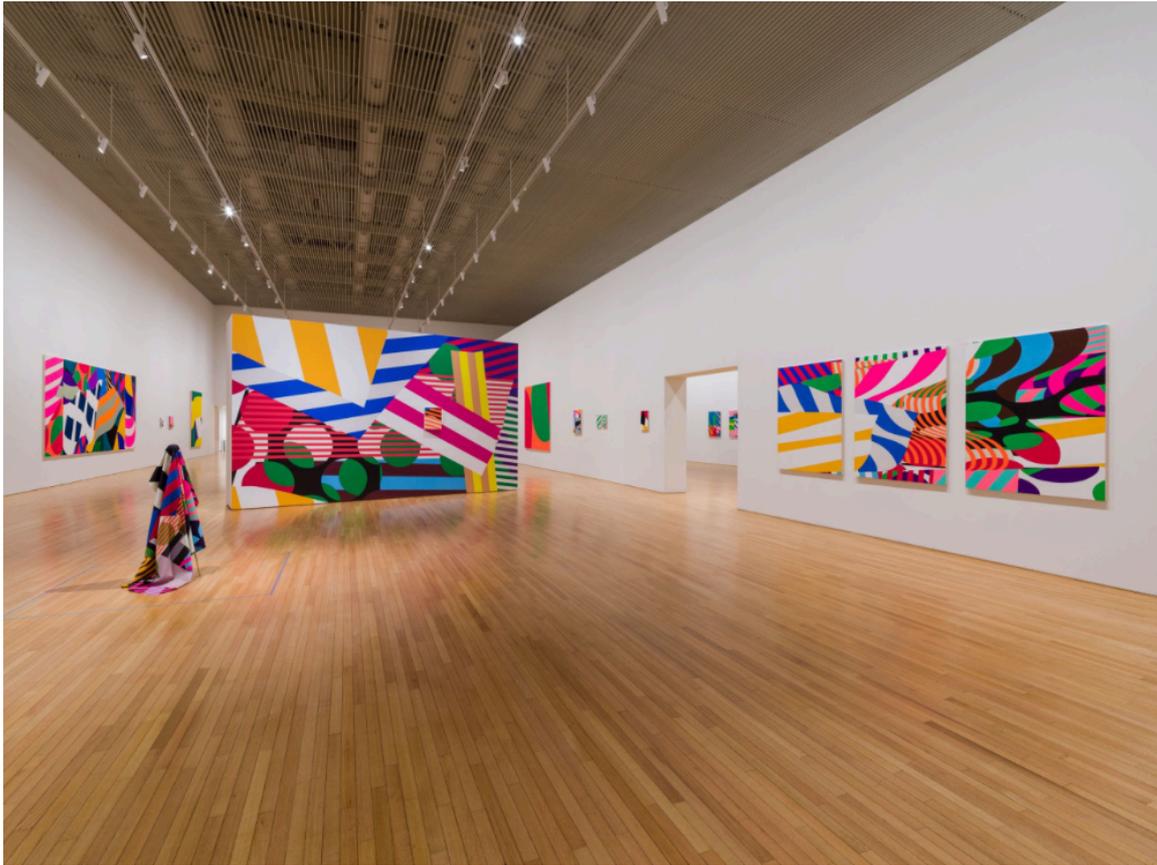


Press Release | Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

Press Release 15 March, 2023

Shunsuke Imai: Skirt and Scene



01. Installation view, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, 2022 photo: Okano Kei

Known for his painting series featuring stripes of vivid colour, Imai Shunsuke (b. 1978) has explored a range of artistic expression, deftly crisscrossing the boundaries between figurative and abstract, two- and three-dimensional, and art and design. Depicting images resembling waves or flags portrayed with a distinctive pop colour sense, his painting series was inspired by experiences in which he was powerfully moved by the pattern of an acquaintance's swaying skirt, or the colours of fast fashion items stacked at a mass retailer. Based on an examination of the basic elements of painting—colour, shape, and two-dimensionality—Imai's practice renders forms on canvas through the random arrangement of combinations of simple colours and shapes—such as stripes and circles—which are warped or undulating, posing questions about the fundamental meaning of painting, and about its potential.

This exhibition, Imai's first solo museum exhibition, was originally mounted at the Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art in 2022, and it is now coming to Tokyo. A group of works has been newly added to show the process that led to the stripe paintings, introducing visitors to Imai's varied forms of expression—from his early works to his latest works—including sculpture, video and installation, but mainly focusing on his paintings.

We are living in a contemporary society overflowing with visual information. Through the fresh rhythms of the shapes and colours that Imai produces, this exhibition will open up our physical senses.

Shunsuke Imai: Skirt and Scene

Period: Saturday, 15 April – Sunday, 18 June, 2023

Press preview: Thursday, 13 April *Please note that this is two days prior to the public opening date.

Venue: Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

Open hours: 11:00 - 19:00 (Last admission at 18:30)

Closed on Mondays (except Monday, 1 May)

Admission: adults 1400 [1200] yen, university and high school students 800 [600] yen, free for junior high and under

Organiser: Tokyo Opera City Cultural Foundation

Sponsor: NTT Urban Development Corporation

Corporations: Holbein Art Material Inc., HAGIWARA PROJECTS

Curatorial corporation: Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, The MIMOCA Foundation

*Rates include admission to "From the Terada Collection 076 Highlights from the Terada Collection (Part1)" and "project N 90 Yamaguchi Yuiha".

*Rates in brackets indicate discount. Free for person with a disability certificate along with an attendant.

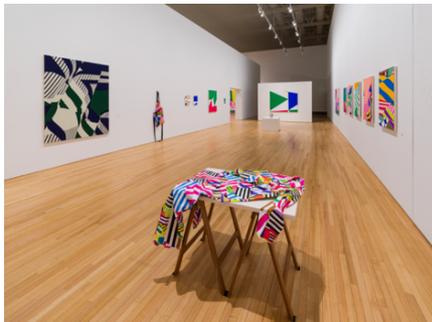
*Only one concession or discount can be applied at a time.

*Nonrefundable.

Shunsuke Imai: Skirt and Scene Key points



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① First solo exhibition at a Tokyo art museum marks the painter's next career step

Imai Shunsuke is a keenly-watched up-and-coming artist. He has shown many of his works in Japan and abroad, and examples have been acquired by museums in Japan. This exhibition, *Shunsuke Imai: Skirt and Scene* (Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, 2022), was Imai's first major solo exhibition at an art museum, and it is now coming to Tokyo. The exhibition presents more than ten years of his art in one place and on an unprecedented scale, beginning with works from 2011—the origins of his *untitled* painting series characterised by stripes of vivid colour—and extending to his latest works from 2023. In addition, the Tokyo exhibition will show some of his earliest works.

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② A focus on paintings with vivid colours and a wide range of expressions

Imai's paintings are characterised by their vivid colours. Patterns created by arranging combinations of simple colours and shapes—such as stripes and circles—are warped or undulating, and these works can be seen as an insatiable exploration of painting. He has also created many genre-spanning works, exemplified here by three-dimensional works and installations, apparel created in collaboration with fashion brands, and video created in collaboration with Yamada Shimpei, who specialises in visual creation for the performing arts.

③ New presentation specific to the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery space

This exhibition generated much buzz when it was mounted at the Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art last summer. For the exhibition at the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, it will be re-constituted as a new presentation specific to the Opera City space, using textiles to create a massive installation.

④ Exclusive commemorative

The Tokyo Opera City shop, Gallery 5, is developing exclusive commemorative for this exhibition. In addition to postcards, tote bags, pouches, handkerchiefs, aprons, and other soft goods made from fabric printed with Imai's works will be on sale during the exhibition period. The designs are by Nagashima Rikako (village®), who also designed the exhibition posters and flyers.



Biography

1978 Born in Fukui.

2004 Completed MFA in oil painting at Musashino Art University's Graduate School of Art and Design



Photo: Tanaka Kazuhito

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2018 "range finder," Kunstverein Graftschaft Bentheim, Germany

2017 "float," HAGIWARA PROJECTS, Tokyo

2014 "The 8th shiseido art egg Shunsuke Imai range finder," Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibitions

2018 "Paintings Here And Now," Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo

2014 "The Way of Painting," Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo

His works are in the collections of museums including the Aichi Prefecture Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Fukui Fine Arts Museum.

Press images



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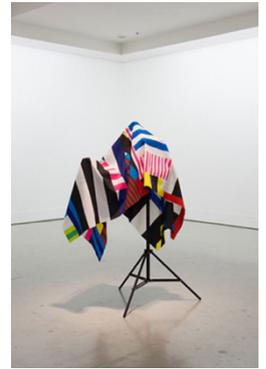
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01. Installation view, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, 2022 photo: Okano Kei
 02. *untitled*, 2017, acrylic on canvas, collection of Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
 03. Installation view, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, 2022 photo: Okano Kei
 04. Installation view, Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, 2022 photo: Okano Kei
 05. *untitled*, 2012, acrylic on canvas, collection of Shiraki Satoshi and Kamata Michiyo
 06. *untitled*, 2017, acrylic on canvas, collection of the artist
 07. *untitled*, 2017, acrylic on canvas, collection of Takamura Misuzu and Miwa
 08. *range finder* Installation view, HAGIWARA PROJECTS, 2019 photo: Tanaka Kazuhito
 09. "YCC Exhibition Program" Installation view, YCC Yokohama creation city center, 2015 photo: Furuya Kazuomi
 10. "The 8th shiseido art egg Shunsuke Imai range finder" Installation view, Shiseido Gallery, 2014 photo: Kato Ken
 11. "Shunsuke Imai color / form" Installation view, HAGIWARA PROJECTS, 2014
 12. *untitled*, 2011, acrylic on canvas, collection of Takahashi Daisuke

■Inquiries

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