



KENRO IZU

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Born in Osako, Japan in 1949, Japanese photographer Kenro Izu studied at Nihon University, College of Arts, in Tokyo. In 1970, he moved to New York City where he has continued to live and work ever since. After discovering the work of British Victorian photographer, Frances Frith, Izu traveled to Egypt in 1979 and began photographing the pyramids and other sacred monuments.

Over the last 25 years, Kenro Izu has taken photographs of religious sites in use for millennia, from Asia to the Pacific Islands, from the Middle East to Europe. At a time when many of the world's sacred sites are endangered—because of neglect, excessive tourism, and even deliberate destruction—Izu's photography attempts to document a worldwide archipelago of spiritual architecture. In an interview, Izu is quoted saying "The building has to be there to photograph...but the atmosphere is what I'm interested in. The important thing is the spirituality of these monuments...It's not just a photograph of a building. The building is a representation of the spirit." Izu's current energy has been focused on spiritual sites in India, Cambodia, Burma, Lao, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and China. *Kenro Izu: Sacred Places* is an exhibition of the photographer's work on display at the Johnson Museum from July 21—September 23, 2007.



Moai at Rano Raraku, Easter Island, Chile, 1989



Borobudur, Java, 1996
