

October 29, 2021
Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

Chasing the Horizon: 1952-2022 Ancient, Impressionist, and Contemporary Art

January 29 [Sat.] – April 10 [Sun.], 2022



① FUJISHIMA Takeji, *Orientalism*, 1924



② FUJISHIMA Takeji, *Black Fan*, 1908-09,
Important Cultural Property

The Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation (Director: Ishibashi Hiroshi), presents *Chasing the Horizon 1952-2022. Ancient, Impressionist, and Contemporary Art*.

In 2020, the Artizon Museum newly opened under its new name after being closed for five years. Ishibashi Shojiro, the founder of our predecessor organization, the Bridgestone Museum of Art, was a successful entrepreneur who built a collection focused on modern Western-style painting by Japanese artists and Western art, and established the museum. After the Ishibashi Foundation was instituted in 1956, the collection and the management of the museum was handed over to the Foundation. As well as managing the Foundation, Kanichiro, Shojiro's son, collected abstract art with a focus on postwar France. After Kanichiro's death, his heirs donated his personal collection and Shojiro's collection of antique Japanese and Asian art to the Ishibashi Foundation, a gift that represented a huge step forward for the collection. Under the management of the Ishibashi Foundation, the Artizon Museum continuing to expand the collection and broaden the range of its activities. The museum is also embarking on new projects such as the *Jam Sessions*, which are joint performances by the collection and contemporary artists.

This exhibition presents the trajectory of the 70 years of the Artizon Museum since 1952, when the Bridgestone Museum of Art opened, through approximately 170 works of art and documentation. We also reflect on our history through posters for past exhibitions, records of the Saturday Lectures, which have been held since the museum opened, an art film series, Shojiro's journals of his travels in the West, and other archive materials.

Exhibition Highlights

1. Looking back at 70 years of the Ishibashi Foundation Collection

Today the Ishibashi Foundation's collection includes approximately 2,800 works of art. This exhibition traces the history of the collection by introducing about 170 representative works that demonstrate how the museum has shaped its wide-ranging collection of ancient art, Western art, Western-style painting by Japanese artists, twentieth century abstract painting and modern art, as well as antique Japanese and Asian art.

2. *The Tale of Heiji scrolls, Tokiwa vol.*, Important Cultural Property

A new acquisition on display for the first time, this 16-meter-long picture scroll depicts the final scenes of *The Tale of Heiji*. Displaying the characteristics of *Yamato-e*, the scroll was produced during the Kamakura period, in the thirteenth century, and tells a dramatic story featuring Taira no Kiyomori, Tokiwa Gozen, and her son Ushiwaka.

3. Masterpiece by Zao Wou-Ki shown for the first time in 14 years

Originally from China, the painter Zao Wou-Ki pioneered an original style of painting that merges East and West and cemented his position in the postwar Parisian art world. *Untitled* (1982), a masterpiece painted in ink on a length of Chinese paper exceeding 3.7 meters, will be shown for the first time in 14 years. Ishibashi Kanichiro, former chairman of the Ishibashi Foundation, admired Zao Wou-Ki and built a collection of his works. This painting is from that collection. A thank-you letter sent by Zao and other documents attest to the depth of the exchanges between the two men.

4. Archival materials on display

In addition to a display of more than one hundred exhibition posters dating back to the inaugural exhibition at the opening of the Bridgestone Museum of Art in 1952, we will also show documentary films featuring the artists Maeda Seison and Sakamoto Hanjiro in the 1950s and the early 1960s, as well as records of more than 2,300 Saturday Lectures. Those lectures have included invaluable presentations by many art historians, famous intellectuals and artists such as Mushanokoji Saneatsu, Okamoto Taro.

Composition of the Exhibition

Part 1: Birth of the Artizon Museum

In Part 1, we introduce recent acquisitions as well as works added to the collection as a result of our *Jam Sessions*, joint performances by the collection and contemporary artists. In addition to enhancing the core collection of Impressionists and Western-style painting by Japanese artists with works such as *Orientalism* by Fujishima Takeji, the Artizon Museum has broadened its focus to collect art from the early twentieth century to the present. Visitors will be able to enjoy posters of past exhibitions and records of the Saturday Lectures, which have been held since the opening of the Bridgestone Museum of Art.



Left: ③ *Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection x Tomoko Konoike*
Tomoko Konoike: FLIP installation view (2020) ©Tomoko Konoike Photo by Nacása & Partners

Right: ④ Joan MITCHELL, *Blue Michigan*, 1961 © Estate of Joan Mitchell

Part 2: Journey to a New Horizon

After the death of Ishibashi Kanichiro in 1998, his heirs donated his personal collection to the Ishibashi Foundation, a gift that achieved a huge expansion of the collection. Kanichiro's collection of postwar French abstract art, including works by Zao Wou-Ki, is an important link between Shojiro's collection and the collection as it exists today. The exhibition will also present collections of Japanese and Chinese paintings and writing, pottery, and other items that Kanichiro worked tirelessly to make available to the public, as well as archival films of artists in their studios produced by the Film Committee, which was set up in 1953.



⑤ *The Tale of Heiji scrolls, Tokiwa vol.(detail)*, Kamakura period, 13th century, Important Cultural Property



⑥ ZAO Wou-Ki, *Untitled*, 1982
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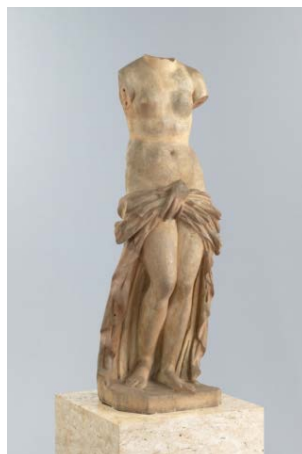
⑦ ZAO Wou-Ki, *07.06.85*, 1985
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Part 3: History of the Bridgestone Museum of Art

The Ishibashi Foundation collection is based on the personal collection of Ishibashi Shojiro, which was donated to the Foundation in 1961. Shojiro built a collection that focused on Western art and Western-style paintings by Japanese artists and made the works available to the general public by establishing the Bridgestone Museum of Art. On visits to numerous museums in the West, his interests also broadened to include ancient art, which he continued to collect after the art museum had opened. This part of the exhibition introduces the collection as it was in the early days of the museum, as well as Shojiro's journals and other documentation of his travels in the West.



⑧ Claude MONET, *Twilight, Venice*, c. 1908



⑨ Greece, *Venus*, Hellenistic period, 323-30 B.C.

Exhibition Overview

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| Exhibition title: | Chasing the Horizon: 1952-2022 Ancient, Impressionist, and Contemporary Art |
| Organized by | Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation |
| Venue: | Artizon Museum, 6,5,4F Galleries |
| Exhibition period: | January 29 [Sat.] – April 10 [Sun.], 2022 |
| Opening hours: | 10:00 – 18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays) *Last entry 30 minutes before closing. |
| Closed: | Mondays (except March 21), March 22 |
| Admission (incl.tax): | Designated entry system by date and time (Online booking starts from November 29, 2021) Online ticket: 1,200 yen Same day ticket (on sale at museum): 1,500 yen Students: Free entry (Advance online booking required.) *Same day tickets on sale at the museum are available only for time slots that have not reached full capacity. *Advance booking is not required for children up to junior high school age. |
| Curators: | TADOKORO Natsuko, HEIMA Rika, KUROSAWA Yoshiko |

*The exhibition details are subject to change without notice.

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Directions: 5 minutes on foot from JR Tokyo Station (Yaesu Central Exit); Tokyo Metro Ginza Line Kyobashi Station (No.6, 7 Exit); Tokyo Metro Ginza Line, Tozai Line, Toei Asakusa Line Nihombashi Station (B1 Exit)

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