

Press Release Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

Nambata Tatsuoki



Ascension 1976 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo photo: Otani Ichiro

Nambata Tatsuoki (1905–1997) began his career as an artist before WWII, and in the post-war period he left a significant mark as a pioneer of abstract painting in Japan. As a young man interested in poetry and philosophy at the end of the *Taisho* period, Nambata met a poet, sculpture and painter Takamura Kotaro, who mentored him and inspired him to become a painter. Nambata began his career by depicting familiar landscapes and a wistful yearning for days of yore.

After the war, he shifted to creating abstract works, and even as he digested the trends that came from abroad, he was not swept up by this information and he found his own way, independent of any particular movement. His work is highly regarded as a milestone of abstract painting in Japan.

It was his encounter with the works of the standout painter Nambata Tatsuoki that led Terada Kotaro—donor of the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery's collection—to begin collecting in earnest and also to conceive the “Oriental Abstraction” theme that became one of the guiding concepts of his collection. It goes without saying that Nambata figures most prominently in the museum’s Terada Collection.

Marking the 120th anniversary of Nambata's birth, this exhibition presents the full picture of Nambata's entire artistic career for the first time in a quarter of a century, examining it from a contemporary perspective. It will incorporate works from not only the museum's collection, but also works from museum collections in Japan and from a private collection.

Nambata Tatsuoki

Period: Friday, 11 July - Thursday, 2 October, 2025 *71days

Venue: Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

Opening hours: 11:00–19:00 (Last admission at 18:30)

Closing day: Mondays (except 21 July, 11 August, and 15 September), 22 July, 3 August (maintenance), 12 August, and 16 September.

Admission: adults 1600 [1400] yen, university and high school students 1000 [800] yen, free for junior high and under

*Rates include admission to *Day and Night / From the Terada Collection 084 and project N 99 Okubo Saya*.

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

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

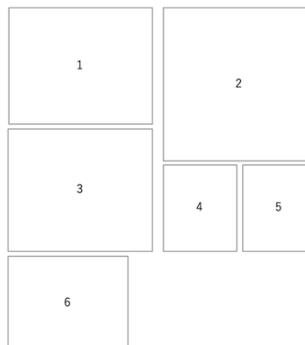
Organiser: Tokyo Opera City Cultural Foundation

Sponsor: Nippon Life Insurance Company

Exhibition highlights

- The representative works of Nambata Tatsuoki, a pioneer of abstract painting in Japan, are brought together for the first time in a quarter century.
- The exhibition traces the journey of Nambata Tatsuoki, who was inspired to become a painter after meeting Takamura Kotaro, a giant of modern art. It traces Nambata's path to becoming a standout abstract painter, from the Showa era to the Heisei era.
- Behind his bold artistic defiance, Nambata Tatsuoki harboured inner conflict, inner poetry, pain and hope. The exhibition also sheds light on the painter's inner drama.
- The exhibition features more than 100 pieces, from the large paintings that would become his most important works to watercolours, prints, drawings, studies, and sketchbooks, along with other materials.

Images



1. *Days of Struggling* 1963 Setagaya Art Museum
2. *Primitive Landscape A* 1987 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo photo: Otani Ichiro
3. *Group* 1970 Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery photo: Saito Arata
4. *Dessin in Colors* 1951 Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery photo: Saito Arata
5. *Venus and Boy* 1936 Itabashi Art Museum
6. *Townscape* 1951 Setagaya Art Museum

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 photo: Otani Ichiro

Inquiries

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