

June 30, 2023
Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

From the Scene of Creation —Artists' Archives in Films and Photographs

September 9[Sat] - November 19[Sun], 2023



Flyer of From the Scene of Creation

The Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation (Director: Ishibashi Hiroshi), presents *From the Scene of Creation—Artists' Archives in Films and Photographs*.

In 1953, the Bridgestone Museum of Art, the Artizon Museum's predecessor, established its Film Committee. In what it entitled the *Art Film Series*, the committee had, by 1964, filmed 61 artists and produced seventeen documentary films. These extraordinarily valuable materials record Japanese artists such as Umehara Ryuzaburo (1888-1986), Takamura Kotaro (1883-1956), and Maeda Seison (1885-1977) at work and in their daily lives.

The project was originally proposed by Ishibashi Kanichiro, the son of our founder, Ishibashi Shojiro. Taking the post of chairman of the Film Committee, Kanichiro sought "To help people who really love art and are working to understand it and also to illustrate moving portraits of leaders in the arts" in leading this project. Among the many art films produced in the 1950s, these played a pioneering role, particularly in the field of modern art, and were highly regarded in Japan and abroad, including being awarded a prize at an international film festival in Italy.

Recently, our museum has collected photographic works by Anzai Shigeo (1939-2020), who chronicled the contemporary art scene. Anzai, calling himself a contemporary art accompanist, produced, from the 1970s, portraits of artists and photographed transient works such as installations and performances.

This exhibition introduces the *Art Film Series* and photographs by Anzai accompanied by works of the artists pictured in these films and photographs. It includes about eighty works, both from our collection and on lease from other museums in Japan. By displaying the *Art Film Series* and Anzai's work together, the exhibition offers a comprehensive view of Japanese modern and contemporary art in the making.

Exhibition Highlights

1. Presenting the Full *Art Film Series* produced by the Bridgestone Museum of Art's Film Committee



Between 1953, a year after the opening of the Bridgestone Museum of Art, and 1964, the museum produced seventeen films featuring 61 artists. The production staff included, as the director, the documentary film producer Takaba Takashi (nephew of Henry Kotani, a central figure in the modernization of Japanese films), the abstract artist Kotani Hirosada, and Fukuda Rando, a shakuhachi player and Aoki Shigeru's only child. The films are not only valuable records but highly artistic works in themselves. This exhibition introduces these films, which have been rarely presented until now, in full.

Photography in progress (Umehara Ryuzaburo on the lower left and Takaba Takashi on the second from the right)

2. Displaying about 30 photographs of artists by Anzai in the settings where they created their work



Anzai Shigeo, who called himself a contemporary art accompanist, photographed portraits of artists and the places where they worked, in Japan and abroad. Our museum has collected a group of 206 photographs selected by Anzai himself. Of them, this exhibition presents a selection of about 30 photographs: portraits of artists with close ties to the Ishibashi Foundation Collection and scenes of them at work.

ANZAI Shigeo, *Hisao Domoto, Artist's Studio, Tokyo, June 1980*, 1980/2017 © Estate of Shigeo Anzai

3. Japanese Modern and Contemporary Art "From the Scene of Creation" : A Full View

The Art Film Series, in the 1950s and 1960s, and Anzai Shigeo's photographs, from the 1970s on, record artists in Japan at work in their studios and in their everyday lives. The films are extremely valuable records, with content showing Umehara Ryuzaburo actually painting with his brush in his left hand and letting us hear Kawai Gyokudo's natural voice. This exhibition, presenting these films and photographs together, attempts to display "the scene of creation" in Japanese modern and contemporary art.



KAWAI Gyokudo, from the *Art Film Series* entitled, *Kawai Gyokudo*, 1953.



KAWAI Gyokudo, *Autumn Rain*, 1940, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

Composition of the Exhibition

Section 1. Artists in Motion Pictures—*the Art Film Series*

The Bridgestone Museum of Art's *Art Film Series* features exceptional figures in the world of art, including Umehara Ryuzaburo, Kawai Gyokudo, Takamura Kotaro, and Maeda Seison, at work creating in their studios and in their everyday lives. This section introduces the artists who appear in those films and their work.

Section 2. Artists in Photographs: Anzai Shigeo

Anzai Shigeo (1939-2020) called himself a contemporary art accompanist. From the 1970s on, he photographed artist portraits and temporary installations, performances, and other works. This selection introduces about 30 works by Anzai from the more than 200 of his photographs in the collection.

Artists Starring in *the Art Film Series*:

UMEHARA Ryuzaburo, KAWAI Gyokudo, TAKAMURA Kotaro, KABURAKI Kiyokata, SAKAMOTO Hanjiro, and MAEDA Seison

Artists Included in the *Art Visit Series*:

ITO Shinsui, KAWASHIMA Riichiro, SAITO Yori, TAKAMURA Toyochika, KUMAGAI Morikazu, HIRAKUSHI Denchu, KAWABATA Ryushi

KODAMA Kibo, ISHII Hakutei, KONDO Koichiro, KOITO Gentaro, KIMURA Shohachi, KITAMURA Seibo

TSUJI Hisashi, NAKAGAWA Kazumasa, TANABE Itaru, MATSUBAYASHI Keigetsu, YAMASHITA Shintaro, YAMAGUCHI Hoshun

UMEHARA Ryuzaburo, NAKAMURA Gakuryo, ASAKURA Fumio, NAKAZAWA Hiromitsu, SHIRATAKI Ikunosuke, MAEDA Seison

KANAYAMA Heizo, OKUMURA Togyu, NISHIYAMA Suisho, KATAYAMA Nanpu, IIZUKA Roukansai, TOKUOKA Shinsen, SAKAMOTO Hanjiro

YASUDA Yukihiro, WADA Sanzo, FUKUDA Heihachiro, ARISHIMA Ikuma, MATSUDA Gonroku, YOKOYAMA Taikan

TAKAMURA Kotaro, MASAMUNE Tokusaburo, YUKI Somei, ISHIKAWA Toraji, SAKAKIBARA Shiho, TOMIMOTO Kenkichi

YOSHIDA Saburo, ONO Chikkyo, TERAUCHI Manjiro, DOMOTO Insho, NAKAMURA Kenichi, KABURAKI Kiyokata, KAWAI Gyokudo

KOSUGI Hoan, NODA Kyuho, SAITO Sogan, NAKAGAWA Kigen, IWATA Toshichi

SHIMIZU Takashi, MORITA Motoko, CHOKAI Seiji, YAMAMOTO Toyoichi, HAYASHI Takeshi

Works on Display

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10



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9



1) TAKAMURA Kotaro, *Hand*, c.1918, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Photo: OTANI Ichiro

*Exhibition period: September 12 [Tue] - November 19 [Sun]

2) YAMASHITA Shintaro, *Offering*, 1915, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

3) MAEDA Seison, *Red and White Plum*, c.1970, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

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- 4) TOMIMOTO Kenkichi, *Fresh Water Jar, decorated with flower and willow design, overglaze enamels*, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation
 - 5) TAKAMURA Kotaro, from the *Art Film Series* entitled, *TAKAMURA Kotaro*, 1954.
 - 6) MAEDA Seison, from the *Art Film Series* entitled, *MAEDA Seison*, 1957.
 - 7) KIMURA Shohachi, from the *Art Film Series* entitled *Artist Visit Vol.2*, 1954.
 - 8) TOMIMOTO Kenkichi, from the *Art Film Series* entitled *Artist Visit Vol.7*, 1958.
 - 9) KABURAKI Kiyokata, from the *Art Film Series* entitled, *KABURAKI Kiyokata*, 1954.
 - 10) KABURAKI Kiyokata, *Portrait of Higuchi Ichiyo*, 1940, Tokyo University of the Arts
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Exhibition Overview

Exhibition title:	From the Scene of Creation —Artists' Archives in Films and Photographs
Organized by	Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation
Venue:	Artizon Museum, 5F Gallery
Exhibition period:	September 9 [Sat.] - November 19 [Sun.], 2023
Opening hours:	10:00 - 18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays except November 3) *Last entry 30 minutes before closing.
Closed:	Mondays (except September 18, October 9), September 19, October 10
Admission (incl. tax):	Timed entry system (Online booking starts from July 7, 2023) Online ticket: 1,200 yen In-Person ticket (purchase at museum): 1,500 yen Students: Free entry (Advance online booking required.) *In-Person tickets 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. *This admission fee gives the visitor access to all concurrent exhibitions.
Curators:	TADOKORO Natsuko, HARA Sayuri

Concurrent Exhibitions

Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection x Yamaguchi Akira
Drawn to the Irresistible Sensation (6F Gallery)



Contact with the modern—and even more so with modern painting—had an adverse influence on Japan. Modern painting in Western Europe was a reaction against realistic and academic painting, an attempt to recover its essential nature. But what about modern art as introduced to Japan, which had no history of realistic or academic painting?

Yamaguchi Akira (b. 1969) responded with that statement to the Ishibashi Foundation Collection, which includes modern paintings by both Japanese and Western artists. In this Jam Session, we invite you to observe Yamaguchi Akira questioning what "modern," a "Japanese-style code," and "the essence of Japan" mean as he tries to break away from the history and art systems imposed by society, driven by a sensation he finds irresistible.

Flyer of Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection x Yamaguchi Akira

Selections from the Ishibashi Foundation Collection Special Section Women Reading (4F Gallery)



Women engaged in reading has been a theme in European art since the eighteenth century. Modern Japanese artists who studied in the West have also addressed that theme. This exhibition introduces works from the Ishibashi Foundation Collection depicting women reading, including paintings by Matisse, Cassatt, and Yamashita Shintaro.

This section introduces selected works from the Ishibashi Foundation Collection, which now consists of approximately 3,000 works, including Impressionist paintings from the latter half of the nineteenth century, modern Western paintings from the twentieth century, modern Japanese paintings from the Meiji period on, postwar Abstract paintings, early modern and modern art from Japan and elsewhere in East Asia, and ancient Greek and Roman art.

Marry CASSATT, *Augusta Reading to Her Daughter*, 1910, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

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<https://www.artizon.museum/en/>

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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