

NAKAJIMA Kiyoshi Retrospective Opens at the Yokohama Museum of Art on November 3rd, 2015

Exhibition: *NAKAJIMA Kiyoshi Retrospective:
Exploring the Kaleidoscopic World of an Innovative Nihonga Painter*

Venue: Yokohama Museum of Art

Dates: November 3, 2015 – January 11, 2016

Media Preview: Monday, November 2, 13:00-14:45 pm



Singer Singing Applause, 1973,
Yokohama Museum of Art
(Donated by Mr. Nakajima Kiyoshi)

Have you ever heard of NAKAJIMA Kiyoshi? His name is not familiar to everyone and even the many people who know of him have difficulty associating him with just one kind of painting. Kiyoshi was a highly talented and immensely curious artist who was continually exploring new styles and techniques. It is difficult to believe that the kaleidoscopic artistic world he created could have been produced by one man. It is not surprising that he gained a reputation as a protean painter.

NAKAJIMA developed a great love and knowledge of Buddhist art as a young man living in Kyoto and obtained superb painting skills through a study of traditional painting at the “Angado” painting school in Tokyo. Throughout his career, he continued to surprise his audience by abrupt changes of style as he explored new possibilities of painting with traditional Japanese mediums, beginning with a fresh approach to traditional bird-and-flower motifs, switching to boldly deformed figures, and finally engaging with geometrical abstraction. His paintings are characterized by great freedom and openness, often enhanced by irony and humor. A viewer who hopes to construct a unified image of the artist may be bewildered by their incredible diversity and have the unsettling feeling of being pulled into an endless artistic labyrinth.

This exhibition follows NAKAJIMA's entire career from youth to old age, exploring his changing interests in motifs and methods. It introduces studies and sketches in addition to finished works to provide a better understanding of his unique way of developing pictorial compositions. The stylistic shifts in His paintings reflect the times in which he lived, Taisho (1912-1926) and Showa (1926-1989) period, which saw dramatic transformations in people's lives and values. While following the evolution of this artist chronologically, the exhibition will also highlight the ideas and esthetic principles that he adhered to faithfully throughout his life in spite of the seemingly drastic changes in his art.

*Some of the works are shown for a limited period. Please contact the museum for details.

Artist Profile

NAKAJIMA Kiyoshi (1899-1989)

NAKAJIMA Kiyoshi was born in Kyoto in 1899. At age 16, he moved to Yokohama, where he worked as an office worker while studying painting at MATSUMOTO Fuko's "Angado" painting school. His work was accepted for exhibition in the "Inten" (Japan Art Institute Exhibition) for the first time when he was 25. In subsequent exhibitions, he won the Japan Art Institute Award four times and was elected a permanent member. He became a leading figure in the "Inten" and continued to participate in their annual exhibitions. Except for three years during World War II when he relocated to Obuse Village (today's Obuse-cho, Kamitakai-gun, Nagano prefecture), NAKAJIMA lived in Yokohama all his life and contributed to the local art scene. In his later years, he was commissioned to paint the sliding doors inside "Rinshunkaku" in "Sankeien" Garden (located in Naka-ku, Yokohama). These paintings, which were a synthesis of traditional and modern styles, were his culminating achievement. He had finished the doors of five rooms when he fell ill in 1981 and left the remainder of the work to his third son, "Nihonga" painter, NAKAJIMA Chinami. After several years of recuperation, he passed away in 1989.



At his atelier, around the age of 71.



Night of Hogue Buddhist Ritual, 1950,
Yokohama Museum of Art
(Donated by Mr. Yamaguchi Kyūzō)



Flowers and Cat, 1934,
Private collection (Former collection of Osaragi Jiro)



Bamboo Breeze, 1975,
Yokohama Museum of Art

Admission

Adults	¥1,200 (1,000/ 1,100)
University students, High school students	¥ 800 (700/ 700)
Junior high school students	¥ 400 (300/ 300)
Children under 12	Free
Seniors(65 and Older)	¥1,100

*ID required, only available at ticket counter in the museum.

*Advance ticket is available at Museum Shop, smartphone ticket with tixee, on sale from September 25 until November 2, 2015.

* () = Advance/ Group of 20 or more(pre-booking required)

*Free Admission on November 3, 2015.

*Free admission for high school students and younger with valid IDs on Saturday.

*Visitors with disability and one person accompanying them are admitted free of charge. (Please present certificate at the entrance.)

*Collection exhibition is available with this ticket.

General Information

NAKAJIMA Kiyoshi Retrospective:

Exploring the Kaleidoscopic World of an Innovative Nihonga Painter

Dates: November 3, 2015 - January 11, 2016

Open hours: 10:00—18:00 (Last admission at 17:30)

Closed: Thursdays, December 29, 2015 – January 2, 2016

Venue: Yokohama Museum of Art

3-4-1, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012

TEL: 045-221-0300 FAX: 045-221-0317

URL: <http://yokohama.art.museum/eng>

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Yokohama FM Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Metropolitan Expressway Co., Ltd.,



Street of Ginza A, 1936,
Yokohama Museum of Art (Donated by the artist)

Contact

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