

MoMA PS1 PRESENTS FIRST US MUSEUM EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHER MASAO GOZU

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, September 15, 2026—This fall, MoMA PS1 will present the first US museum exhibition of artist Masao Gozu (Japanese, b. 1946), featuring over 40 works that depict an evolving New York cityscape over the past five decades. On view from November 5, 2026, through March 15, 2027, *Windows and Bars* presents a focused selection of photography, sculpture, and archival materials from key series dating from 1972 through today. Gozu emigrated to New York City in the 1970s, where, despite having no formal training in photography, he began documenting the windows of apartment buildings from the street, capturing their inhabitants in moments of contemplation, excitement, and boredom. As extended architectural studies, Gozu's work images the interior theatre of everyday life.

Gozu's unwitting subjects rarely meet the gaze of the camera, instead observing scenes unfolding outside of the frame. Influenced by his own experience as a stranger in a foreign city, Gozu predominantly photographed immigrant neighborhoods, from Chinatown and Little Italy to Bay Ridge and Crown Heights. In nearly all of his images, Gozu presents each window square to the picture plane, a perspectival skew he achieved by manipulating the enlarger in the darkroom. For Gozu, the window offers a particular elision of solitude and communion, and a metaphor for the artist's own sense of estrangement in a country whose language he did not share.

From 1976 through 1981, Gozu obsessively imaged the storefront of Harry's Bar, located at 98 Bowery, discreetly taking a photograph each time a customer gazed out the left side of the window. Twelve of these photographs are included in the exhibition. Following the bar's closing, Gozu inquired about purchasing the window itself. Rebuffed, he was nonetheless inspired to work sculpturally and began to collect the debris of torn-down facades, meticulously reconstituting their windows as standalone sculptures. The exhibition features one such sculpture from 1992, a window salvaged from 25th Street that Gozu reconstructed at quarter scale, cutting down scavenged brick, lintel, and frame. In the 1980s, he installed his excerpted windows at carefully chosen sites throughout New York City and New Jersey from which the sun could be seen setting between the World Trade Center towers; three large-scale color photographs included in the exhibition capture these constructed moments of sculptural, architectural, and celestial alignment.

In 2025, Gozu began revisiting sites where he had taken images of windows decades earlier, documenting dramatic urban shifts and, in some cases, surprising continuity in the city's architectural landscape. *Windows and Bars* pairs a selection of earlier photographs with their recent counterparts, opening apertures onto the city's past and offering a rumination on the sweep of time.

Masao Gozu (Japanese, b. 1946) is a photographer and sculptor based in New York City. Born in Hakuba, Japan, he graduated from the Toyo Arts School in 1970, and in 1971 was awarded the Max Beckmann scholarship to the Brooklyn Museum Art School, where he studied from 1971 to 1973. Gozu has held solo exhibitions at The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; Toyoshina Modern Art Museum, Azumino, Japan; OK Harris, New York; Nikon Salon, Tokyo; Howl Art Gallery, New York; Galerie Pons,

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Paris; Court Tree Collective, Brooklyn; and Grand Central Terminal, New York, and has been included in group exhibitions at The Margulies Collection at the WAREHOUSE, Miami; Islip Art Museum; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography; Abrons Art Center, New York; and Shanghai Art Museum, among other venues. His work is included in the collections of The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; New Orleans Museum of Art; Margulies Collection, Miami; Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Pompidou, Paris; and Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. Gozu is the recipient of Le prix special du jury, Mois de la photo 90, Paris (1990) and the 10th Nobuo Ina Prize, Japan (1985).

Masao Gozu: Windows and Bars is organized by Jody Graf, Associate Curator.

ABOUT MoMA PS1

Inspired by daring artists, MoMA PS1 is committed to the exploration of contemporary art and culture, broadening perspectives on the issues of our day, and engaging New Yorkers and communities across the world. Founded in 1976, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth-century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, F, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Admission: MoMA PS1 is a place for everyone. Free admission is made possible by Sonya Yu. Tickets may be reserved online at mo.ma/ps1tickets.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit moma.org/ps1.

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