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Gilles Mingasson
Tokyo (Un)Explained

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An authentic perspective on Tokyo's less-visited neighborhoods

While on assignment in Tokyo, photojournalist Gilles Mingasson ventured beyond the city's familiar urban spectacle into the narrow alleys of its working- and middle-class neighborhoods. Here, he encountered a slower-paced world, where everyday rhythms seemed far removed from the aesthetics of global urban culture.

»Wandering in an unhurried world where lives unfold as if carefully scripted, I came across small everyday rituals, quaint uniforms bringing dignity to menial tasks, and fleeting moments of solitude in the heart of the city.
Both homogeneous and chaotic, the settings reflect a culture enduring in a changing world. Like a time capsule nearing its end date, perhaps hinted at in the distant gaze of office workers on a smoke break, Tokyo's working-and middle-class neighborhoods resist the rampant globalization of tastes and aesthetics.«
— Gilles Mingasson

Looking beyond familiar images of the Japanese capital, Mingasson draws attention to the visual contrasts and subtle compositions embedded in its everyday surroundings. His photographs transform seemingly mundane scenes into moments of quiet strangeness, inviting viewers to look at the city anew.

Without a fixed route or predetermined subject, Mingasson moved through Tokyo guided by curiosity, allowing encounters and observations to determine the direction of his photography. The resulting body of work reflects a city that can be observed closely but never entirely deciphered.

»In the end, to an outsider wandering its streets in search of meaning, what Tokyo revealed left even more unexplained.«
—Gilles Mingasson

Gilles Mingasson is a French-born and LA based photojournalist and on-set photographer for film and television. He has worked for international magazines and National Geographic Books, and is the recipient of an American Photography Award.

Jean-Paul Dubois is an award winning French novelist and the recipient of the prestigious Prix Goncourt, France's highest literary award. He has worked for twenty years as a journalist documenting the idiosyncrasies of American culture alongside photographer Gilles Mingasson.

Hideki Noda grew up in Tokyo and is a Japanese playwright, director, and actor who has written and directed more than 40 plays. He is the recipient of many international cultural awards, including Honorary Officer of the British Empire.

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