

GALLERY

Photograph by

ISSEI SUDA

On Christmas Eve 1991, Issei Suda stepped out into the Tokyo night with his Rolleiflex camera to document people taking part in a seasonal ritual familiar the world over: last-minute Christmas shopping.

“We just observe Christmas Eve by buying cake and bringing it home to eat,” Suda writes in his

photobook *Holy Night*. (He died in 2019.) “I feel like Christmas Eve may be when the Japanese look their tackiest. And people carry this awkwardness with them, as the darkness between buildings sucks them in.”

Festive lights dance between the buildings like drunken kanji, as the woman in the foreground of this

image fixes the photographer with a cold stare. Her left hand clutches her shopping bag as her right balls up - a state of seasonal anxiety perhaps. Her whole elegant demeanour screams: “Get me out of here!” **FT**

.....
Words by Josh Lustig. “Holy Night” is published by Chose Commune



Untitled, 1991

© SUDA ISSEI WORKS/CHOSE COMMUNE