

In Between

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

Oct. 14 2023 (Sat.) – Jan. 28 2024 (Sun.)

■ Exhibition Outline

This exhibition will focus on artists whose work has recently been added to our collection, Tatsue Hayase (1905-1991), Jonas Mekas (1922-2019), and Yoshifumi Hayashi (1943-2001), along with guest artist Ishu Han (1987-). It will introduce the work, and related documents.

There are many borders in the world, both visible and invisible, including the ordinary and extraordinary, fiction and reality, past and present, national borders, and gender divisions. The presence of such borders can obscure the other side, or function as a wall to protect one's own position. From the past to today, many artists have looked into the various ways these borders function, and have highlighted them in their work. Many have also examined their own identities as an individual positioned on these borders in the production of their work.

This exhibition will trace the paths of each of the featured artists, who delve deeply into the pursuit of borders between themselves and others, and their identities, drawing from their experiences in everyday life. They each layer various media, such as painting, printing, drawing, and film art, in their production. Standing on the boundaries between different divisions and exploring one side and the other, the gazes of these artists will open our eyes to the wider world in our contemporary life.

■ Key Exhibition Points

1. Introduction of four artists from a new perspective

This exhibition, focusing on Tatsue Hayase, Jonas Mekas, Yoshifumi Hayashi, and guest artist Ishu Han, is constructed as a series of four small solo exhibitions.

For Hayase, Mekas, and Hayashi, the display will be based on our collection, supplemented by loaned work, documents, and the work of other associated artists, examining their artistic world from the museum's own perspective.

2. Ishu Han's participation as a guest artist

Tokyo-based Ishu Han will participate in the exhibition as a guest artist. Han has been working with themes such as the individual and society, and connections to community and identity, through performances utilizing his own body, film art, installation work, and painting, along with various other media. In this exhibition, we will introduce his new work, created based on life in isolation in Shanghai, China under the Covid pandemic, which questions invisible borders.

3. The title "In Between"

The exhibition title, "In Between", is inspired by a film piece of that name by Jonas Mekas. The show positions the four artists, who all continue their tireless search in contemplation, as "those who stand in between borders" in our exploration of their gazes from a contemporary perspective.

It also features the production of Jonas Mekas, whose work is shown all over the world to this day, with its key theme of "traveling", along with a screening of his film works, such as *Out-takes from the Life of a Happy Man*, a major work from his later years. Screenings will be held as special exhibition events.

■ Exhibition Information

Exhibition Title | In Between

Exhibition Period | Oct. 14 2023 (Sat.) – Jan. 28 2024 (Sun.)

Closed | Mondays (Open Jan. 8), New Year Holiday (Dec. 25 – Jan. 3)

Opening Hours | 10:00-17:30 (Last entry to exhibition space 17:00)

Fee | Adults ¥1000 (¥800), College/High School Students ¥800 (¥640)

- The price in () is the fee for a group of 20 people or over.
- Admission of junior high school students and younger, and those with a disability certificate (including one attendant) are free of charge.
- Special Exhibition ticket holders (excluding Grutto Pass) may view the MOMAS Collection on the first floor of the venue as well as this exhibition.

Organizers | The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Saitama Triennale Executive Committee

Cooperation | RE:VOIR

Press Cooperation | JR East Omiya Branch Office, FM NACK 5

■ **Artist Profiles (in chronological order, titles omitted)**

Tatsue Hayase (1905-1991)

Born on Okushiri Island, Hokkaido. Hayase began oil painting during her time at Joshi Eigaku Juku, today's Tsuda University, and she encountered surrealism while she was in the Fukuzawa Art Institute. She created illusionistic work in the style of Hieronymus Bosch and other pieces with the motifs of her own appearance, food, and daily goods, presenting them at the Bijyutsu Bunka Art Association. From 1943, she lived in today's Hanno City, Saitama, together with her husband Shoichi Shiraki, and they set up the Shiraki Art Research Institute in 1949. In 1958, she migrated to the US with Shiraki and lived in New York City until 1989, creating painting and three-dimensional work.

Related Featured Artists: Ichiro Fukuzawa, Shoichi Shiraki, Hideo Manabe (Kaneko), Mika (Aiko) Katatani, Kikuji Yamashita, Misao Hotta

Jonas Mekas (1922-2019)

Born in Semeniškiai, Lithuania. In 1944, during the Second World War, Mekas was consigned to a Nazi concentration camp but escaped, traveling through many refugee camps with his brother Adolfas Mekas. He made his way to the US in 1949. Upon obtaining a 16mm Bolex camera, he began shooting his daily life as though writing a journal. Through the publishing magazine Film Culture and the foundation of Anthology Film Archives he worked hard to be a bridge between avant-garde film artists. He was also an active poet in Lithuanian.

Yoshifumi Hayashi (1943-2001)

Born in Osaka as a second generation Korean resident in Japan (and later obtained Japanese nationality). While studying at Waseda University, Hayashi became deeply interested in philosophy and contemporary thought. As an art critic, he discussed the work of artists of his generation, such as Ufan Lee, Insik Quac, Nobuo Sekine, and Yoshinori Suzuki, while working on his own production. In the mid-1970s, he created pieces centered around drawing and block printing, including some with layered pencil and Conté lines in block printing and *frottage* (rubbing). He gradually leaned towards oriental philosophy, and from the 1980s onwards used *sumi* ink and *washi* paper to create abstract paintings with delicate and rich nuances expressed in the brush strokes and *sumi* ink smears.

Related Featured Artists: Insik Quac, Shoji Iida, Yoshinori Suzuki, Ufan Lee, Jun Itami, Nobuo Sekine

Ishu Han (1987-)

Born in Shanghai, China. Han received a postgraduate degree from the Department of Inter-Media Art, Tokyo University of the Arts. Based on the experience of migrating from Shanghai to Aomori in his childhood, he expresses questions and concerns born from the relationship between the individual and society in performances with his own body, film art, and installation work. His recent exhibitions include "A sea, a living room and a skull" (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2021),

"Aichi Triennale 2022" (Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, 2022), and "Home Sweet Home" (The National Museum of Art, Osaka, 2023).

■ Related Events

Artist Talk

Ishu Han (exhibited artist) x Yurie Nagashima (artist)

Date & Time: Oct. 14 (Sat.) 15:00-16:30 (opens: 14:30)

Venue: Second floor auditorium

Capacity: 80 (no advance application: first come first served)

Fee: Free

Jonas Mekas Film Screening & Talk

(1) First Screening

Date & Time: Nov. 12 (Sun.) 13:30-15:40 (opens 13:00)

Program: *Paradise Not Yet Lost, or Oona's Third Year, On My Way to Fujiyama, I Saw...* (16mm film screening)

Distributor: Mekas Nihon Nikki no Kai

(2) Second Screening

Date & Time: Dec. 24 (Sun.) 13:30-15:15 (opens 13:00)

Program: *Award Presentation to Andy Warhol, This Side of Paradise*, and others (digital screening)

Distributor: RE:VOIR, Mekas Nihon Nikki no Kai

(3) Guest Talk

Guests: Yui Kiyohara (film director, film artist) x Kimi Idonuma ("Hadakerukosen" organizer)

Date & Time: Dec. 24 (Sun.) 15:30- (duration: about 1 hour)

For (1)-(3)

Venue: Second floor auditorium

Capacity: 60 (advance application necessary: first come first served, multiple applications possible)

Fee: Free

Application: Museum website

Application from: Oct. 3 (Tue.)

*For program details, please check Museum website

Workshop "Window Staring"

Lecturer: Ishu Han (exhibited artist)

Date & Time: Dec. 3 (Sun.) and Dec. 10 (Sun.) 13:30-15:30

2-day workshop

Capacity: 10 people

Suitable for: Primary school 3rd year and above (2 day participation required)

Application: Museum website

Application period: Nov 1 (Wed.) – Nov. 17 (Fri.)

Contents: Participants view the exhibition and create their own window

*Payment for special exhibition is necessary

Gallery Talk By Museum Curator

Date & Time: Jan 13 (Sat.) 15:00- (duration: about 30 minutes)

Venue: Second exhibition room

*Payment for special exhibition is necessary

■ Slide Talk

Upon request, guided tours of the exhibition featuring slides are available for groups (reservation necessary)

For inquiries and reservations, please contact Education & Press (Tel: 048-824-0110)

■ Simultaneous Exhibitions

MOMAS Collection (first floor exhibition room)

Sep. 2 (Sat.) – Nov. 26 (Sun.)

"Selection", "Special Feature: Kokuta Suda"

Dec. 2 (Sat.) – Feb. 25 (Sun.)

"Selection", "Fascinating Realism"

Artist Project #2.07 Solaya Nagai, "Detour for a close view"

(Second floor exhibition room D and other areas in the museum)

Oct. 14 (Sat.) – Jan. 28 (Sun.)

■ Venue Information

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

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

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

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

E-mail: p240111@pref.saitama.lg.jp

- 3-minute walk from JR Keihin-Tohoku Line Kita Urawa Station, West Exit. Located in Kita-Urawa Park. Approx. 35 minutes from JR Tokyo or JR Shinjuku Stations
- There is no dedicated parking at the museum. Chartered buses should consult the museum in advance.
- Disabled visitors may use allocated parking spaces. Availability is limited, so please contact the museum in advance.

- The closed days and exhibition period may change according to circumstances. Check the latest updates on the museum website.

■ Inquiries

For image requests, please contact the museum. Images will be provided as digital data. Please email Kikuchi with requests at p2401115@pref.saitama.lg.jp

■ Credits

1. Tatsue Hayase, *Fun*, 1952, Collection of Tomioka Municipal Museum of Fine Art/Fukuzawa Ichiro Memorial Museum
2. Tatsue Hayase, *Desire*, 1953, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
3. Jonas Mekas, *Oona Mekas, Aged 5, Practices the Violin while the Cat and Hollis (Mother) 1979*, 1983, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
4. Jonas Mekas, from *Out-takes from the Life of a Happy Man*, 2012, ©Jonas Mekas, courtesy of Re:Voir
5. Yoshifumi Hayashi, *Study*, circa 1975, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
6. Yoshifumi Hayashi, *Work*, circa 1980, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
7. Ishu Han, *Staring into my home from a window*, 2023, Artist's collection
8. Ishu Han, *A person cleaning waves*, 2019, Artist's collection

*When featuring images, please include the caption of the work.

*We kindly ask you not to trim or place letters over the image.

■ Images for Publicity

