

Yoshida Katsuro: Touching Things, Landscapes, and the World

Jul 13th (Sat) 2024 – Sep 23rd (Mon) 2024



Yoshida Katsuro working on *Red, Canvas, Electricity, etc.*

at the 7th Biennale des Youth in Paris, Parc Floral, September 1971.

■ Exhibition Overview

Yoshida Katsuro (1943–1999) was one of the central figures in the *Mono-ha* (School of Things) movement, which brought about a transformation in post-war Japanese art in the late 1960s. This long-awaited first retrospective exhibition examines his entire body of work, exploring his experimental approach to painting.

Born in 1943 in Fukaya City, Saitama Prefecture, Yoshida Katsuro entered Tama Art University in 1964, where he studied under Saito Yoshishige and developed an interest in contemporary international art trends. After graduating in 1968, Yoshida worked alongside Sekine Nobuo, Suga Kishio, and Koshimizu Susumu at a shared studio in Yokohama, where many alumni of the same university were also present. He also participated in the creation of Sekine Nobuo's *Phase—Mother Earth* (1968), a work that marked a turning point of that era.

From 1969, Yoshida focused on creating works that combined objects, allowing their natural properties to emerge. This style later became known as *Mono-ha* and gained international attention, with Yoshida being one of the pioneering artists of this movement. In addition, alongside his works using objects, he also began creating prints based on photographs of landscapes he had taken himself.

In 1971, he departed from the *Mono-ha* style and started to present works that incorporated painterly elements such as red colors and brushstrokes. During the 1970s, he explored pictorial expression by experimenting with techniques such as transfer alongside printmaking. In the early 1980s, he worked on the *Heat Haze* series, abstracts of landscapes and human figures. Later, he energetically produced the *Touching* series, using hand-rubbed powdered graphite to create organic forms. In this way, until his premature death at the age of 55, he pursued his artistic endeavors, striving to create works that resonated with the changing trends of the era.

This exhibition reviews Yoshida Katsuro's artistic journey from his early representative works of the *Mono-ha* movement, including archival photographs and unpublished materials, to his major paintings of the late 1990s.

■ Major Features

1. The first retrospective to comprehensively explore Yoshida Katsuro's work

There has never been an exhibition that showcases the entirety of Yoshida Katsuro's work. This exhibition will be the first retrospective to explore the full scope of his career. The exhibition will trace Yoshida Katsuro's career comprehensively through a rich collection of works and materials, including his early *Mono-ha* period pieces, prints based on his own photographs, experimental works using transfer techniques, and the *Touching* painting series that he dedicated himself to in his later years. His production notes, which detail his plans and thoughts, are also highly recommended.

2. Revisiting the *Mono-ha* Movement

Yoshida Katsuro was a key artist in the *Mono-ha* movement that emerged in the late 1960s. While *Mono-ha* is now being reevaluated worldwide, very few artworks from that period remain today. In this exhibition, with the cooperation of the Estate of Katsuro Yoshida, we will present reproductions of two significant works that are important to Yoshida Katsuro and the *Mono-ha* movement: *Cut-off (Paper Weight)* (1969) and *Cut-off (Hang)* (1969).

3. Publication of a catalog featuring extensive illustrations and materials.

In addition to featuring illustrations of the exhibited works, the exhibition catalog will include major works not on display, bringing the total to over 1,000 pieces. This will be the first publication to provide a comprehensive overview of Yoshida Katsuro's work.

■ Chapters

Chapter 1. Things and Landscapes 1969-1973

Chapter 2. In Search of Painting - From Transcription 1974-1981

Chapter 3. To the Sea / Heat Haze - The Formation of Images 1982-1986

Chapter 4. Touch - Touching the World 1986-1998

Chapter 5. To Spring - Epilogue

■ Exhibition Information

Exhibition Title	Yoshida Katsuro: Touching Things, Landscapes, and the World
Period	Jul. 13 th (Sat) 2024 – Sep 23 rd (Mon) 2024
Closed	Mondays (Open Jul. 15 th , Aug 12 th , Sep 16 th , Sep 23 rd)
Opening Hours	10:00~17:30 (Last entry to the gallery 17:00)
Fee	Adults ¥1100 (¥880) High School Students ¥880 (¥710) • 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.
Number of exhibits	170
Organizers	The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, The Tokyo Shimbun
Sponsorship	Pola Art Foundation
Cooperation	The Estate of Katsuro Yoshida, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
Cooperation in PR	East Japan Railway Company Omiya Branch Office, FM NACK5

■ Venue

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

〒330-0061

9-30-1 Tokiwa, Urawa-ku, Saitama-shi (in Kita-Urawa Park), Saitama, Japan

TEL: 048-824-0111 FAX: 048-824-0119

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

Transport

• Kita-Urawa Station on JR Keihin-Tohoku Line. 3 min. walk from the West Exit. From Tokyo, take a train bound for Omiya on the Keihin-Tohoku Line. Approx. 35 mins. from JR Tokyo or JR Shinjuku Station.

- No parking at the museum, but discount available at "Times, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama East". Chartered buses should contact the museum beforehand. Disabled visitors can use allocated parking spaces though availability is limited.
- Please check our website for latest information.

■ Related Events

OTalk show: “Talking about Yoshida Katsuro”

Speaker: Chiba Shigeo (Art critic)

Date and time: Jul. 21rd (Sat) 15:00-16:30 (opens 14:30)

Location: 2nd floor auditorium

Capacity: 80 (no application necessary/first-come first-served basis)

Admission: Free

OTalk show: “About the paintings by Yoshida Katsuro”

Speaker: Sawayama Ryo (Art critic, Associate Professor, Musashino Art University)

Date and time: Aug. 31rd (Sat) 15:00-16:30 (opens 14:30)

Location: 2nd floor auditorium

Capacity: 80 (no application necessary/first-come first-served basis)

Admission: Free

ODance Performance: “Errance”

Aya Misaki, now based in the Netherlands after her time with Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT2), will perform *Errance* by Dimo Kirilov Milev, a choreographer gaining attention across Europe, as a tribute to the works of Yoshida Katsuro.

Choreography: Dimo Kirilov Milev

Dancer: Aya Misaki

Date and time: Aug. 3rd (Sat) 12:00-12:30 (opens 11:30), 15:00-15:30(opens 14:30)

*2 performances on the same day

*There will be an after-talk, after each performance. (approx. 15 mins.)

Location: 2nd floor auditorium

Capacity: 50 (no application necessary/first-come first-served basis)

Admission: Free

OGallery Talk by the Curator

Date and time: Jul.14th (Sun), Aug 25th (Sun) from 15:00 (approx. 30 mins.)

Location: 2nd floor exhibition room *Admission to the exhibition required

■ Slide Talk

Upon group request, the museum will provide a slide talk introducing the features of the exhibition (reservation required). For inquiries and reservations, contact education/PR (tel: 048-824-0110).

■ Concurrent Exhibition

MOMAS Collection (1st floor exhibition room)

Jun. 8th (Sat)2024 – Aug. 25th (Sun)2024

Selection, 100th anniversary of the Surrealist Manifesto.

Aug 31st (Sat)2024 – Nov 24th (Sun) 2024

Selection, Tabiji no gaka(Painters on the road), Saikin no Tamamono (Recent Gifts)

■ Catalog

Official catalog, Yoshida Katusro is due to be published by rose des vents - suiseisha
356 pages Price: ¥3,960 (incl. tax)

■ Private Viewing for Related Parties / Press Conference

Date and time: Jul 13th, 2024 (Sat) 17:30 (reception opens at 17:00)

Location: 2nd floor exhibition room

If you would like to attend, please register by sending an email to p2401115@pref.saitama.lg.jp (contact: Saeki). Please inform us of your company name, your name, the number of participants and whether or not you have a TV camera.

■ Discounts

The *Museum of Modern Art, Saitama* will host consecutive retrospective exhibitions for the artists Yoshida Katsuro and Kinoshita Kazuyo, who were active during the period of significant transformation in post-war art. Purchasing a ticket for the “Yoshida Katsuro: Touching Things, Landscapes, and the World” exhibition entitles the holder to a 20% discount on admission to the “KAZUYO KINOSHITA: A Retrospective” exhibition (October 12, 2024 - January 13, 2025). Please present the discount coupon provided when purchasing a ticket to the “Yoshida Katsuro: Touching Things, Landscapes, and the World” exhibition in order to claim the discount for purchasing a ticket for the “KAZUYO KINOSHITA: A Retrospective” exhibition. The discount coupon is valid for one person per ticket, one-time use only, and cannot be combined with any other discounts.

■ Inquiries

Regarding exhibitions: Hirano, Kikuchi / Regarding PR and images: Saeki

Tel: 048-824-0111 (main) / 048-824-0110 (curatorial department) Fax: 048-824-0118
p2401115@pref.saitama.lg.jp (exhibition)

■ 広報用画像

For inquiries regarding images of the work, please contact the museum. Images will be provided by email. Inquiries should be addressed to Saeki at p2401115@pref.saitama.lg.jp.

- When showing images, please caption the work.
- Please refrain from trimming or overlaying text on the images.
- Images of the exhibition can be provided. Inquire for details.
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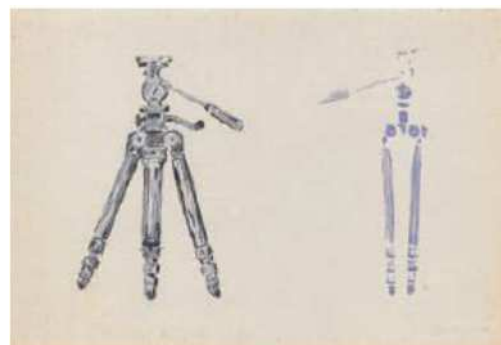
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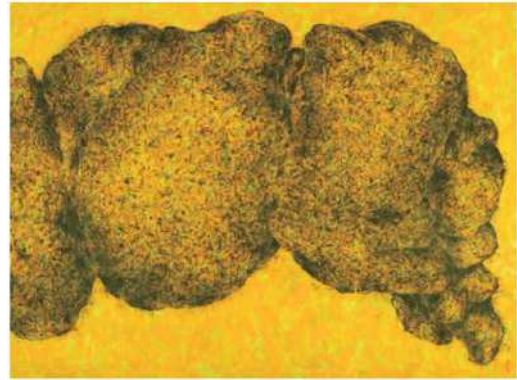
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Captions

- ① *Cut-off (Hang)*, 1969* reference illustration
*Reproduction of this work in 2024 will be displayed in the exhibition.
- ② *650 Watts and 60 Watts*, 1970, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- ③ *Work "8"*, 1970, Collection of Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (display period: July 13th-Aug 18th)
- ④ *Work "D-197"*, 1977, Collection of The Estate of Katsuro Yoshida
- ⑤ *Work 4-44*, 1979, Collection of The Estate of Katsuro Yoshida
- ⑥ *Heat Haze "4013"*, 1984, Collection of Utsunomiya Museum of Art
- ⑦ *Touch "body-10"*, 1988, Collection of The Estate of Katsuro Yoshida
- ⑧ *Touch "To Spring" V*, 1998, Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama

Credit

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