

Daido Moriyama: Quartet

A Landmark in Japanese Photobook History

Daido Moriyama: Quartet is more than just a photobook release — it is a gathering of four of the most radical works that shaped the trajectory of postwar Japanese photography. Presented in a single slipcased edition, *Quartet* consolidates rare and once-difficult-to-find volumes into an accessible form for both collectors and students of photography.

Moriyama (b. 1938) remains one of the most prolific photographers of the modern era, his work defined by gritty black-and-white images, high contrast, and a restless energy that refuses to settle. With *Quartet*, we are invited to experience the turbulence, experimentation, and vision that made him a central figure in the *Provoke* movement and beyond.

What's Inside

The slipcase brings together four seminal photobooks spanning fifteen years of Moriyama's career:

- **Japan: A Photo Theater (1968)**
His first photobook, documenting actors, prostitutes, and outsiders on the margins of Japanese society. A raw, theatrical presentation of postwar realities.
- **A Hunter (1972)**
A work of restlessness and movement, filled with images taken on the road. The camera becomes a weapon — quick, sharp, and instinctive.
- **Farewell Photography (1972)**
Perhaps his most radical experiment. Images are blurred, overexposed, fragmented — a direct challenge to photography itself. Moriyama dismantles the medium, leaving behind only traces, scratches, and ghosts of pictures.

- **Light and Shadow (1982)**

A return to clarity, but without abandoning tension. This book represents balance — the refinement of a style once in chaos, now distilled into bold forms of light cutting through darkness.

Why *Quartet* Matters

- Collects four of Moriyama’s most important books in one edition
- Preserves rare, once-limited publications
- Offers access to works that shaped the history of Japanese photography
- Includes excerpts from Moriyama’s diaries and journals, adding depth to the images

For students of photography, *Quartet* is a living archive — a reference point for understanding how an artist can both destroy and rebuild the medium through relentless experimentation.

Moriyama’s Vision

At the core of Moriyama’s practice is **instinct**. His images are fast, imperfect, and alive. They reject polish in favor of urgency, echoing the rhythms of city life and the alienation of modern existence.

In *Quartet*, we see the arc of a restless spirit: from theater to hunting, from destruction to balance. Each book functions as a chapter in an ongoing conversation between Moriyama and the camera — a dialogue about what it means to see, to record, and to confront reality.

Closing Thoughts

Daido Moriyama: Quartet is not just a collector's item — it is a gateway. For some, it may be an introduction to one of photography's most radical voices. For others, it is a reminder of how images can rupture, provoke, and awaken.

As a single object, *Quartet* unites fragments of a career defined by intensity. As a body of work, it offers lessons on the possibilities of photography itself.
