

# Showcasing Underrepresented Voices: **Building the Japanese Women Photographers Collection at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries**

**Committee on Japanese Materials, CEAL  
March 16, 2023**

**Rebecca Mendelson, Japanese Studies Librarian**



# Outline



- 
- Inspiration and context
  - How I built this collection
  - What is in the collection
  - Challenges in building the collection
  - Conclusion: reflections and the road ahead

**Note:** Photobook images have been removed from original PowerPoint slides due to copyright concerns. Citations and links to Penn Libraries' holdings of these books can be found in the final slides.

# Collection: Inspiration and Context


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## **Growing need for this collection due to:**

- Trends in the history of Japanese photography
  - 20<sup>th</sup> century: systematic exclusion of women as professional photographers
- Trends in print photobook collections
  - Since 1990s: surging numbers of female photographers, exhibits, and photobooks
  - But print collections of photobooks (and photographic canon) worldwide still skew heavily toward male photographers

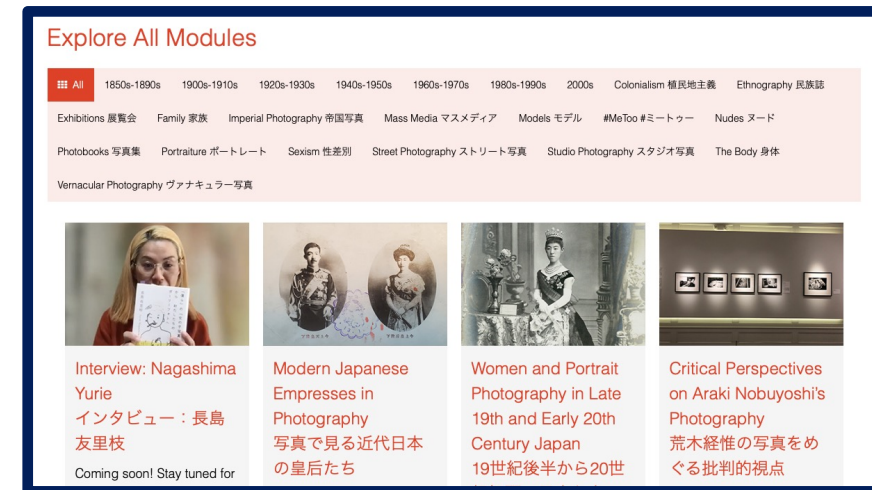
# Women Photographers' Growing Digital Presence



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Behind the Camera

Behind the Camera is an open-source website that creates new critical directions on the history of photography, feminist art history, and the history of modern Japan. It is a pedagogical tool for the growing global investment in diverse and expanded histories of photography and gender studies.



### Explore All Modules

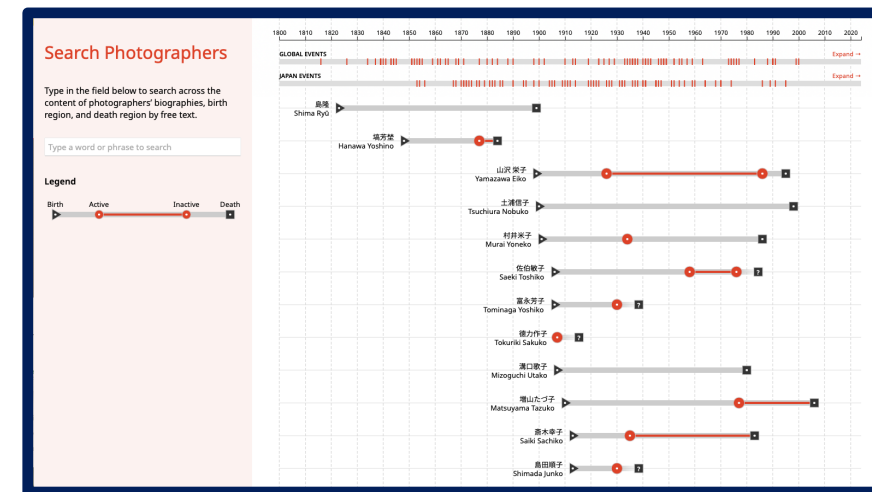
All 1850s-1890s 1900s-1910s 1920s-1930s 1940s-1950s 1960s-1970s 1980s-1990s 2000s Colonialism 植民地主義 Ethnography 民族誌

Exhibitions 展覧会 Family 家族 Imperial Photography 帝国写真 Mass Media マスメディア Models モデル #MeToo #ミートゥー Nudes ヌード

Photobooks 写真集 Portraiture ポートレート Sexism 性差別 Street Photography ストリート写真 Studio Photography スタジオ写真 The Body 身体

Vernacular Photography ヴァンキュラー写真

- Interview: Nagashima Yurie  
インタビュー：長島友里枝  
Coming soon! Stay tuned for
- Modern Japanese Empresses in Photography  
写真で見る近代日本の皇后たち
- Women and Portrait Photography in Late 19th and Early 20th Century Japan  
19世紀後半から20世
- Critical Perspectives on Araki Nobuyoshi's Photography  
荒木経惟の写真をめぐる批判的視点



“Behind the Camera” DH Project (Kelly McCormick, Carrie Cushman, & team):  
<https://behindthecamerajapan.arts.ubc.ca>

# Building Collection (1): Compiling Lists

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Featuring photographers:

- With whom I was already familiar
- Who were discussed in scholarship on Japanese photography
- From spreadsheet that eventually became the timeline in “Behind the Camera” DH project (thanks to Dr. Kelly M. McCormick)
- From publicity for exhibits and events in Japan
- From artist bios on vendors’ sites

# Building Collection (2): Identifying Works Already in Our Collection



**Penn Libraries** UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA | Franklin

Keyword: Ohata Saori [Search] [Advanced] [Bookmarks]

Everything | **Catalog** | Articles+ | Databases | Colenda | Websites

Limit your search

- Access: At the library 2
- Record Source: Penn 2
- Format: Book x 2

You searched for: Ohata Saori x Format > Book x

1 - 2 of 2 [Sort by Relevance]

1. [Are you ready to say good-bye? = Sayonarasuru kakugo wa dekite iru?](#) / [Are you ready to say good-bye? = サヨナラする覚悟はできてりる?](#)

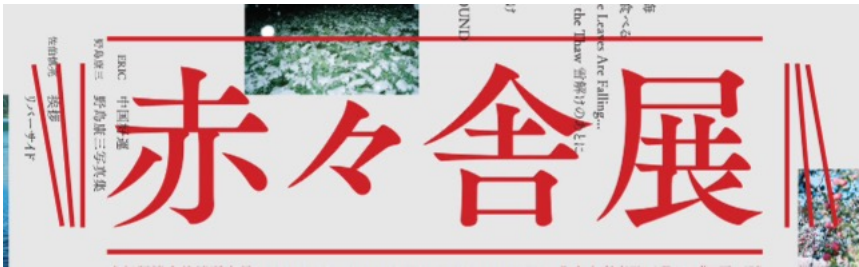
Ohata, Saori, author, photographer.  
Nagoya : Indivision = Indivijon, 2007.  
BOOK

**Available** Van Pelt - East Asia CB428 .O437 2007

# Building Collection (3): Building Selection Lists and Acquiring Titles



● 居場所  
**IBASHO**



Dashwood Books

# What is in the collection?



- 
- As of March 2023: 285 books either acquired or on order
  - Artist books and commercial publications
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-edition imprints and reprints
  - Mostly circulating; also some special collections/non-circulating
  - Mostly published since 1990, but slowly acquiring older/rare books
  - Both famous and emerging artists
  - Inclusive (e.g., includes artists in the diaspora)
  - Great diversity! (in content and themes; style, materials, layout; whether commentary on gender is explicit; integration of text and image; etc.)



# Challenge (1): Gender

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## Distinguishing photographers by gender:

- Can be problematic to make assumptions about gender identity
- “Women” photographers collection: presumes, reflects, reifies gender binary

## But benefits can outweigh costs:

- Bringing more visibility to women artists
- Changing the canon

# Challenge (2): Discovery



The 133 books in this collection that are currently cataloged are scattered across physical locations and classification ranges. Per our discovery tool:

Library	
LIBRA	60
Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center	39
Fisher Fine Arts Library	33
Special Collections	25
Kislak Center for Special Collections	1

Classification	
T - Technology	76
D - History: General & European	6
H - Social Science, Economics, Sociology	3
P - Literature & Languages	3
C - History: Auxiliary Sciences	2
F - History: Western Hemisphere	2
G - Geography, Anthropology, Recreation	2
N - Fine Arts	2
B - Philosophy, Psychology, Religion	1
S - Agriculture	1

# Addressing Discovery Challenges

LEADER 01457cam a22003491a 4500	
005 20220613132951.0	
008 850702s1967 ja abc 000 0 jpn	
001 997068383503681	
010	al j 68004797
035	al (OCoLC)ocm23029040
035	al (OCoLC)23029040
035	al (PU)706838-penndb-Voyager
040	al DLC bl eng cl CLU dl KKU dl PAU
049	al PAUU
050 0	al BL1478 bl .K5
066	cl \$1
100 1	6l 880-01 al Kiyooka, Sumiko, dl 1921-1991. 0l http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n81104296
880 1	6l 100-01/\$1 al 清岡純子, dl 1921-1991. 0l http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n81104296
245 1 0	6l 880-02 al Amadera / Kiyooka Sumiko [cho].
880 1 0	6l 245-02/\$1 al 尼寺 / 清岡純子[著].
264 1	6l 880-03 al Tōkyō : bl Mainichi Shinbunsha, cl [1967]
880 1	6l 264-03/\$1 al 東京 : bl 毎日新聞社, cl [1967]
300	al 132 pages : bl chiefly illustrations (part color) map, portraits ; cl 27 cm
336	al text bl txt 2l rdacontent
337	al unmediated bl n 2l rdamedia
338	al volume bl nc 2l rdacarrier
650 7	al Buddhist convents. 2l fast 0l http://id.worldcat.org/fast/840139
651 7	al Japan. 2l fast 0l http://id.worldcat.org/fast/1204082
650 0	al Buddhist convents zl Japan.
710 2	al Japanese Women Photographers Collection (University of Pennsylvania) 5l PU
902	al MARCIVE 2022
994	al C0 bl PAU

Penn Libraries Franklin

Keyword: Find books, journals, videos, & more

Limit your search

You searched for: Author/Creator > Japanese Women Photographers Collection

Access: At the library 133

Record Source: Penn 133

Format: Book 133

Author/Creator: Japanese Women Photographers Collection (University of Pennsylvania) 133

Gilbert, Shirley and Marilyn Luber Fund for Japanese Studies 10

Ishiuchi, Miyako, 1947-Rosengarten International Fund 10

Nishimura, Tamiko, 1948-more > 8

1. Buraindo deto : Tenrankai = Blind date : exhibition / ブラインドエト : Tenrankai = Blind date : exhibition  
Shiga, Lieko, 1980-  
First edition.  
[Tokyo] : T&M Projects, 2017.  
BOOK  
Unavailable Fine Arts Library TR647 .S4687 2018

2. Tomoko Kawai : intimacy of paradise  
Kawai, Tomoko, photographer.  
Vienna : VfmK Verlag für moderne Kunst GmbH, [2021] , ©2021  
BOOK  
Unavailable LIBRA TR727 .K39 2021

3. Atsuki hibi in Okinawa / 熱き日々 in オキナワ  
Ishikawa, Mao, 1953-  
Kyōto-fu Kyōto-shi : Foiru, 2013.  
BOOK

Penn Libraries Franklin

Keyword: Find books, journals, videos, & more

Everything Catalog Articles+ Databases

Website 30 | Next » Back to Search Results Start Over

Amadera / Kiyooka Sumiko [cho.] = 尼寺 / 清岡純子 [著].

Author/Creator: Kiyooka, Sumiko, 1921-1991. 清岡純子, 1921-1991.

Publication: Tōkyō : Mainichi Shinbunsha, [1967] 東京 : 毎日新聞社, [1967]

Format/Descripti... Book  
132 pages : chiefly illustrations (part color) map, portraits ; 27 cm

Status/Location: Available LIBRA BL1478 .K5 -

Get It: Request In Print Request Scan Login to Activate Requesting Options -

Details

Subjects: Buddhist convents. Japan. Buddhist convents -- Japan.

Contributor: Japanese Women Photographers Collection (University of Pennsylvania)

OCLC: 23029040

# Conclusion: Reflections and the Road Ahead



- 
- Rewarding project: challenges male-centered photographic canon
  - Positive response from scholars about collection's current and future usefulness
  - Helpful (for me as new librarian) to understand how to do distinctive collection projects like this in the future
  - Segues with department's and institution's shared priority to document and give platforms to underrepresented voices
    - → inspiration, momentum, and support for continuing this project into the future

# Works Cited in Original Slides (1)



- 
- Ishikawa Mao 石川真生, *Fences, Fuck You!!* [フェンスに Fuck You!!] (2012)  
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- , *Here's What the Japanese Flag Means to Me* [日の丸を視る目] (2011)  
[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978069605603681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978069605603681)
- , *Life in Philly* [ライフ・イン・フィリー] (2009)  
[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9961057883503681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9961057883503681)
- , *Red Flower* [赤花] (2017)  
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- Ishiuchi Miyako 石内都, *Belongings* (2015)  
[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978069607503681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978069607503681)
- , *Grain and Image* [肌理と写真] (2017)  
[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978069607003681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978069607003681)
- , *Yokohama gorakusō* [Yokohama 互楽荘] (2017)  
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# Works Cited in Original Slides (2)



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[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978867216603681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978867216603681)

Katayama Mari 片山真, *Mother River Homing* (2021)

[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978922803703681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978922803703681)

Kawauchi Rinko 川内倫子, *Des oiseaux* (2021)

[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978072111603681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978072111603681)

Kon Michiko 今道子, *Philia* [フィリアー] (2021)

[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978090465503681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978090465503681)

Kōtaki Yūko 上瀧由布子, *Gossamer* [糸遊] (2019)

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Matsumoto Michiko 松本路子, *Women Come Alive* [のびやかな女たち] (1978)

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Nagashima Yurie 長島有里枝, *Self-Portraits* (2020)

[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978867217503681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978867217503681)

# Works Cited in Original Slides (3)



Nomura Keiko 野村恵子, *Deep South* (1999)

[https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN\\_9978105321303681](https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9978105321303681)

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Tokyo Rumando, *I'm Only Happy When I'm Naked* [S: ハダカニチカヅクコトガトテモ  
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# Thank you!

## Questions?

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