



Eyes on <sup>2</sup>2.1<sup>sat</sup>  
MEXICO <sup>2</sup>1  
The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama <sup>5</sup>5.11<sup>sun</sup>

Eyes on Mexico

Feb. 1 – May 11, 2025

## I Exhibition Outline

During the 1950s, the world of Mexican art burst onto the scene in Japan through exhibitions and magazines, enchanting many artists with vibrant colors and powerful formative expressions linked to its ancient civilizations and revolutionary history. What captivated Japanese artists more than anything else was the “Exhibition of Mexican Art” held at the Tokyo National Museum in 1955. The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama on the other hand, has collected modern Mexican art since opening in 1982, with frequent exhibitions focusing on this area. Behind the scenes, there was the 1979 signing of a sister prefecture/state agreement with the State of Mexico, the United Mexican States, and HOMMA Masayoshi, who not only visited the 1955 Exhibition of Mexican Art, but was well versed in Mexican art, and served as our first director.

This exhibition follows in the footsteps of five Japanese artists who fell in love with Mexican art in the 1950s, namely, FUKUZAWA Ichiro, OKAMOTO Taro, TONEYAMA Kojin, AKUTAGAWA (MADOKORO) Saori, and On KAWARA, offering a glimpse into how they viewed the country that

produced this incredible art. It also introduces our Mexican art collection and its history, as well as the work of director HOMMA Masayoshi, who endeavored to popularize Mexican art in Japan. This show looks at works of art, documents, and past exhibitions in an attempt to view postwar Japan's sudden fascination with Mexican art from various perspectives.

## ■ Highlights

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### 1. **The opportunity to experience the wonders of Mexican art**

Mexican art had a major impact on 1950s Japan. This exhibition showcases works by the artists who led the Mexican muralista art movement, such as José Clemente OROZCO, Diego RIVERA, and David ALFARO SIQUEIROS, all of whom were featured in the 1955 "Exhibition of Mexican Art" (Tokyo National Museum), as well as Rufino TAMAYO, who represented the next generation. Pieces on display include those from SIQUEIROS thought to have been part of the 1955 Mexican Art Exhibition, and mural-related works.

### 2. **Five artists' eyes on Mexico**

This exhibition also focuses on FUKUZAWA Ichiro, OKAMOTO Taro, TONEYAMA Kojin, AKUTAGAWA (MADOKORO) Saori, and On KAWARA, five Japanese artists who fell in love with the charms of Mexican art. These artists, enchanted by the ancient civilizations and murals, and influenced by the coloring, formative expressions, and language, each viewed Mexico in their own unique way, and incorporated these elements into their own art. Instead of merely focusing on their art, the exhibition looks at their fascination with Mexico using photographs taken in the country, a collection of folk crafts, and magazines from the time.

### 3. **Our Mexican art collection and its history**

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama has held a number of Mexican art exhibitions over the years and curated a collection of contemporary Mexican art to celebrate the signing of a sister prefecture/state agreement between Saitama Prefecture and the State of Mexico. In the background, HOMMA Masayoshi (1916-2001) worked for many years at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo after the war and served as our first curator working to popularize Mexican art in Japan. This exhibition introduces HOMMA's efforts in Mexican art, exchanges between Saitama and Mexico, and goes back to the beginnings of our Mexican art collection.

## ■ Chapters

**Chapter 1: Mexican Art has Arrived!**

**Chapter 2: Mexico and Five Japanese Artists**

**Chapter 3: Saitama and Mexican Art**

## ■ Artists

**FUKUZAWA Ichiro, OKAMOTO Taro, TONEYAMA Kojin, AKUTAGAWA (MADOKORO) Saori, On KAWARA**

José Guadalupe POSADA, José Clemente OROZCO, Diego RIVERA, KITAGAWA Tamiji, David ALFARO SIQUEIROS, Rufino TAMAYO, HORIUCHI Hideo, TAKAHASHI Rikio, Luis NISHIZAWA, YOSHIDA Hodaka, Francisco TOLEDO, Martín DÍAZ MANJARREZ

## ■ Exhibition Information

Title	Eyes on Mexico
Schedule	February 1 - May 11, 2025 Note: Subject to partial changes, Part 1: To March 23, Part 2: From March 25
Closed	Mondays (Open February 24, May 5)
Hours	10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Final entry to exhibition room: 5:00 p.m.)
Admission	General: ¥900 (¥720), university/high school students: ¥720 (¥580) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prices inside parentheses ( ) are for groups of 20 or more.</li> <li>• Visitors of junior high school age and under and those who present a physical disability certificate (including one accompanying person) may enter free of charge.</li> <li>• Visitors with a themed exhibition ticket (excluding Gurutto Pass) may also view the MOMAS Collection (1F exhibition room).</li> </ul>
Number of pieces	About 120
Organizer	The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
Grant	Toyama Memorial Museum, Art and Academic Research Grant
PR assistance	JR East Omiya Branch, FM NACK5

## ■ Venue Information

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### **The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama**

**9-30-1 Tokiwa, Urawa-ku, Saitama-shi 330-0061 TEL: 048-824-0111 FAX:048-824-0119**

**<https://pref.spec.ed.jp/momas/>**

- Three minutes on foot from the Kita-Urawa Station West Exit on the JR Keihin-Tohoku Line (Inside Kita-Urawa Park). Approximately 35 minutes from JR Tokyo Station or Shinjuku Station to Kita-Urawa Station.
- There is no museum parking lot, but the affiliated Times Saitama Kenritsu Kindai Bijutsukan Higashi (Times Museum of Modern Art, Saitama East) parking lot offers discounted parking (¥300 off with a themed exhibition ticket, ¥100 off with a MOMAS Collection ticket). We ask that group buses contact us in advance.
- Business parking spaces are available for visitors with physical disabilities. Spaces are limited, however, so please contact us in advance.
- The museum may be closed and the exhibition schedule may be changed due to various circumstances. Please check our website for the latest information before visiting.
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## ■ Related Projects

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### **Lecture: “Realism in 1955”**

Lecturer: TSUJI Yasutaka (Art and architectural historian)

Date and time: Saturday, February 8, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Opens 2:30 p.m.)

Location: Second Floor Auditorium, capacity: 80 (No application required, first-come-first-served on the day), admission: free

### **Lecture: “OKAMOTO Taro and Mexico”**

Lecturer: NAKANO Yasuo (Director at Kyotoba/ former curator at Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki)

Date and time: Monday, February 24 (holiday), 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Opens 2:30 p.m.)

Location: Second Floor Auditorium, capacity: 80 (No application required, first-come-first-served on the day), admission: free

### **Talk: “A Travelogue to 1960s Mexico: Through the Lens of TONEYAMA Kojin”**

Lecturer: TACHIBANA Masako (TONEYAMA Kojin’s eldest daughter/ director at Arte Toneyama), SAEKI Ayaki (Curator, Museum of Modern Art, Saitama)

Date and time: Saturday, March 1, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. (Opens 1:30 p.m.)

Location: Second Floor Auditorium, capacity: 80 (No application required, first-come-first-served on the day), admission: free

Details: TACHIBANA Masako, TONEYAMA Kojin’s eldest daughter and manager of a Mexican folk art

shop and restaurant serving homemade Mexican cuisine, will show rare photos captured by TONEYAMA in Mexico while talking about memories of the time and interactions with Mexican artists.

### Production demonstration, talk, and video showing

Demonstrators: Isaiás JIMÉNEZ (Mexican folk artist),  
YAMAMOTO Masahiro (LABRAVA)

Date and time: Saturday, March 22,  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. (Opens 1:30 p.m.)

Location: Second Floor Auditorium: 80

(No application required, first-come-first-served on the day), admission: free

Details: Isaiás JIMÉNEZ is known for his vibrantly colored wood carvings, and this is his first trip to Japan. He will demonstrate his production techniques while giving a talk, and a documentary on his father Manuel JIMÉNEZ, the founder of Oaxacan wood carving, (a colorful wood carving technique from Oaxaca, Mexico) will be shown.



### Gallery Talk by the Curators

Date and time: Saturday, April 12, Sunday, May 4 (holiday) starting at 3:00 p.m. (approximately one hour)

Location: Second Floor Exhibition Room (themed exhibition admission required)

### ■ Slide Show and Talk

Interested groups may view a slide show on the highlights of the exhibition (reservations required). For inquiries and reservations, contact the person in charge of education and PR activities (TEL: 048-824-0110).

### ■ Concurrent Exhibitions

#### MOMAS Collection (1F Exhibition Room)

- Saturday, November 30, 2024 – Sunday, March 2, 2025

“Selection,” “Special Feature: KIMURA Naomichi,” “The Pioneers of Postwar Japanese Art”

- Saturday, March 8 – Sunday, June 1, 2025

“Selection,” “American Artists”

#### Artist Project #2.08 (2F exhibition room D)

MATSUDAIRA Rina: Code and Mode

- Saturday, February 1 – Sunday, May 11, 2025

## ■ Catalog

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The official catalog, “Eyes on Mexico” (96 pages, ¥1,400 tax in.) will be available from the end of February at the museum shop.

## ■ Inquiries

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Curators in charge of the exhibition: YOSHIOKA, SAEKI, SHINOHARA

PR and image inquiries: SHIGIHARA

TEL: 048-824-0111 (main number) | 048-824-0110 (direct to curators)

FAX: 048-824-0118 (direct to curators)

p2401115@pref.saitama.lg.jp (person in charge of themed exhibitions)

## ■ PR Images

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Please contact the museum if you would like to request image data. Inquiries should be addressed to SHIGIHARA at **p2401115@pref.saitama.lg.jp**.

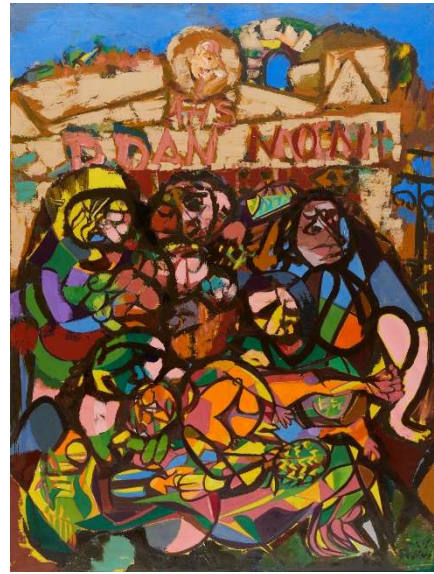
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Captions

- ① AKUTAGAWA (MADOKORO) Saori, *A Young God Sandwiched by Big Trees*, 1956, dyed fabric, Setagaya Art Museum.
- ② FUKUZAWA Ichiro, *Burial*, 1957, oil on canvas, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.
- ③ TONEYAMA Kojin, *Stone Monument*, 1961, oil on canvas, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. ©Arte Toneyama
- ④ On KAWARA, *20 ABR. 68* from *Today* (1966-2013), 1968, acrylic on canvas, Nagoya City Art Museum. ©One Million Years Foundation
- ⑤ OKAMOTO Taro, *Construction*, 1956, oil on canvas, Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki.
- ⑥ José Clemente OROZCO, *Family*, 1926, lithograph on paper, Nagoya City Art Museum. \*To be on view from March 25
- ⑦ *Okamoto Taro visiting Siqueiros at his studio*, 1967, courtesy of Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki.
- ⑧ Reference image: Isaías JIMÉNEZ, *Deer*, 2023. \*Not to be on view at the exhibition