

PRESS RELEASE

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TOEKO TATSUNO: ON PAPERS

A Retrospective 1969-2012

November 14 (Wed.), 2018, through

January 20 (Sun.), 2019.

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

Toeko Tatsuno was born in Okaya City, Nagano Prefecture, in 1950. During her student years at Tokyo University of the Arts in the 1970s, she began making prints of restrained expression that were intellectually appealing to viewers, using graphic elements such as dots, grids, and stripes, and was hailed as a promising young artist. She then made a transition to oil painting, and, using extravagantly rich colors and organic shapes, pursued her distinctive style of abstract expression. Up until she passed away in 2014, she continued digging into the depth of her artistry.

Although much of her great acclaim derived from her large oil paintings, this exhibition features her prints, drawings, and other on-paper expressions, in order to revisit Tatsuno's entire career as an artist. Even after she devoted herself to oil painting, Tatsuno continued to produce prints on the side, using silk-screened works with conceptual approaches in her early years, and later etchings, woodblocks, lithographs, etc. It is notable that she established a rich correlation between her print works and oil paintings, by applying to her prints techniques which she devised for oil painting, and reflecting in her oil paintings the visual effects she achieved in her prints. Her large oil and pastel drawings, which were made as *esquisse* (rough sketches) for her oil paintings, are so sophisticated that they surpass the level of "studies," revealing how they served

as an important arena of artistic experimentation for the artist.

The purpose of this special exhibition is to recapture the meaning of her oil paintings through her paper-based works. A total of about 220 works will be exhibited, mainly composed of her works on paper, but also including 30 oil paintings. It is a rare opportunity to view her paper-based works and to understand the 40-year-long chronology of her career, which we believe will provide a new perspective on her artistry.

Highlights of the Exhibition

1. Overview of Early Works

When Tatsuno embarked on her career as an artist in the 1970s, she was producing silk-screened prints using a photochemical process, instead of the large oil paintings for which she later won high acclaim. It is said that it was when she began producing print series using grids and stripes as motifs that Tatsuno came into possession, for the first time, of an artistic expression she could call her own.

The first half of the exhibition focuses on her work in the 1970s, featuring a number of silk-screened print series, hand printed by the artist, and other works of her student days at the Tokyo University of the Arts before she made the full-fledged shift to oils. This is a never-to-be-missed, rare opportunity to get an overview of her early works.

2. Relationship Between Oil Paintings and Works on Paper

Even after she shifted her artistic focus to oil painting, Tatsuno continued to produce various types of prints. It is notable how she established an intriguing correlation between oil and prints during her career. Her large drawings in pastel and oil are not only highly-perfected works on paper themselves, but they also provide important visual clues as to how her distinctive pattern motifs were developed.

In the second half of the exhibition, her best-known oil paintings and the prints and drawings associated with them will be displayed together – a novel way to revisit Tatsuno’s paintings through her “on-paper” works.

3. Illustrations Contributed to The Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Newspaper)

Tatsuno contributed illustrations to a serialized essay run by The Shinano Mainichi Shimbun called “Hyoryu No Jidai Ni” (In the Era of Drifting) by Takashi Tsujii (real name - Seiji Tsutsumi). The essay appeared in the newspaper every Saturday for a year, and Tatsuno’s illustrations were on the page for 52 weeks.

For the illustrations, she took motifs from items in her home town (Okaya City, Nagano Prefecture), such as plants, broken vessels, and other everyday objects. The

expression of these works is straightforward, revealing a previously unrecognized side of the artist. These 52 illustrations will be exhibited together for the first time in the exhibition.

Exhibition Information

1. Date: November 14 (Wed., Saitama Prefecture Residents' Day), 2018, through January 20 (Sun.), 2019.
Closed on Mondays (except December 24, 2018, and January 14, 2019), and from December 27 to January 4.
2. Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (entry allowed until 5:00 p.m.)
3. Admission: Adults - 1,100 yen (880 yen*), college and high school students - 880 yen (710 yen*).

*for groups of more than 20 people

Note 1: Free-of-charge for junior high school students and under, and for persons with disabilities (required to show the Certification for Person with Disabilities). One attendant is allowed to accompany visitors with disabilities free-of-charge.

Note 2: The MOMAS Collection (Exhibition Room on the 1st floor) can also be viewed.

4. Organized by The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, and The Tokyo Shimbun.
5. Subsidized by the Japan Arts Council.
6. Supported by Shiseido Co., Ltd.
7. Cooperation provided by the Omiya Branch of the East Japan Railway Company and FM NACK5.
8. Number of works exhibited: About 220 (planned)
9. 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.

Associated Events

■ Talk Show: “Toeko Tatsuno and Where Paintings Are Today”

Guest Speakers: Masaya Chiba, Daichi Takagi, and Erina Matsui

January 13 (Sun.), 2019, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m (door opens at 2:30 p.m.) in the Auditorium on the second floor. Seats available: 70 (first-come, first-serve).

Admission: free

Description: Young artists who were acquainted with Toeko Tatsuno will discuss Tatsuno's art.

■ Gallery Talks by the Exhibition's Curator

December 15 (Sat.) and January 19 (Sat.), 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. both days, in the Exhibition Room on the second floor.

Admission: Requires a ticket to the Special Exhibition.

■ Museum Concert (queue ticket required)

Ongaku No Chikara Wa Kokkyo Wo Koete (The Power of Music Transcends National Borders)

December 16 (Sun.), 2018, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (door opens at 2:00 p.m.), in Center Hall in the basement.

Seats: limited to 60 (queue tickets will be distributed beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Reception on the first floor.)

Admission: free

Performers: Riyo Uemura (violin) and Hiroo Sato (piano)

Description: Popular classical pieces related to the Special Exhibition, by American and Japanese composers, will be performed.

Inquires:

Contact Mr.Oura or Ms.Shigihara for inquiries regarding the exhibition. Regarding public relations in general and images for media use, contact Mr.Yata.

Tel: 048-824-0111 (main) / 048-824-0110 (Curatorial Board), Fax: 048-824-0118

About images for media use:

Note: Regarding using the images below, please contact the museum. The museum will provide the image in data format. To request images, contact Mr.Yata (public relations) at kouhou@aria.ocn.ne.jp

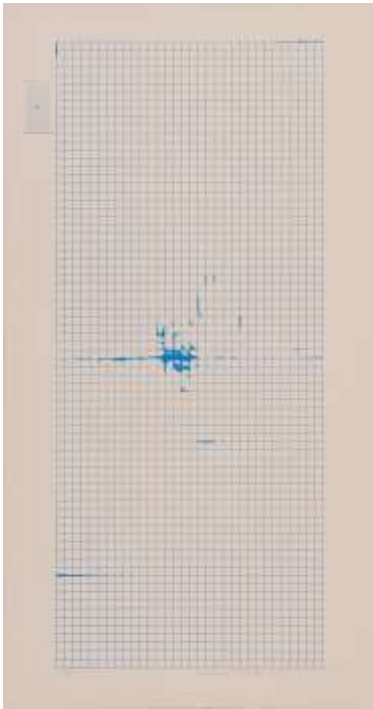
- For promotional use regarding the exhibition, the use of images requires no copyright clearance.
- When using an image, the accompanying caption must be displayed. Please do not trim the image or superimpose text on the image.

■ Image captions

- ① Toeko Tatsuno, UNTITLED-35, 1974, silk screen print on paper. Photo by Kei Okano.
- ② Toeko Tatsuno, WORK 76-D-5, 1976, silk screen print on paper. Photo by Ichiro Otani.
- ③ Toeko Tatsuno, WORK 77-D-10, 1977, silk screen print on paper. Photo by Kei Okano.
- ④ Toeko Tatsuno, WORK 80-N-1, 1980, silk screen print on paper. Photo by Ichiro Otani.
- ⑤ Toeko Tatsuno, WORK 81-D-30, 1981, oil, pastel, and pencil on paper. Photo by Kei Okano.
- ⑥ Toeko Tatsuno, WORK 82-P-36, 1982, oil on canvas.
- ⑦ Toeko Tatsuno, Oct-20-95, 1995, pastel on paper. Photo by Kei Okano.
- ⑧ Toeko Tatsuno, AIWIP-25, 2012, lithograph on paper. Photo by Kei Okano.

Note: All of the works are privately owned ©Tsuyoshi Tatsuno, Rieko Hiraide.

Images for media use



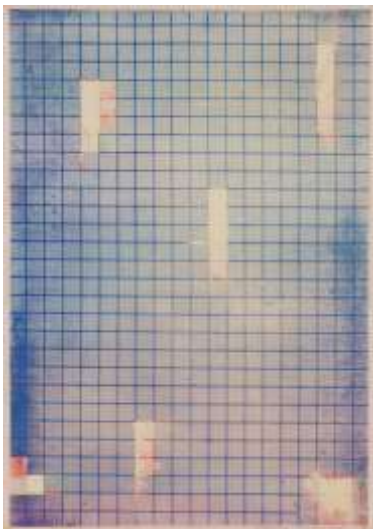
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