

46 views of gods in the metropolis

kumagai-inari shrine tsukuda machikado museum masaki-inari shrine fukugawa jizo statue ohara-inari shrine kobayashi-inari shrine shinkawa grand

shrine saraballo shrine tokutime-hari shrine shiohime-guo statue yomokura-hari shrine hiraiva-hari shrine koma shrine hanamachi shrine shionomi fukoku-hari shrine umayoshi-guo statue-chose-hari shrine takeo-hari shrine koshira shrine
竹内シナサン
hatsudai-hari shrine enkohe-ben

竹内シナサン

batsuki-inari shrine enfuku ben

bamboo house publishing

46 views of **gods**
in the metropolis

foreword

It started out as something curious to show my friend.

During the day the streets of Ginza are alive with people and energy – it is after all the retail mecca of Tokyo, for those with the resources to afford it, but after hours the town falls silent and belongs to the **gods**. In one dimly lit side street on my way home I took a photo that would lead to the eventual creation of the works in this book.

In the photo was an inari shrine, brightly lit up, beautifully maintained with fresh offerings of water and a neatly formed mound of salt to ward away evil spirits. This was something that I had walked past numerous times, but it was not until I saw the photo that I appreciated the fox **deities** proudly and resiliently basking in the warm yellow light contrasted by cool, blue shadow of the city alleyway in the background.

There was something about this scene that sparked something inside me. I had always felt that shrines were something only found outside the city and in the thickets of nature, but it was then that I realized that not even hyper-urbanization of Tokyo can devour the fundamental respect people have for these **gods**. From that moment, I wanted to find these hidden spots for it is in the reverence of these sacred sites where the soul of the people that live there is best displayed.

New buildings and shops make liquid the urban streetscape as much as the people that pass through it, but underpinning it all, in the cracks and corners of the metropolis are the **gods** of the small who look over this vast metropolis and it to them we honor.



Shrines (神社) house the Shinto gods of which there are thousands. Generally, shrines are marked by a red *torii* gate and a set of guardian figures. When the guardians are foxes this denotes an Inari shrine as they are messengers for the god Inari. Within the shrine the boundaries between man and god are marked with a *shimenawa* rope and white *shide* folded paper.

In daily life many pray at these shrines for prosperity and fortune. The smaller shrines are often sponsored by companies who maintain them out of gratitude for continued success. I have always seen Shinto shrines as places of celebration with their colorful decorations being emblematic of that.



Temples (寺) are devoted to Buddhist deities. The *manji* figure above is a holy symbol in Buddhism and is often used to denote the location of a temple on a Japanese map. In addition to temples, *Jizo* statues are also erected to protect the spirits of children and travelers and they are frequently adorned with a red hat and scarf.

Many in Japan believe in Buddhism concurrently with Shintoism and take what is useful of each depending on the situation. I usually associate Buddhism with somber situations that require compassion and mercy and whose structures have earthy and reserved tones.

kumagai-inari shrine

熊谷稲荷神社





tsukuda machikado museum

佃まちかど展示館

masaki-inari shrine

正木稲荷神社



fukugawa jizo statue

深川の地藏尊

卍





ohara-inari shrine

大原稲荷神社

kobayashi-inari shrine

小林稲荷神社



shinkawa grand shrine

新川大神宮



sarutahiko shrine

猿田彦神社





tokufune-inari shrine

徳船稲荷神社

shiomi jizo statue

汐見地藏尊

卍



yanokura-inari shrine

矢ノ庫稲荷神社





hiraiwa-inari shrine

平岩稲荷神社

koami shrine

小網神社



hamamachi shrine

濱町神社



shintomi fukkou-inari shrine

新富復興稲荷社





厩

umayabashi jizo statue

厩橋地藏尊

chitose-inari shrine

千種稲荷神社



takao-inari shrine

高尾稲荷神社



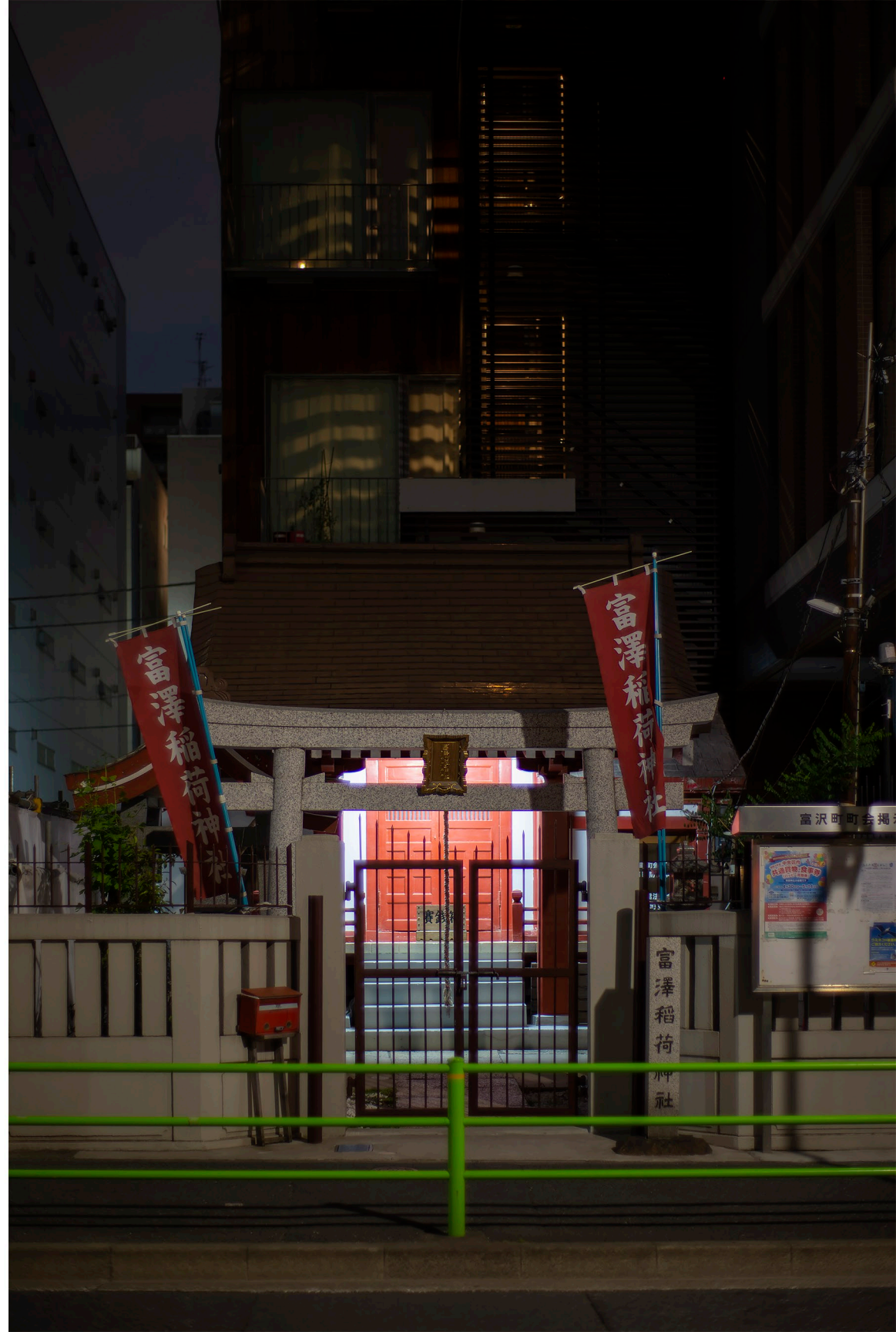


kotohira shrine

金刀比羅神社

hatsuki-inari shrine

初姫稲荷神社



enfuku benzaiten

圓福殿辨財天

円





kanaami-inari shrine

金網稲荷神社

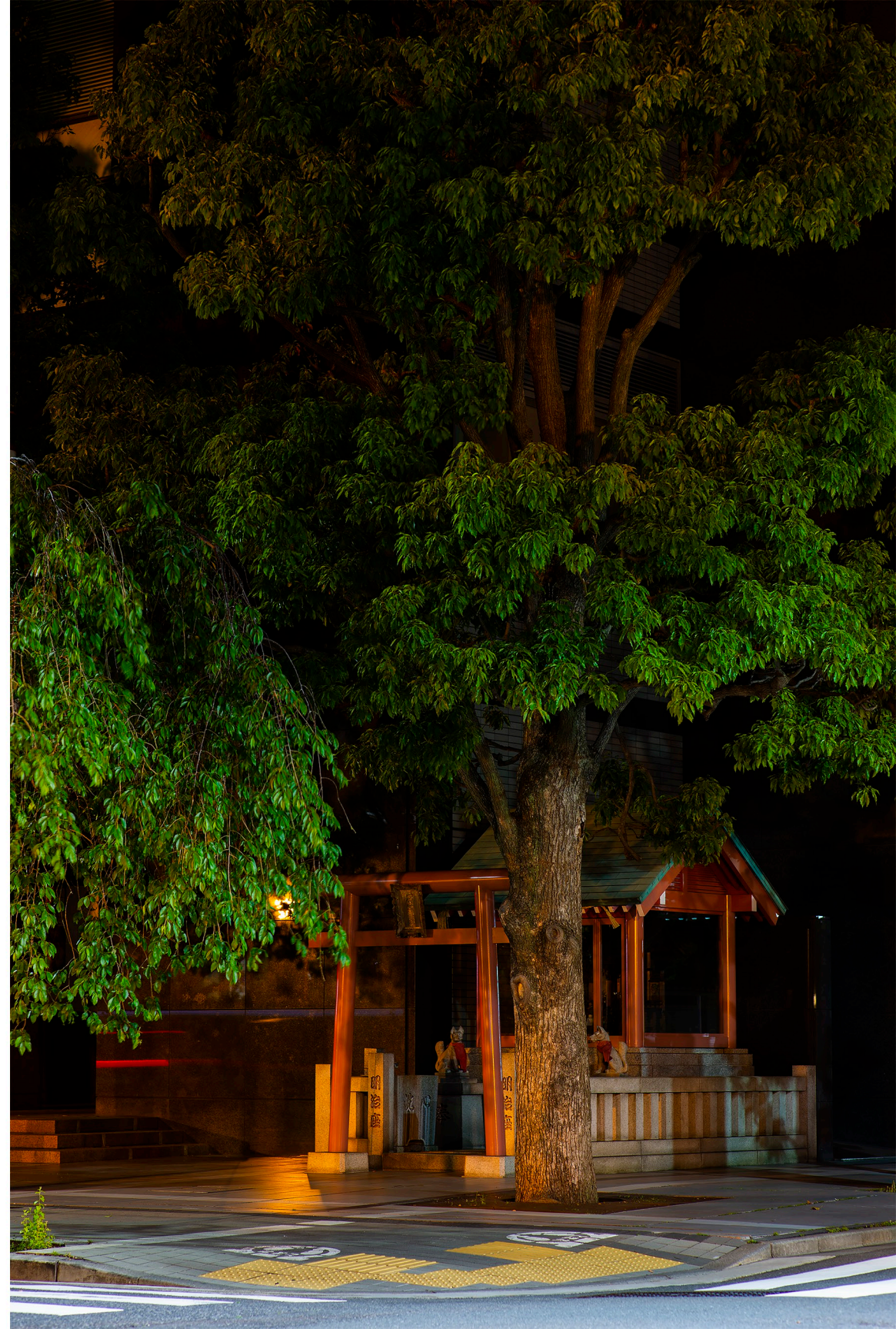
hie shrine

日枝神社



kasamashusse-inari shrine

笠間出世稲荷神社



kabuto shrine

兜神社





卍

tsukishima kannon

月島開運觀世音

koubu-inari shrine

講武稲荷神



mid-sized shrine (kh01-1404)

中神明(kh01-1404)





ohiro shrine

大廣神社

aoki-inari grand shrine

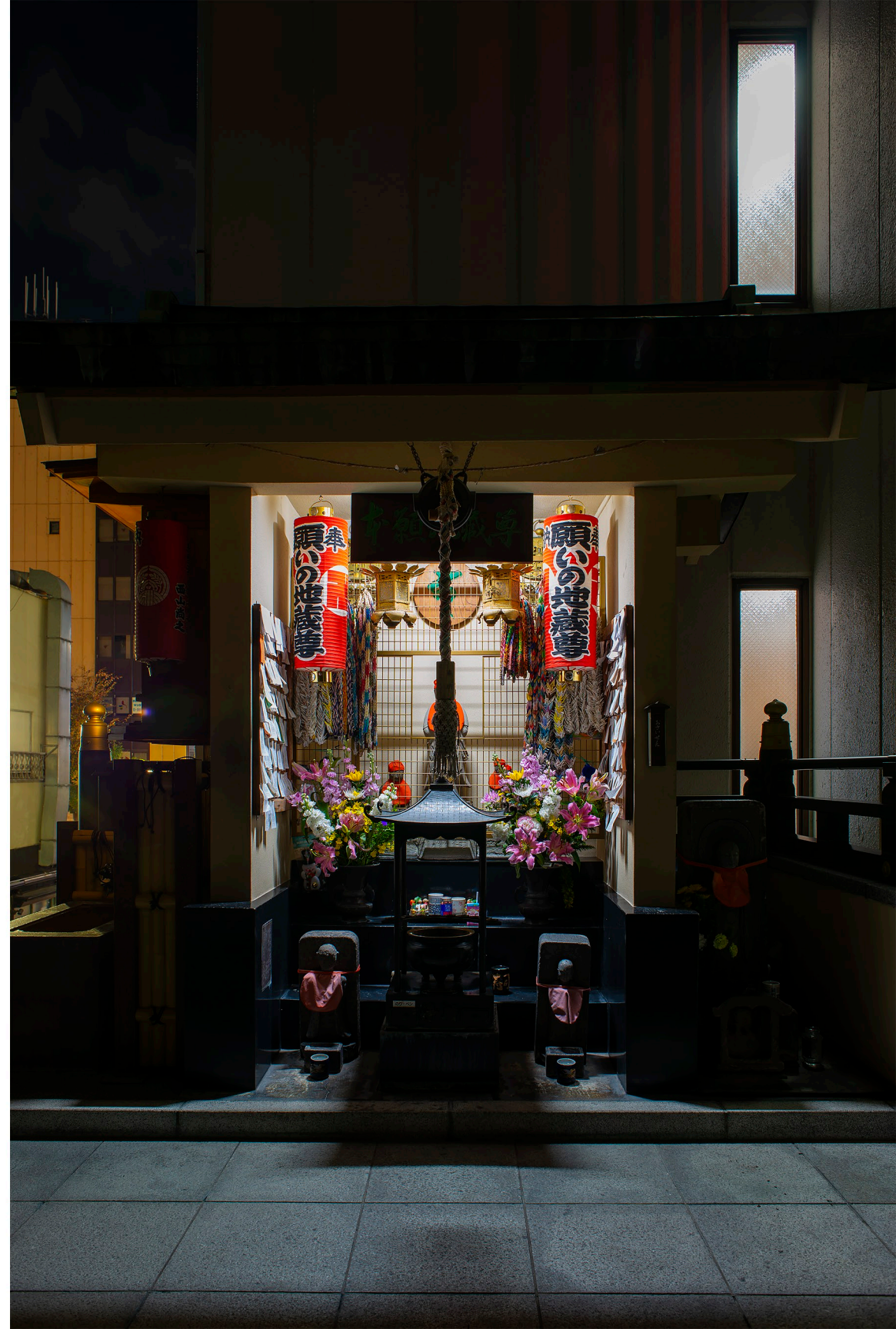
青木稲荷大明神



okannonji temple

大観音寺

卍





namiyoke shrine

波除神社

tsugaru-inari shrine

津軽稲荷神社



nagakura-inari shrine

永倉稲荷神社





shinozuka-inari shrine

篠塚稲荷神社

nipponzan myohou temple

日本山妙法寺

卍



chanoki shrine

茶ノ木神社



shinto taikyoginnan shrine

神道大教銀杏八幡宮





personal shrine

祠

marishiten tokudai temple

摩利支天徳大寺

卍



senkyaku-banrai

千客万来



daikoku-inari grand shrine

大黒稲荷大明神



tachibana-inari shrine

橘稻荷神社





卍

seishoukou temple

清正公寺

personal shrine

祠



yuraku-inari shrine

有楽稲荷神社



notes

When making this photo book one of the comments made to me was, “I would like to have a description or more information about the places.” This is not an unreasonable request and although I am not a historian I felt like I could have written something. In the end, I chose not to for aesthetic reasons as I wanted it to feel like you were wandering through a physical gallery with all the visual impact that focusing on one image brings with it. I felt that including a description would have taken away from some of that impact I was hoping to achieve. This is after all the same feeling I felt when first stumbling upon a new area that I had never noticed before.

In addition, written descriptions usually give a brief history, the year of foundation and other easily quantifiable facts. I think these are all very important and I may yet take the time to document this information, but in the end it does not properly convey what these sites mean to the people that worship them. It seems like even the smallest shrine in the most tucked away portion of Tokyo was still lovingly cared for and meticulously maintained by the people that inhabit it. Even in the dead of night, people on their way home would stop in and pay their respects with a silent prayer and a bow.

It is also for this reason that I wanted to avoid easily recognizable sites and really focus on the smaller neighborhood shrines and temples. To me, these places are the most symbolic representation of the people who reside here in Tokyo – living in one of the most advanced and modern cities while still deeply versed in tradition. This city always seems to be in a state of change and since I started this project, a couple of the shrines have already undergone renovations or were torn down entirely. I worry what will happen to these areas in the future as the city continues to change and sincerely hope that they remain a fixture in this great metropolis. A full list of the shrines and their locations are on the following page. I encourage you to visit them for yourself while you still can.

Place Name (English)	(日本語)	Address (日本語)
kumagai-inari shrine	熊谷稲荷神社	〒104-0061 東京都中央区銀座7丁目12-9
tsukuda machikado museum	佃まちなか展示館	〒104-0051 東京都中央区佃1丁目2
masaki-inari shrine	正木稲荷神社	〒135-0006 東京都江東区常盤1丁目1-2
fukugawa jizo statue	深川地藏尊	〒135-0047 東京都江東区富岡2丁目3-5
ohara-inari shrine	大原稲荷神社	〒103-0026 東京都中央区日本橋兜町11-3
kobayashi-inari shrine	小林稲荷神社	〒130-0026 東京都墨田区両国1丁目6
shinkawa grand shrine	新川大神宮	〒104-0033 東京都中央区新川1丁目8-17
sarutahiko shrine	猿田彦神社	〒110-0005 東京都台東区上野5丁目22-8
tokufune-inari shrine	徳船稲荷神社	〒104-0033 東京都中央区新川2丁目20
shiomi jizo statue	汐見地藏尊	〒104-0043 東京都中央区湊3丁目18-22
yanokura-inari shrine	矢ノ庫稲荷神社	〒103-0004 東京都中央区東日本橋2丁目6
hiraiwa-inari shrine	平岩稲荷神社	〒136-0071 東京都江東区亀戸6丁目47
koami shrine	小網神社	〒103-0016 東京都中央区日本橋小網町16-23
hamamachi shrine	濱町神社	〒103-0007 東京都中央区日本橋浜町3丁目3-3
shintomi fukkou-inari shrine	新富復興稲荷社	〒104-0041 東京都中央区新富1丁目4-8
umayabashi jizo statue	厩橋地藏尊	〒130-0004 東京都墨田区本所1丁目36
chitose-inari shrine	千種稲荷神社	〒130-0013 東京都墨田区錦糸4丁目15-60
takao-inari shrine	高尾稲荷神社	〒103-0015 東京都中央区日本橋箱崎町10-7
kotohira shrine	金刀比羅神社	〒104-0033 東京都中央区新川2丁目15-14
hatsuki-inari shrine	初姫稲荷神社	〒103-0006 東京都中央区日本橋富沢町7-18
enfuku benzaiten	圓福殿辨財天	〒111-0053 東京都台東区浅草橋1-33-6
kanaami-inari shrine	金綱稲荷神社	〒101-0024 東京都千代田区神田和泉町1
hie shrine	日枝神社	〒103-0025 東京都中央区日本橋茅場町1丁目6-16
kasamashusse-inari shrine	笠間出世稲荷神社	〒103-0007 東京都中央区日本橋浜町2丁目31-1
kabuto shrine	兜神社	〒103-0026 東京都中央区日本橋兜町1-12
tsukushima kannon	月島開運観世音	〒104-0052 東京都中央区月島3丁目4-5
koubu-inari shrine	講武稲荷神	〒101-0021 東京都千代田区外神田1丁目9
mid-sized shrine (kh01-1404)	中神明 (kh01-1404)	(private)
ohiro shrine	大廣神社	〒103-0007 東京都中央区日本橋浜町3丁目30-6
aoki-inari grand shrine	青木稲荷大明神	〒135-0004 東京都江東区森下1丁目16-6
okannonji temple	大観音寺	〒103-0013 東京都中央区日本橋人形町1丁目18-9
namiyoke shrine	波除神社	〒104-0045 東京都中央区築地6丁目20-37
tsugaru-inari shrine	津軽稲荷神社	〒130-0013 東京都墨田区錦糸1丁目6-1
nagakura-inari shrine	永倉稲荷神社	〒130-0021 東京都墨田区緑4丁目38-5
shinozuka-inari shrine	篠塚稲荷神社	〒111-0052 東京都台東区柳橋1丁目5-1
nipponzan myohou temple	日本山妙法寺	〒103-0004 東京都中央区東日本橋2丁目17-9
chanoki shrine	茶ノ木神社	〒103-0013 東京都中央区日本橋人形町1丁目12-11
shinto taikyoginnan shrine	神道大教銀杏八幡宮	〒103-0014 東京都中央区日本橋蛸殻町1丁目7-7
personal shrine	祠	(private)
marishiten tokudai temple	摩利支天徳大寺	〒110-0005 東京都台東区上野4丁目6-2
senkyaku-banrai	千客万来 (しめ縄)	(private)
daikoku-inari grand shrine	大黒稲荷大明神	〒135-0024 東京都江東区清澄1丁目8
tachibana-inari shrine	橘稲荷神社	〒103-0013 東京都中央区日本橋人形町3丁目8-6
seishoukou temple	清正公寺	〒103-0007 東京都中央区日本橋浜町2丁目59-2
personal shrine	祠	(private)
yuraku-inari shrine	有楽稲荷神社	〒100-0006 東京都千代田区有楽町1丁目7

My friend first introduced me to photography while I was in college and since then I have used it to explore my artistic side. I started off shooting 35mm Fujifilm Velvia slide film with a manual Nikon F2 camera and have primarily stuck to a style of shooting which favors composition and patience over spontaneity and action. I largely consider myself a landscape photographer and as a result, I was initially not comfortable shooting from mid-distance and had to learn to embrace it. As for all the photos being taken at night – I guess you could just call that a personal preference. Night photos brings out a secret, hidden world that is not normally seen and allows me to work with the interplay between light and shadow. In addition, having never shot with a dedicated theme before, I found myself considering individual compositions with regards to the project as a whole in order to make each shot more powerful. As to the number of photos to include – I had initially wanted to take 101 photos but in the end I settled on 46 as a homage to Hiroshige's 36 Views of Mt. Fuji, plus his additional ten.

I also wanted to take these photos before camera technology eclipses my own personal photographic skill. The notion of “intent” may soon disappear from photography as technology continues to evolve and older techniques get phased out for automatic smart-settings and post-processing. For most shooting locations, I went back several times to get the “perfect shot” – one perfectly in focus, free of wind and flare or any other distractions but in many cases, I reverted back to the initial photo that had drawn me in because they had a *je n'sais quoi* about them. It is also for this reason that I have applied (what I consider to be) minimal post-processing mainly correcting for lens perspectives and color balancing. Therefore, I would ask you to forgive any technical errors you may see. For those curious about the photographic gear and settings used, all photos were taken with a Nikon D800E at ISO100 and additional details can be found on the following page.

Place Name (English)	Lens	Aperture
kumagai-inari shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/4.0
tsukuda machikado museum	carl zeiss distagon t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/5.6
masaki-inari shrine	nikon nikkor 20mm f/4.0 ai-s	f/8.0
fukugawa jizo statue	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
ohara-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
kobayashi-inari shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/5.6
shinkawa grand shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 28mm f/2.0 zf2	f/8.0
sarutahiko shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
tokufune-inari shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 28mm f/2.0 zf2	f/2.0
shiomi jizo statue	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
yanokura-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/4.0
hiraiwa-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
koami shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
hamamachi shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/5.6
shintomi fukkou-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/2.0
umayabashi jizo statue	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
chitose-inari shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
takao-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/2.8
kotohira shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/8.0
hatsuki-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/1.4
enfuku benzaiten	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
kanaami-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/1.4
hie shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
kasamashusse-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/5.6
kabuto shrine	nikon nikkor 24mm f/2.8 af-d	f/8.0
tsukushima kannon	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
koubu-inari shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
mid-sized shrine (kh01-1404)	carl zeiss distagon t* 28mm f/2.0 zf2	f/2.0
ohiro shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/8.0
aoki-inari grand shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
okannonji temple	nikon nikkor 24mm f/2.8 af-d	f/8.0
namiyoke shrine	carl zeiss distagon t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/4.0
tsugaru-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/1.4
nagakura-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/2.8
shinozuka-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/2.8
nipponzan myouhou temple	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
chanoki shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
shinto taikyoginnan shrine	nikon nikkor 28mm f/2.0 ai-s	f/5.6
personal shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 35mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
marishiten tokudai temple	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
senkyaku-banrai	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
daikoku-inari grand shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/2.0
tachibana-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
seishoukou temple	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/2.0
personal shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 85mm f/1.4 zf2	f/1.4
yuraku-inari shrine	carl zeiss planar t* 50mm f/1.4 zf	f/2.0

I would like to thank all the people that have helped me on my photographic journey – your encouragement and support have been my lifeline. I would also thank you for taking the time to look at my photos and I hope that you find some kind of meaning or beauty in them.

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jonathan f. takeuchi

b. 1979

respecting the art
of the camera

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