

PRESS RELEASE
2021 / 03 / 19

Ripples Across the Collection

March 23rd (Tuesday) – May 16th (Sunday), 2021

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

Since its opening in 1982, the museum has been collecting Western paintings from the Impressionist period onwards, and works by modern and contemporary artists associated with Saitama Prefecture. Part of the collection is permanently displayed in the museum and the park, and we provide areas especially inside the museum where you can appreciate the works while sitting on originally designed chairs which we are also actively collecting. In this exhibition, we will introduce a wide range of works from the collection starting with four artists: Paul Signac (new artist in our collection), painter Okuhara Seiko (artist associated with Saitama), Charlotte Perriand (involved in modern designs of chairs), and Shigemura Mitsuo (who created the outdoor sculptures). We will also collectively show various works of popular Western painters such as Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro, Japanese painters such as Komura Settai, as well as works by contemporary artists. We hope you will enjoy the exhibition.

Exhibition Structure

1. New Artist in Our Collection--Paul Signac

Inspired by Impressionism, Paul Signac started out as a painter and later began to paint Neo-Impressionist paintings with a characteristic color expression by pointillism based on optical theory. Bank of the Seine, Asnières in our collection which was newly acquired in 2018 is a precious piece produced during the transition from Impressionism to Neo-Impressionism. Signac was fond of waterscapes such as rivers and the sea as can be seen from this painting. Here we present works from the collection based on the keywords 'waterside' and 'pointillism.'

Works on display: Rock of Trestignel by Maurice Denis, Fishing Boat on the Lake by Hishida Shunso, among others

2. A Painter who lived in Saitama Prefecture--Okuhara Seiko

Okuhara Seiko was a Nanga painter who gained popularity in Tokyo at the dawn of the modern era and is associated with Saitama for having spent the second half of his life in Kumagaya, Saitama Prefecture. Nanga is a painting that emphasizes the spirituality of the painter rather than the technique and is characterized by a format of writing poetry inside the painting. While Seiko painted landscapes in which calligraphy and painting are integrated, he also excelled in detailed paintings of flowers and birds. Here we present works from the collection related to 'paintings and words' and 'details' which are the characteristics of Nanga paintings.

Works on display: Gate and Posters by Saeki Yuzo, among others.

3. From the Chair Museum--Charlotte Perriand

Affectionately nicknamed the "Chair Museum," our museum has always displayed modern design chairs throughout its premises. It offers an opportunity to discover the fascination of design through a wide range of chairs that reflect the times and the creativity of the artists. The LC4 Chaise Longue, which was acquired last year, is a design so popular that it has been called the world's most famous chaise longue. French designer Charlotte Perriand who worked on the design had a versatile career in design and architecture through her diverse connections. Here we present works that are associated with the act of 'lying down' on a chaise longue, as well as works by artists who lived in the same period as Perriand.

Works on display: Reclining Nude Woman with a Cat by Léonard Foujita, Butterfly Stool by Yanagi Sori, among others.

4. From Inside the Park--Shigemura Mitsuo

Stairway, a group of figures installed on the back stairs of the museum can be glimpsed from Kitaurawa Park outside the museum. Originally an oil painter, artist Shigemura Mitsuo's encounter with FRP (Fiber Reinforced Plastic) led him to create lifelike works molded

directly from the subjects. From realistic figures to trees, Shigemura's work has a humorous quality to them. Yet at the same time, because they are so realistic, the fact that they are inanimate evokes a sense of melancholy. Here we present works from the collection based on the keywords 'absence' and the charm of the 'materials' selected by the artists.

Works on display: Green Willow by Komura Settai (exhibits of early Japanese paintings and woodcut prints from later periods), among others.

Overview of the Exhibition

Ripples Across the Collection

1. Exhibition period:

March 23 (Tuesday), 2021 – May 16 (Sunday), 2021 (Reiwa 3)

Closed: Mondays (except May 3rd)

2. Opening hours:

From 10:00 - 17:30 (Last admission at 17:00)

3. Admission fee:

Adults: 1000 yen (800 yen), University & High School Students: 800 yen (640 yen)

4. Organizers:

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

5. Support:

JR East Omiya Branch, FM NACK5

6. Number of Presented Works:

Approximately 130

7. Venue/Access:

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

9-30-1, Tokiwa, Urawa-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama 330-0061, Japan

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

<https://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.

8. Events during the exhibition period:

Museum Concert (Video streaming)

Musicians: Tetsuro Kawashima (saxophone, flute), Etsuko Takezawa (koto, 17-string koto, songs)

We hope you will be able to enjoy how the music of these two musicians, who are active in different fields of jazz and traditional Japanese music interlace like ripples inspired by the exhibits and sublimate into richer music. It will be performed in the museum during the exhibition period and streamed on youtube. For more information, please visit our website.

9. Slide Talk:

We will guide you through the highlights of this exhibition using slides of your desired group (reservation required).

For inquiries and reservations, please contact the Education and Public Relations Section (Tel: 048-824-0110).

10. Measures to Prevent the spread of Covid-19 Infection:

We ask for your understanding and cooperation in our efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infection. Depending on the circumstances, events may be changed or cancelled, the museum may be closed, or exhibitions rescheduled.

Please check the latest information on our website before visiting.

<https://pref.spec.ed.jp/momas/> (Contact: 048-824-0111)

11. Contact Us:

Exhibition staff: Kikuchi, Hirano, Saeki / Inquiries regarding public relations & images:
Manaka

Tel: 048-824-0111 (Operator) / 048-824-0110 (Curatorial Division) Fax: 048-824-0118

About the provision of images for public relations

- Please contact the museum regarding the provision of images. Images will be provided in digital format by the museum. Please send your requests by email to kouhou@aria.ocn.ne.jp (Public Relations Officer: Manaka).
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Captions

- ① Paul Signac, Bank of the Seine. Asnières, 1885, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- ② Claude Monet, Grainstacks at Giverny; the Evening Sun, 1888-89, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- ③ Okuhara Seiko, Flock of Cranes in a Fairyland, 1905, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- ④ Komura Settai, Green Willow, c.1924, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- ⑤ Shigemura Mitsuo, Stand Talking, 1993, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- ⑥ Charlotte Perriand, Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, LC4 Chaise Longue, Designed 1928, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama