

PRESS RELEASE

October 1st, 2019

Morita Tsunetomo

: A Retrospective

Live in Harmony with Nature

February 1st (Saturday) – March 22nd (Sunday),
2020

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

Morita Tsunetomo (1881-1933), born in Kumagaya City, Saitama Prefecture, was a painter active from the end of the Meiji era to the early Showa era. He started his career as a Western-style painter and entered the Tokyo Fine Arts School, where he produced romantic works under the influence of his senior Aoki Shigeru. After graduation, he drew illustrations and cartoons for magazines including “Tokyo Puck” and newspapers, and was also involved in the foundation of an art and literary journal “Hosun.” In 1914, he sailed over to Europe, where he became an ardent admirer of Paul Cézanne and painted works showing a great influence by the artist. After returning home in 1915, however, he kept travelling various parts of Japan and in the meantime, he discovered expression in sumi ink was best suited to Japanese scenery, and in the latter half of his life, he exhibited serene Japanese paintings, which captured nature in the places on his journey and the Musashino area.

“Live in harmony with nature” is a statement left by Tsunetomo. Throughout his entire life, he produced both Western and Japanese paintings and tried out a variety of techniques and methods of expression; however, his production approach—calmly fixing his eyes on the nature and people living in the place, and portraying them with empathy—was always consistent. Very late in his life, he reached generous and serene ground in his paintings, as if encompassing all feelings of joy and loneliness sensed when confronting nature.

This exhibition comprises about 250 pieces: his major works in Western and Japanese paintings, some of which are unveiled to the public for the first time, and magazines, sketchbooks, letters, bookbinding designs, and other materials. Following in Tsunetomo’s footsteps from his earlier years through to the late period of his life, the exhibition features the fascination of the painter.

Exhibition Outline

1. Exhibition dates: February 1st (Saturday) – March 22nd (Sunday), 2020
Closed: Monday (open on February 24th)
2. Opening hours: 10:00 – 17:30
(Last admission to the Exhibition Room: 17:00)
3. Admission: Adults: 1,100 (880) yen
High school and university students: 880 (710) yen
*Group fee in brackets applies to 20 or more people.
*Free for junior high school students and younger, as well as disabled persons (and one attendant) upon presentation of their ID booklet.
*Includes admission to the MOMAS collection (1st floor Exhibition Room).
4. Organizers: The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, The Yomiuri Shimbun, The Japan Association of Art Museums
5. Sponsors: Lion Corporation, Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc., Nippon Television Network Corporation
6. Subsidized by: Pola Art Foundation, Japan Arts Council
7. Special Cooperation: The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
8. Cooperation: JR East Omiya Branch, FM NACK5
9. Number of exhibits: About 250 (planned)

*Some of the exhibits will be changed midway through the exhibition.

First half: February 1st (Saturday) – March 1st (Sunday)

Second half: March 3rd (Tuesday) – March 22nd (Sunday)

10. Directions: Address: 9-30-1, Tokiwa, Urawa-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama 330-0061, Japan

Tel: 048-824-0111 Fax: 048-824-0119

<http://www.pref.spec.ed.jp/momas/>

The museum is located inside Kita-Urawa Park, a 3-minute walk from the West Exit of Kita-Urawa Station on the JR Keihin-Tohoku Line.

JR Kita-Urawa Station is approximately 35 minutes by train from JR Tokyo or JR Shinjuku Station.

Parking is not available at the museum. Please use the coin-operated parking lot named “Mitsui Repark, the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama East,” which can be used at a reduced price (300 yen off for special exhibitions and 100 yen off for the MOMAS Collection). Please contact us prior to your visit if you are planning on coming by chartered bus. Persons with disabilities can use our business-use parking space. However, space is limited.

Contact Us

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About images for media use

- For use of the images below, please contact the museum. The museum will provide them in data format. Please request via email: kouhou@aria.ocn.ne.jp (Mr. Yata in charge of PR)
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■ Captions

- (1) *Combing Hair* / 1905 / Oil on canvas / Private collection (deposited to the Kumagaya City Library)
- (2) *A Nurse Taking a Nap* / 1907 / Oil on canvas / Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- (3) *View of Provence* / 1914 / Oil on canvas / Collection of the Kumagaya City Library
- (4) *Ruins of Wakamatsu Castle* from *Nihon Fūkei Hanga [Japanese Scenery Prints]*, vol.2: Aizu / 1917 / Woodblock print on paper / Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- (5) *Album of the Snowy Country* / 1920 / Ink and light color on paper / Private collection
- (6) *Green Field* / circa 1926-27 / Color on silk / Collection of the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

Images for media use



(1)



(2)



(3)



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