

The 120th Anniversary of Okumura Togyu

– A Special Exhibition Commemorating the Opening of the New Yamatane Museum of Art: Part 4–



Okumura Togyu, *Cherry Blossoms at Daigoji Temple*

3 April (Sat.) – 23 May (Sun.)

(Closed on Mondays except for 3 May, closed on 6 May instead of 3 May)

Organized by: Yamatane Museum of Art and Nikkei Inc.
with the assistance of: Daigoji Temple, Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

Hours

10:00 – 17:00 (Last admission at 16:30)

Admission Fees

Adults: 1200 (1000) yen, University/High School Students: 900 (800) yen,
Junior High/Elementary School Students and under: Free

*() indicate prices for advance / group (20 or more) discount tickets.

*Disability ID holders and one person accompanying them are admitted free of charge.

*This exhibition admission fee is different from that of the Museum's regular exhibition.

Highlights of the Exhibition

The Yamatane's collection of Togyu works is renowned worldwide, and this exhibition introduces approximately 70 works from the Yamatane holdings, including works displayed in the Inten (The Japan Art Institute) exhibitions, and those on the themes of seasonal flowers and grasses, and the twelve Chinese zodiac animals.

Rainy Threatening, Shōwa Period, 1928

Rabbits, Shōwa Period, 1936

Sacred Cattle, Shōwa Period, 1953

Himeji Castle, Shōwa Period, 1955

Ballerina, Shōwa Period, 1956

Nachi Falls, Shōwa Period, 1958

Naruto Maelstroms, Shōwa Period, 1959

Gate, Shōwa Period, 1967

Cherry Blossoms at Daigoji Temple, Shōwa Period, 1972

Kitayama Cypress, Shōwa Period, 1976

Spring Scene of Yoshino, Shōwa Period, 1977

Sea in Bōsō (Chiba), Shōwa Period, 1981

Mt. Fuji Viewed from Fujinomiya, Shōwa Period, 1982

Calf, Shōwa Period, 1984

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The Yamatane Museum of Art is proud to present an exhibition featuring Okumura Togyu (1889-1990), in honor of the 120th anniversary of his birth in 2009.

At the age of 85, Togyu wrote the following in his book *Ushi no ayumi*:

"I will not forget the innocence of a beginner's heart from now until my death, I want to paint as long as I remain alive. While difficult, that is my wish, my way of being. Art is never complete. At some point it ends in a great unfinished state."

Togyu was born in February of 1889 (Meiji 22) in the Kyobashi district of Tokyo. At the age of 16 he entered the studio of Kajita Hanko, and there he set out to become a painter. Togyu's work centered primarily on the Inten exhibitions. While he learned a great deal from Yokoyama Taikan, Kobayashi Kokei, and Hayami Gyoshu, he continued to experiment with his own distinctive set of opposing elements, namely "western painting vs. Asian painting", "realism vs. impression", "line vs. plane," "color vs. ink", "three-dimensional vs. planar," fusing them into a distinctive artistic realm of his own. Togyu was a late bloomer, with his first admission (award) at the Inten exhibitions coming in his 38th year.

His artistic name Togyu comes from a line of poetry about the earth ox cultivating a stony field, thus implying that he was tenacious and stubborn in his continuing efforts. Togyu's artistic spirit was indeed tenacious, and he continued painting until right before his death just before he turned 101 years old.

Togyu's major works include *Naruto Maelstroms* (1959, age 70) and *Cherry Blossoms at Daigoji Temple* (1972, age 83), and these works both reveal his true gaze, and his dense palette with its "density" created through the careful and repeated layering of pigments. His style, also characterized by the artist's own clarity and gentleness, continues to evoke reactions and emotions in its viewers today, 120 years since his birth.

The Yamatane Museum of Art has brought together a total of 135 works by Togyu for this exhibition, including paintings, drawings and calligraphy. Indeed, the majority of Togyu's postwar Autumn Inten exhibition works are in the Yamatane collection. This Togyu Collection, unrivaled in or out of Japan, contributes approximately 70 of the works on display here, focusing on Togyu's Inten works, with the additional display of works on the flowers and grasses of the four seasons and the twelve zodiac animal themes. We hope that visitors to the museum will enjoy this introduction to the core of Togyu's oeuvre and arts.



Okumura Togyu, *Spring Scene of Yoshino*



Okumura Togyu, *Naruto Maelstroms*

山種美術館
Yamatane Museum of Art