

March 13, 2024
Artizon Museum
Ishibashi Foundation

Brancusi: Carving the Essence

March 30 [Sat] – July 7 [Sun], 2024

The captions for the works on display have been changed.



Constantin BRANCUSI, *The Kiss*, 1907-10, Plaster, H 28.0 cm, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

The Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation (Director: Ishibashi Hiroshi), presents *Brancusi: Carving the Essence*.

The sculptor Constantin Brancusi (1876-1957), who was born in Romania, is known as a pioneering artist who, through his exploration of pure form, carved out new territory in twentieth-century sculpture, post Rodin. This exhibition makes his sculptures its core in weaving together, through his two-dimensional works such as fresco, tempera, drawing, and photographs, showcasing the totality of Brancusi's creative activities. It is the first exhibition at an art museum in Japan to present Brancusi comprehensively. About ninety exhibits include over twenty sculptures on loan from the Brancusi Estate and museums and other collections in Japan and abroad, plus paintings, and photography.

Constantin Brancusi



Born in Hobița, Romania, Brancusi studied at the Bucharest School of Fine Arts, then moved to Paris in 1904. While invited to work as an assistant in Rodin's studio, he held that position only briefly before leaving to engage in his own work. His sculptures have wild shapes influenced by the forms of non-western art such as African Sculpture discovered at the same period, while he sought elegant forms backed by his acute sense of his materials. Brancusi is known for the enormous influence he had on his contemporaries and artists of later generations.

Constantin Brancusi, 1924 (Photo by Katherine Dreier) Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

Exhibition Highlights

1. The First Brancusi Exhibition at an Art Museum in Japan

While Brancusi is famed as a leading twentieth-century sculptor, until now no museum in Japan has held a major exhibition focusing primarily on his sculptural works. This exhibition is the first opportunity to experience his creations themselves.

2. A Gathering of over Twenty Sculptures, from Japan and Abroad, Covering His Early to Later Periods



This exhibition presents work by Brancusi from his early period, when he retained the influence of academic realism and Rodin, to the 1910s, when he reduced the forms of his subjects to their essence, and then the period from 1920 on when he made his subjects increasingly abstract, as in *Bird*. The exhibition thus achieves a thorough presentation from which we can glimpse Brancusi's path as a sculptor.

Constantin BRANCUSI, Mademoiselle Pogany II, 1925 (cast: 2006) , Polished bronze, H. 44.8cm, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

3) Presenting his Multifaceted Aspects as a Creator



This exhibition also introduces paintings and photographs by Brancusi. While he consistently made sculpture the core of his creative work, his approach of exploring crosscutting fields, using other techniques in relation to his sculpture, is quintessentially modern. His acute awareness of the nature of his materials, evident in his sculptures, is also highly craftsmanlike. This exhibition highlights his many aspects as a creator.

Constantin BRANCUSI, View of the Studio, "The Endless Column", "Mademoiselle Pogany II", 1925, Gelatin silver print, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Works on Display

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



- 1) Constantin BRANCUSI, *Suffering*, 1907, Bronze, 29.2×28.8×22.3cm, The Art Institute of Chicago/ Art Resource, NY
- 2) Constantin BRANCUSI, *Sleeping Muse*, c. 1910-1911, Plaster, 19.0×28.0×19.5cm, Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka (On display until May 12)
- 3) Constantin BRANCUSI, *Standing Boy*, c.1913, Tempera on paper, 57.9×33.7cm, Menard Art Museum
- 4) Constantin BRANCUSI, *The Cock*, 1924 (cast: 1972), Bronze, 92.4×10.5×45.0cm, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art
- 5) Constantin BRANCUSI, *Fish*, 1924-26 (cast: 1992), Polished bronze, 13.5×42.0×3.0cm, Brancusi Estate
- 6) Constantin BRANCUSI, *Bird in Space*, 1926 (cast: 1982), Bronze on marble and limestone base, 132.4×35.5×35.5cm, Yokohama Museum of Art
- 7) Constantin BRANCUSI, *Sophisticated Young Lady (Portrait of Nancy Cunard)*, 1928-32 (cast: 2013), Polished bronze, 54.9 x 14.9 x 21.9 cm, Brancusi Estate
- 8) Constantin BRANCUSI, *Bird*, 1930, Fresco, 29.0×47.0cm, Brancusi Estate

Exhibition Overview

Exhibition title:	Brancusi: Carving the Essence
Organized by	Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation, The Asahi Shimbun
Under the auspices of	Embassy of France / Institut français du Japon, Embassy of Romania
Venue:	Artizon Museum, 6F Gallery
Exhibition period:	March 30 [Sat] - July 7 [Sun], 2024
Opening hours:	10:00 - 18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays except May 3) *Last entry 30 minutes before closing.
Closed:	Mondays (except April 29, May 6), April 30, May 7
Admission (incl. tax):	Timed entry system (Online booking starts from January 30, 2024) Online ticket: 1,800 yen In-Person ticket (purchase at museum): 2,000 yen Students: Free entry (Advance online booking required.) *In-Person ticket may be purchased at the museum, if the time slot is not full. *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:	Jérôme NEUTRES (Independent Curator) SHIMAMOTO Hideaki (Curator, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation) UEDA Anna (Curator, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation)

Concurrent Exhibition

Selections from the Ishibashi Foundation Collections

The Ishibashi Foundation Collection now consists of approximately 3,000 works, including Impressionist paintings from the latter half of the nineteenth century, modern paintings from the twentieth century, modern Japanese paintings from the Meiji period on, postwar Abstract

paintings, early modern art from Japan and elsewhere in East Asia, and ancient Greek and Roman art. Here we introduce works selected from the collection at 5 and 4 Galleries.

Special Section SHIMIZU Takashi (4F Gallery)



Shimizu Takashi (1897-1981), Japan's leading modern sculptor, originally wanted to be a painter. While studying abroad in France, he was awakened to the possibilities of sculpture by encountering Bourdelle's work. He also continues to paint and was quite successful in both fields, becoming, for example, the first Japanese artist to have both paintings and sculptures accepted for the Salon d'automne. This exhibition is focused on seventeen new acquisitions in highlighting Shimizu's paintings from his time in Europe.

SHIMIZU Takashi, *Gazing at the Heights*, 1927, Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

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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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