Japan, Summer 2023

Jordan Huang

The following is a collection of photos from a trip to Japan in the summer of 2023. All photos were shot with a Minolta Freedom Zoom 125 on 8 rolls of Kodak Portra 400 film.

Hoping to record special memories, I brought my journal to this trip. I carried that journal, with its black ink pen, everywhere I went. For most of every single day, it sat inside my bag, inches from my fingers. By the end of the trip, I had not journaled once. I had experienced what I can only describe as a kind of curation paralysis.

What is worth recording? Is it worth recording if it can't be done well? What is an appropriate environment to engage in such a thing? Being so busy every day, there never seemed to be a time to sit down and journal in an environment that I felt was appropriate for such contemplation.

In great irony, the importance I placed on the activity of recording led me to not record at all. I find ironies of this structure to be a recurring theme in my life. So instead of crisp words, I am left with a collection of images without text, images without contemplation. When I look at them, I feel the nostalgia of emotion, but missing is the context of memory.

I sometimes wonder if my memory is strikingly bad. I often find that I struggle to recall what I did the previous day, the previous weekend, or any time period in my day-to-day life more than half a day prior. I suspect that it has partly to do with a lack of mindfulness. I tend to be caught up in my work most of the day, every day. Because of this, time flies by with alarming speed.

For many years, I have been fascinated with the idea of being mindful. Of taking notice of what is going on around you, to take notice of yourself.

I wonder if I could remember more if I was more mindful. It makes sense in a certain way—if I am more present in the moment, then it seems to me that I should remember it better. Interestingly, I find that taking photos often takes me out of a mindful state of mind. It's hard, after all, to enjoy the moment when you are worrying about getting a nice photo. But here's the thing—if I don't take photos, then how will I remember the moments? I don't have photographic memory, and I am reasonably sure that mindfulness by itself won't give me that.

For a long time, I eschewed the idea of taking photos. Why waste time doing such a thing when I can enjoy the moment? It was an idea born out of rebellion. All I can say is that, looking back, I am sometimes left with wonder over what I won't remember. An occasional joy is when I stumble upon an old photo that reminds me of some period of my life that I never really forgot but needed the appreciative nudge to remember. I wonder what memories are lost and will never be triggered because I never took that photo.

Memory for me has always been snippets of scenes, flashes of emotions, and triggers irregularly placed around me. I hope you find in these photos a flavor of the Japan I experienced.

Tokyo

お好み焼き
本陣
HONJIN
まぐろ商店
B1F
4F
3F
NERO

代々木
Yoyogi
出口 800m

CanDo
CanDo
CanDo
Tofuro
新宿
0409

SPACES.
Zenken
カラオケ館
関西ペイント

文京支部
3827-5561

ビル
銀
天澤

新宿セントラルパークシティ
Shinjuku Central Park City
住友不動産新宿セントラルパークビル

高さ制限
2.8m
高さ制限
2.8m
高圧ガス

銀座尾張町
TOWER
焼肉
叙々苑
CHINESE CUISINE SON
Bloom
銀座みゆき通り
美容外科
銀座みゆき通り
美容外科
SALOWIN
SHIMA
ANNEX
ENOTECA
SUZURAN St

TOKYU PLAZA
ITOCIA
NOA
アドバンス
銀座

エスビー食品
TOKYU STAY
ACN
リクルート
銀座第一整骨院
千葉日報社
三共カメラ
LEICA
麺
豊洲 晴海
Toyosu Harumi
上野 新橋
Ueno Shinbashi
銀座 三共カメラ
EXELCO

消火栓
GREEN SEED

寛保二壬戌年

喫茶室
ルノアール
磯丸水産
カラオケ
PUB & BAR
AGEHA
2F
最終章へ
シティーハンター
CITY HUNTER
マツダ キヨム
館

VISA
西村
DHC
DHC TV

G2

Kyoto & Nara

KEIHAN BIOSTYLE PROJECT
KEIHAN BIOSTYLE PROJECT
地ビール祭り

木 野
350 350 350 350 280
280 350 350 280 220
二軒茶屋
니켄자야
京都精华大前
교토세이카다이마에
木野
기노
801
禁 煙
NO SMOKING
運転室立入禁止
①801

改札口
Gates
鞍馬
Kurama

大久保
なかうち

大華嚴寺

祝 祇園祭
一番搾り
祝 祇園祭
一番搾り
一番搾り
一番搾り
一番搾り
一番搾り
錦
錦
錦
Here's a cold beer
Special lunch

Osaka

めっちゃ面白いを
仕事に。
ャー・介護事業まで
プロデュース
動産業の
エグループ
づばらや
いちごなび
高収入
バイト
かに楽
大阪王将

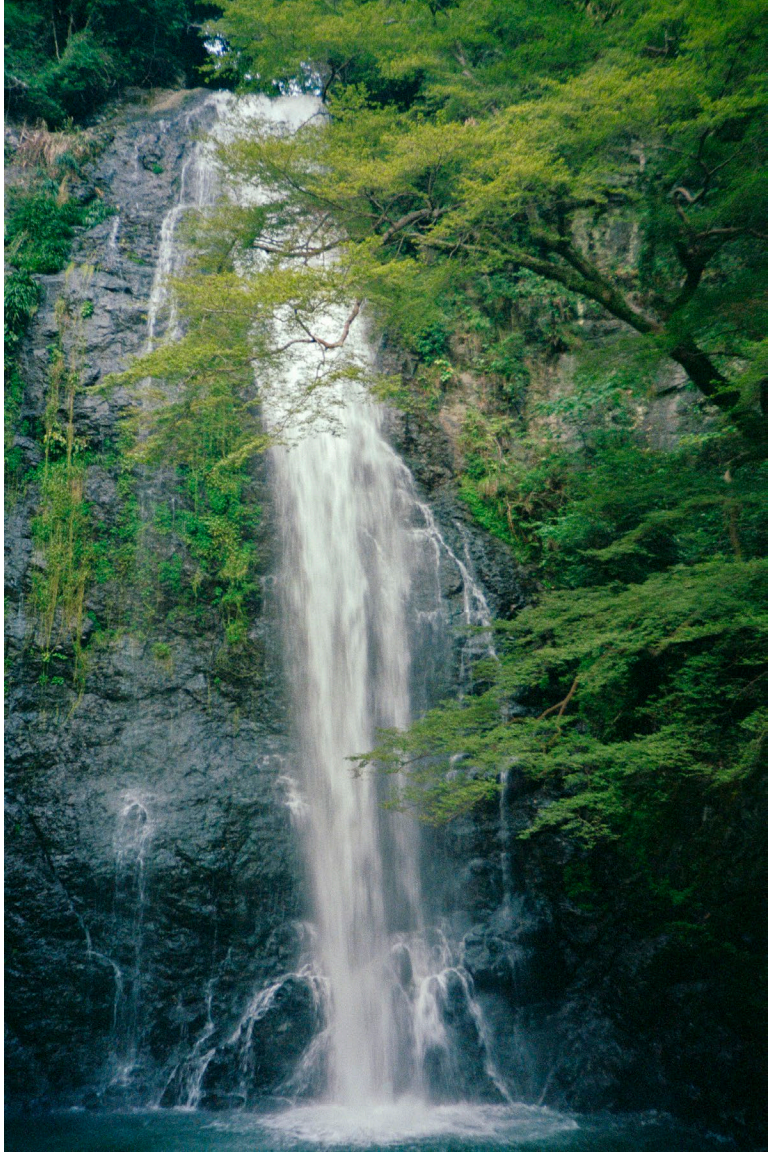
不動産
ギャラン
分譲 賃貸
マンション
レジャー
富士ホームサービス
牛一

Quatre
CRYSTAL
お釜だよ
たく丸
200m
丸ノ丸
無料
案内所
infomen
EXPO
2025
P

majica
ドン.キホーテ

箕面駅西
Mino Station W

みのお聖天
山根



防火水槽

SUNTORY
LED冷蔵庫
ヒートポンプ

STOP
非常停止ボタン
11 箱根湯本 方面
33

Hakone

湯
HOT
水
COLD

音楽の
聴き方

Please do not get on the tracks