

NEW RELEASE

## **Christian Mader** The Missing Link



Texts by Hansjörg Fröhlich  
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### A photographic journey in the fascinating and baffling World of Japan

The works of the Stuttgart-based photographer reveal the inscrutability of a society that remains largely foreign to us as Europeans. We lack a clear connection between the visible and the imaginary parts of the Japanese everyday life – the missing link. The Japanese people in the photographs appear as though they have been inserted into a world that they endure more than they shape. Many Eastern Asians live their lives conscious of the fact that there is ultimately no such thing as free will as this is defined in the West, since, in real life, goal-orientated action has no influence on the eternally imponderable cosmos as a whole. Mader's works are by no means reportage, whereby his images are not staged. He neither composes nor adorns. Although the photographs depict real situations from everyday life, we do not trust their prosaicness. We are incapable of retelling the narratives that lie within these situations, since our Western concepts and routines of intuitive cognition and interpretation do not apply in this Eastern country. Precisely herein lies the fascination of Mader's photographs.

*»Often it is not easy for the traveler en route in Japan to find the one way, the right way, the one that omnipresent signs explicitly show.«*

– from the Statement by Christian Mader

**Christian Mader** was born in Cologne in 1963. He studied photography/communication design at Bielefeld's polytechnic. He is a freelance photographer in Stuttgart.

His work highlights the presence, the pure attendance of the respective subject. With an unbiased view, Mader lets things, landscapes and situations display themselves and how they affect us. His artistic method combines observing distance with open anticipation to find what is special. Mader's work has been exhibited in Germany and abroad.

[www.maderfoto.de](http://www.maderfoto.de)

Biography of the author:

**Hansjörg Fröhlich** was born in 1965 in Stuttgart. He studied psychology and journalism. He worked as a broadcasting editor and as a correspondent of a news agency. Since 2004 he has been working as a freelance author and journalist, primarily for art and travel as well as for the diagnosis of the present. He is a co-founder and chief editor of the sonnendeck magazine.

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# Übersicht der Pressebilder



1\_Seventies-style seating interior in a Shinkansen.  
© Christian Mader



2\_Lookout point on the volcanic island of Sakurajima.  
© Christian Mader



3\_Gambling hall in Shibuya, Tokyo: the bright and colorful gambling halls are a common passtime.  
© Christian Mader



4\_View from the 350 m high Skytree Restaurant in Tokio. The TV tower is the highest accessible spot in Tokyo.  
© Christian Mader



5\_Excursionist with her dog on a parking lot not far from the Fuji.  
© Christian Mader



6\_Train ride in the Shinkansen from Mishima to Shizuoka.  
© Christian Mader



7\_Childcare in a shopping mall in Hiroshima.  
© Christian Mader



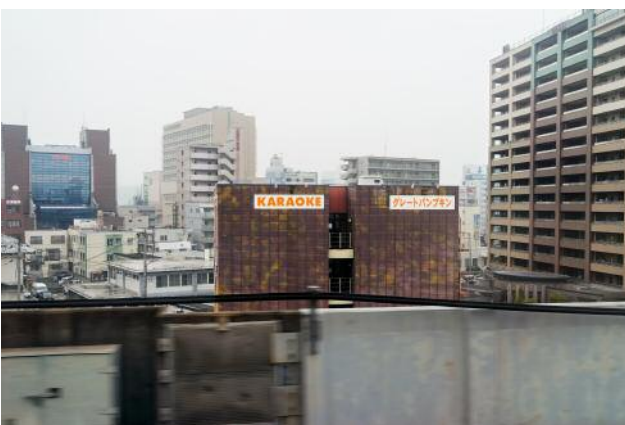
8\_Omotesando street in Tokyo. The district is well-known for trendy fashion outlets and demanding architecture.  
© Christian Mader



9\_Luxury residential building in Shirokane, Tokyo.  
© Christian Mader



10\_Happy Hotel, Seta.  
© Christian Mader



11\_Upon arrival at the station of Okayama: view oft the Great Pumpkin Karaoke Bar from the Shinkansen.  
© Christian Mader



12\_Vacuum-packed pig head on a market in Naha, Okinawa.  
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