

Seiichi Furuya

Seiichi Furuya was born in Izu, Japan, in 1950. After graduating from Tokyo College of Photography in 1973, he left the port of Yokohama to travel to Europe on the Trans-Siberian Railway. He lived in Vienna until he moved to Graz in 1975. There he met Christine Gössler (born 1953) in February 1978. The couple married in May of the same year. Their son, Komyo Klaus, was born in 1981. In 1982, they moved to Vienna so that Christine could study drama. In 1984, Seiichi took a job as an interpreter and the family moved to Dresden, East Germany; and then in 1985, to East Berlin.

In late 1982, Christine began to exhibit symptoms of schizophrenia. In 1983, she entered a hospital in Graz for treatment; she was forced to give up her drama studies, and from that time on was in and out of hospital regularly. Shortly after noon on October 7th, 1985, the 36th anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic, Christine threw herself from a window on the 9th floor of the tenement building where the family lived. Seiichi continued to work as an interpreter in East Berlin until 1987. Afterwards he returned to Graz, where he has lived with his son, Komyo, to this day.

Since 1975, Furuya has had numerous exhibitions, both in Europe and overseas, at such venues as Forum Stadtpark and Camera Austria, Graz, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Albertina, Vienna, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, and Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig, Technische Sammlungen Dresden, Kunsthaus Dresden, Heidelberger Kunstverein, and the Museum für Photographie Braunschweig. Furuya's works are included in the collections of various museums around the world, including the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

He has published several photo books featuring Christine, starting with his 'Mémoires 1978-1988' (Camera Austria, 1989) and continuing with 'Mémoires 1995' (Scalo Books, 1995), 'Christine Furuya-Gössler, Mémoires 1978-1985' (Korinsha Press, 1997), 'Portrait' (Fotohof, 2000), 'Last Trip to Venice' (self-published, 2002), 'Mémoires 1983' (Akaaka Art Publishing, 2006) and 'Mémoires 1984-1987' (Izu Photo Museum and Camera Austria, 2010) with a text by Einar Schleeff. In 2014 the book "Staatsgrenze. 1981 - 1983" was published (Spector Books).

What's more, he has been active in a wide range of projects: he was one of the founders and editors of the photography magazine 'Camera Austria', and has also curated exhibitions introducing Japanese photographers to Europe, such as 'Daido Moriyama' (Graz, 1980), 'Shomei Tomatsu: Japan 1952-1981' (Graz 1984), 'Nobuyoshi Araki Akt-Tokyo, 1971-1991' (Graz 1992), 'Keep in Touch. Positions in Japanese Photography' (Graz 2003).

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