

Press Release 2024.1.16

Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery Upcoming Exhibitions

Thursday, 11 April – Sunday, 16 June, 2024 *58 days

AQUIRAX UNO

Concurrent exhibitions: From the Terada Collection 079 Nambata Fumio Fifty Years On
project N 94 Oshiro Natsuki

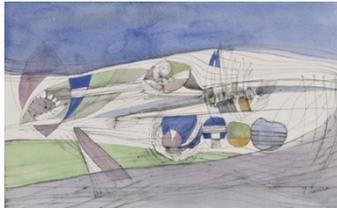


Aquirax Uno (1934–) remains one of Japan’s most renowned illustrators and graphic designers. The legend of 1960s Japan who popularised the terms “illustration” and “illustrator” and was the driving force behind that era has continued to evolve. His creations spanned the gamut from illustrations, posters, and books to animated films, paintings, and scenography, and since his debut in the 1950s the sphere of his activities has never ceased to expand. This is Uno’s largest ever exhibition and covers his entire oeuvre, from his early period to his latest works. It encompasses an extraordinary variety of valuable original drawings and materials, starting with his corporate advertisements from the 1950s and moving on to his posters for the Angura avantgarde theatre movement in the 1960s as well as his picture books and children’s books, recent haiku, and paintings featuring young girls. Uno’s flamboyance, the production of this *captivating southpaw*, transcends time and place to lead us into an aesthetic world of the imagination.
curator: Takigami Hana

(left) Poster for Le Petit Prince performed by Experimental Theater Lab Tenjo Sajiki 1967 ©AQUIRAX

(right) Poster for Shinjuku Tales of 1001 Nights, the fifth performance by the experimental theatre group Tenjo Sajiki, 1968 ©AQUIRAX

From the Terada Collection 079 Nambata Fumio Fifty Years On



Nambata Fumio
Untitled
1971
photo: Hayakawa Koichi

project N 94 Oshiro Natsuki



Taking the words of *waka* Japanese verse, *kanshi* Chinese poetry, and other traditional forms of literature as her motif, Oshiro creates and develops visualizations of the sights they depict. With her gaze focused on strict forms/formats and the symbolis things, and develops each new work by shifting the choices made in the work that was initially visualized. The result is like a *renga* (a collection of linked verses by alternating poets) created by a single artist.
curator: Nomura Shino
The Moon Was Tilted No.2 2022
photo: Nishiyama Koichi

Saturday, 6 July – Monday, 16 September, 2024 *62 days

Takada Kenzo: Chasing Dreams

Concurrent exhibitions: From the Terada Collection 080 The Mystery Next Door (provisional title)
project N 95 Taguchi Kaoru



(left) Bunka Publishing Bureau ©High Fashion, June 1970 issue.
photo: Iwata Hiroyuki



(right) Bunka Publishing Bureau ©SO-EN, March 1972 issue.
photo: Iwata Hiroyuki

Takada Kenzo (1939–2020), the founder of the KENZO fashion house, was one of the earliest Japanese designers to establish himself in Paris, where he created one style after another that overturned the received wisdom of the fashion industry. Fêted as a poet of cotton, even after gaining fame he drew on his Japanese sensibility to produce a variety of innovative new collections on the theme of freeing the body from clothing, paving the way for the next generation of Japanese designers to step into the international arena. This exhibition not only retraces the history of this *magician of colours* through his clothes and design drawings, but also introduces sketches from his childhood and resources that formed the wellspring of his ideas, and photographs illustrating his interactions with the people who supported him. This exhibition, the first large-scale solo exhibition to be held since Takada passed away in 2020, is touring to his birthplace of Himeji as well as Tokyo, where he spent his student days. It is both a retrospective of the creative activities of a pioneering Japanese designer and an opportunity to discover the true nature of Takada’s legacy as we head into a future in which humanity is attempting to live through an era of unprecedented difficulties.
curator: Fukushima Sunao

From the Terada Collection 080 The Mystery Next Door (provisional title)



Ochida Yoko
Drought Warning
1966
photo: Saito Arata

project N 95 Taguchi Kaoru



Taguchi is a Christian, and creates works of art on the subjects of religion and faith. Her pictures, which quote historical iconography on the basis of meticulous research, incorporate a variety of pictorial spaces taken from the Middle Ages, Eastern art, modern art, and elsewhere, compressing multiple temporal axes into a single work.
curator: Takigami Hana

Annunciation 2023

Thursday, 3 October – Tuesday, 17 December, 2024 *65 days

Matsutani Takesada (provisional title)

Concurrent exhibitions: **From the Terada Collection 081 The Path of Abstraction**
project N 96 Nakabayashi Arisa



Drop
1985
Collection of Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery
photo: Saito Arata

Throughout a career spanning more than sixty years, Paris-based artist Matsutani Takesada (1937-) has continued to create outstanding works in which the expressions, textures, and presence of material objects are interwoven with the surge and flux of life. In the first half of the 1960s, Matsutani distinguished himself among the second-generation artists of the Gutai Art Association by creating organic forms using vinyl adhesive, which was then a novel material. In 1966 he moved to Paris, where he began printmaking, giving greater depth to his spatial expression through a unique vocabulary of forms, eventually moving on to geometric colour surfaces. Later he returned to organic forms made from vinyl adhesive which he covered with graphite pencil strokes, breaking new ground in an inimitable way. In recent years his work has seen growing international acclaim, having been included in the Venice Biennale in 2017 and with a retrospective at the Centre Pompidou in Paris in 2019. Matsutani's works come to life when a living person's flesh and blood and five senses encounter the manifestations of the materials that comprise them, including canvas and paper, vinyl adhesive and graphite. The sheer diversity of the works is endlessly fascinating to those who see them. This exhibition introduces Matsutani's entire oeuvre from his beginnings, including his works themselves, documents, and video footage, investigating the broad range of his work from a contemporary viewpoint.

curator: Fukushi Osamu

From the Terada Collection 081 The Path of Abstraction



Shiraishi Yuko
Ripple
1988
photo: Saito Arata

project N 96 Nakabayashi Arisa



Nakabayashi's works on paper allow the paint to bleed, creating impressions of plants and landscapes. She focuses on plants in unnatural situations within urban or natural settings (such as roadside trees with pollarded branches and plants regarded as exotic or invasive species by human standards) and paints them by imagining how she would feel in their place. Her works make you realise that switching your viewpoint allows things to be interpreted in many different ways.

curator: Nomura Shino
From point A #01 2023

Saturday, 11 January – Sunday, 23 March, 2025 *61 days

Imazu Kei (provisional title)

Concurrent exhibitions: **From the Terada Collection 082 Art on Paper** (provisional title)
project N 97 Fukumoto Kenichiro



Memories of the Land / Body 2020 photo: Kioku Keizo

Imazu Kei (1980-) creates paintings by the technique of composing with computer-processed pictures sampled from various media, then painting in oils on canvas on the basis of this preparatory image. Human perception is intimately associated with technological development. As with the advent of photographs and film, innovations such as the universal use of smartphones and AI are further transforming our perceptions, spatial awareness, and concepts of things. In response to these changes, Imazu is exploring new pictorial representations in art history. Based in Indonesia since 2017, her recent works add motifs from Indonesian history and mythology. This exhibition covers her entire oeuvre, including a new series on the subject of the Hainuwele myth. These pictures juxtapose elements from global environmental issues and ecofeminism, mythology, history, and politics in a single plane, and can be described as dynamic representations generated by the passage of massive images and information through Imazu's own body. This is the first large-scale solo exhibition by an artist who is attracting great attention at an international level.

curator: Takigami Hana

From the Terada Collection 082 Art on Paper (provisional title)



Uchima Ansei
Space Poem B
1974
photo: Hayakawa Koichi

project N 97 Fukumoto Kenichiro



Fukumoto Kenichiro observes plants and the natural world, and projects human emotions and sensibilities into them in his works. According to Fukumoto, to paint is necessarily to consider the true nature of the natural world and seek to understand it in the midst of daily life.

curator: Fukushi Osamu

Untitled 2021