

## **Daido Moriyama: Audio Description**

**Written by Eleanor Margolies**

### **Yokosuka, 1970**

This colour photograph shows a narrow space between two walls of corrugated sheet metal about a metre apart. The space between them is filled with a grey silt or soil mixed with mostly unidentifiable rubbish – clear plastic bags, an aluminium can half buried in the dirt, plastic drinks bottles, ends of wire, a section of corrugated sheet. A barefoot figure is moving up and away from us, climbing over the heaped rubbish, holding onto one of the walls for balance. The person wears a very short white dress with a ruffled hem and spaghetti straps, the steep angle emphasising their long slim legs and vulnerable bare feet.

The metal on the right-hand wall is brown and rusty, while there are panels of newer pale blue metal to the left. But everything is ramshackle, held together with horizontal wooden slats. And the whole image seems to be tilted to the left, as if the photographer was off balance in the moment of taking it, or the image was subsequently cropped to give a feeling of imbalance that echoes the precarious position of the barefoot climber.

It's night; the camera's flash lights up the silvery metal close to us as well as the pale dress worn by the retreating figure.

The colour photographs shown in the exhibition were selected from the photographer's archive in Tokyo. Moriyama took some of the images for personal essays; others were published in magazines such as Camera Mainichi, Asahi

Camera and Asahi Journal in the 1970s and 1980s. Some alternative versions of the original colour photographs – such as the black and white version of this photograph – have become well known. The place where this photograph was made, Yokosuka, is a coastal city an hour south of Tokyo that has been photographed by a range of photographers – notably Ishiuchi Miyako, Shomei Tomatsu and Daido Moriyama.