



Portfolio

“Komomo -A Geisha’s Journey-”

Naoyuki OGINO

Images of a teenage girl on her journey of becoming a full-fledged Geisha

A portfolio consisting of 12 original prints

Photographed over 8 years, from 2000 to 2007

About “Komomo —A Geisha’s Journey—” Naoyuki Ogino started visiting the Okiya (Geisha house) Kaden in Kyoto in 1998. He is one of very few Japanese photographers who have been allowed to walk in the Okiya. It was 1999 when Ogino met Ruriko (Komomo’s birth name) for the first time. Ruriko was born in Mexico and grew up in Japan and China. When Ogino met her she was living in China was visiting Kyoto to experience life in the Okiya. Ogino’s photographs document Ruriko’s journey beginning with her life in China and continuing as she came to Kyoto to become Maiko (Geisha apprentice) and Geiko (Geisha in Kyoto) Komomo.

That Ogino also grew up in Mexico is only a coincidence. He lived there three times for a total of 10 years during his childhood. His experiences while living in Mexico provide the foundation for his interest in “Mongoloid people,” as native Mexicans are of Mongoloid descent, which in turn led him to his photographic theme, “life in the Mongoloid-cultural bloc.” His Geisha project carries one of the main parts of this theme. After eight years of documenting Komomo’s Geisha journey, he presented these photographic works in 2 forms. One is this portfolio and the other is the photo-book “A Geisha’s Journey” which has been published in English, French and several other languages. Hiroshi Sugimoto wrote a blurb for the English version. This portfolio contains photographs taken during Komomo’s ritual Misedashi (first day as Maiko) on 24th of August 2000 and documents her daily life as a Maiko. It also contains photographs of her ritual Eriake (first day as Geisha) on the 8th of December 2005 and of her daily life as a Geisha.

This is the first portfolio to contain fine art prints of real scenes of the mysterious world of the Geisha.

20 limited editions (last 5 are special editions)

+ 5 AP. Signed by photographer

Chromogenic Print

16x20 inch (40.6x50.8cm)

12 photographs