Marty Kuehnert at the Tokyo Dome in the late 1980s



# TOKYO WEEKENDER

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## SAIPAN WEEKENDER

...is the guy with the great tan. He leaves tonight after work and catches one of our two daily flights back when he's ready to call it a weekend.  
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**CONTINENTAL** (03)592-1631  
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## Songstress Peggy Hayama fetes 30 years in showbiz

By Milt Radmilovich

**W**HEN A GREAT JAPANESE VOCALIST celebrates her own 30th anniversary in show business in front of a packed house of excited Japanese fans, that's a news event worthy of note, and certainly connotes more than a small degree of greatness.

But when that same lady vocalist performs to that same packed house and dedicates the entire first half of her own celebration to commemorate the music of American composer Richard Rodgers, that's more than greatness—it's grace and class.

That's what happened at the Mitsukoshi Royal Theatre on May 31 and June 1, when the still powerful and moving figure of Peggy Hayama took the stage and thrilled the hearts of everyone in attendance, with her smashing 30th Anniversary Concert. It lasted more than two hours, but felt more like a flash passage through the sound barrier.

Peggy, who started singing "officially" in 1952 while still a student at Aoyama Gakuin, went through so many songs and worked so hard that by the time I found my seat and listened to the first portion of the concert, I was already wondering how it would be possible to spend the night there and hear the next night's performance as well.

Peggy Hayama will never change. She's a trouper, plus—not just with plain ability, but with all those other accoutrements of the true professional: poise, confidence and a great, loving, and all-encompassing spirit which dominates everything she does, whether it's singing or just answering questions during an interview.

These traits have always been part of Peggy Hayama, from the time she debuted at age 18 with the song "Domino" and throughout her early days while appearing with the band of the late, great Hiroshi Watanabe and his "Stardusters."

During the portion of Peggy's concert dedicated to Rodgers, she joined with a fine baritone named Ikeda Koh. Together they performed selections from "Oklahoma," "South Pacific," "Sound of Music," and many others. And along with the music, they interspersed a skit dealing with the life of Richard Rodgers.

The skit covered Rodgers' life and times, showing how he struggled to bring good music to the people, and describing his despair and remorse at the loss of lyricists Lorenz Hart in 1943, and later of Oscar Hammerstein II. An interesting point brought out in the story was how, when Hart lay dying of pneumonia, Rodgers appealed directly to Eleanor Roosevelt to obtain some of the then newly discovered "miracle drug" penicillin to save his life. But even through her efforts it came too late, since it had all gone to support the war effort and none could be obtained in time.

In a pictographic segment of the show, Peggy proudly pointed to her most valued photograph, an autographed picture of her with Richard Rodgers and his wife, taken when Peggy was taking her honeymoon trip. It was by accident that Rodgers was on the same plane, and he actually signed it for her 14 years later.

But other photos were flashed onto the gossamer stage curtains that night, too. Photos of Peggy with William

(Continued on Page 5)



Above, Peggy shares a laugh with one of her all-time idols, William Holden. Below, a 19-year-old Peggy Hayama shares the lens with 16-year-old Eri Chiemi.



Above, a youthful Peggy digs the guitar style of an equally youthful Paul Anka during his first trip to Japan. At right, Peggy poses proudly with two of her favorite performers, Doris Day and Tony Bennett.



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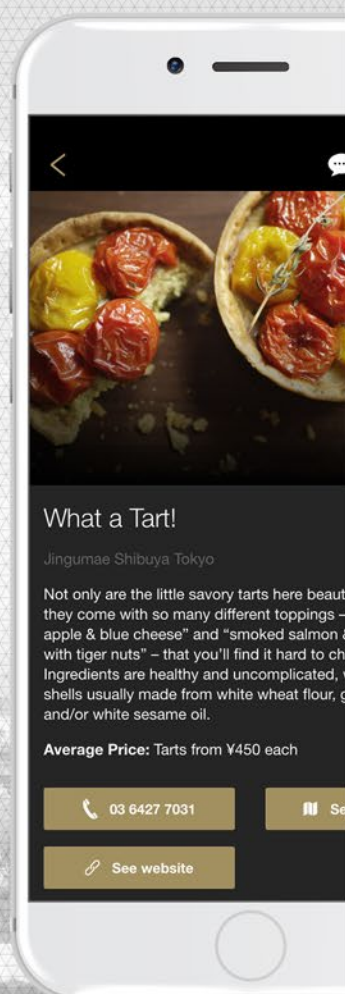
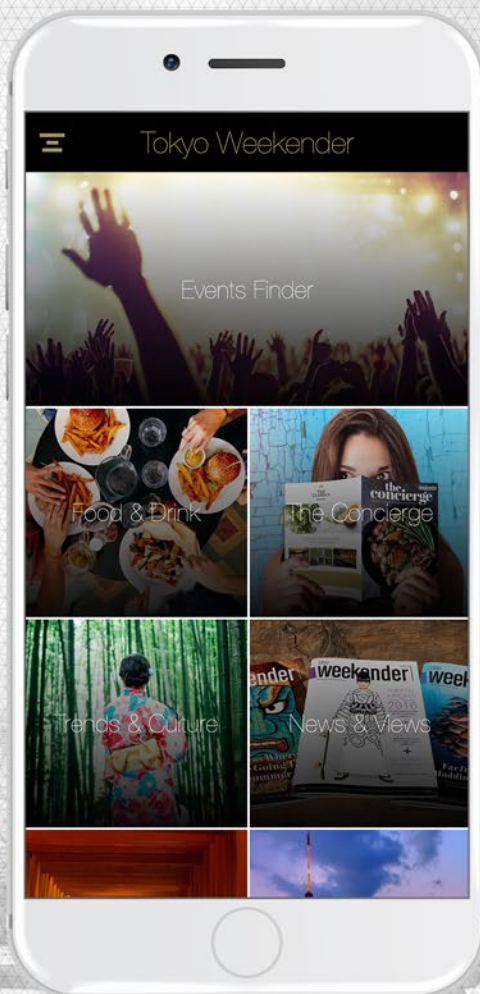
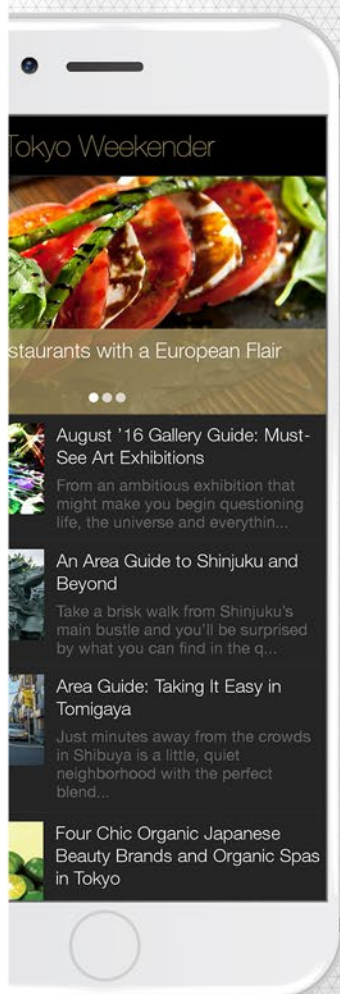




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