

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 February 2015

‘Mono no Aware: The Poignancy of Things’

A photographic exhibition by Brett Boardman



The Japan Foundation, Sydney is proud to present a photographic exhibition by architectural photographer Brett Boardman, titled ***‘Mono no Aware: The Poignancy of Things’***. Captured in contemporary Kyoto, this series of photos will be publicly shown for the first time at The Japan Foundation Gallery from **26 February – 11 April**. The exhibition is designed by award-winning architect **Andrew Burns** and runs as part of Spectrum Now Festival and Art Month 2015.

The images juxtapose **Katsura Imperial Villa**, an iconic 17th century villa that has long captivated architects worldwide, with the makeshift shelter of a homeless person under a bridge nearby. This entrancing image sequence, shot over a single two-hour period, reveals unexpected parallels between two examples of human shelter that are geographically close, but worlds apart. Simple yet intuitive exhibition design puts viewers into the photographer’s shoes and allows them to experience the same journey as Boardman did on the day that he photographed the two sites.

The exhibition coincides with the release of a limited-edition hardcover book of the same name, to be launched at a public talk event on Thursday, March 5.

Photographer Brett Boardman says, ‘I initially planned to document the architectural and material qualities of Katsura Imperial Villa. However upon leaving the palace I discovered

the nearby makeshift shelter which seemed to possess and express more directly Prince Hachijo Toshihito's desire for the original Katsura to be "a teahouse in the melon patch". The images may be viewed as architectural photography, documentary photography or social commentary and will hopefully continue the dialogue that began almost 100 years ago between Katsura Rikyū as a place, Japan as a culture and the West.'

The Japan Foundation, Sydney director **Nao Endo** says, 'We are excited to work with Brett Boardman and Andrew Burns to host The Japan Foundation, Sydney's first public event since its reopening in Central Park.'

Two public talks will run alongside this exhibition.

Gallery hours

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 8pm
Friday: 10am – 6pm
Saturday: 10am – 3pm (except March 7 & April 4)
Closed Sundays & Public Holidays

Admission is free.

Talk Events

March 5 **Photographic Memory: The Making of *Mono no aware***
6pm – 7pm Artist Talk & Book Launch by Brett Boardman

March 14 **Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence**
2pm – 3pm Public talk by Dr Heike Rahmann (RMIT University)

Venue:	The Japan Foundation Gallery The Japan Foundation, Sydney Level 4, Central Park 28 Broadway Chippendale NSW 2008
Admission:	Admission is free. RSVP essential for talks.
Enquiries/RSVP:	reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055
Website:	www.jpf.org.au

ABOUT BRETT BOARDMAN



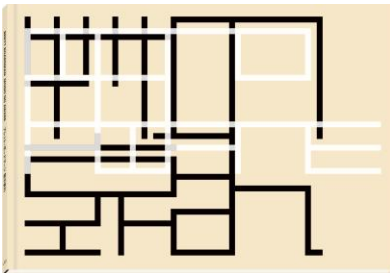
Brett Boardman is a Sydney-based photographer specialising in architecture, landscape and portraiture. Boardman trained as an architect before turning to photography which he has pursued professionally over the past 20 years. In that time commissions have taken him throughout Australia, Asia, North America and Europe, and his work has been exhibited and published extensively worldwide. He is a regular commentator and lecturer on critical aspects of the nature of architectural photography and representation. Boardman was awarded Australian Professional Photographer of the Year in 2005.

ABOUT ANDREW BURNS



[Andrew Burns](#) graduated with First Class Honours from the University of Sydney in 2003 and established the practice Andrew Burns Architects in 2007. The practice has undertaken residential, cultural, community and public projects. Burns' approach seeks to combine social engagement with design excellence, and is characterised by precise geometry. His practice recently received the Jorn Utzon Award for International Architecture and was a finalist in the Green Square Aquatic Centre international design competition.

ABOUT THE BOOK



Boardman's *Mono no aware* photographic series is showcased in a bespoke large-format book by architecture and design publisher, [Uro Publications](#). The book will be produced in a limited-edition print run of 200, with each copy including one pair of signed and numbered prints. The book is available at the presale price of \$250 (RRP \$300) at the launch event on March 5, and in the lead-up to this date via the publisher.

ABOUT KATSURA IMPERIAL VILLA

Katsura Imperial Villa is a 17th century Japanese villa, revered by architects across the world as the epitome of modernism. It embodies the essence of traditional Japanese architecture, infused with Shinto principles and Zen Buddhist philosophies. Katsura Villa's simple aesthetics, functionality and use of modular space continued to be an inspiration for modern-day architectural design.

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.



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For more information please see www.jpf.org.au or contact:
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