

池田満寿夫とデモクラートの作家



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Moments to Fly Up

Ikeda Masuo and the Demokrate Artists

January 20 – March 17, 2024

[former term: –February 18, latter term: February 21–]



Hiroshima MOCA
Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art

Museum Closed: Mondays (except February 12), February 13 / Exhibition Closed: February 20 / Hours: 10:00–17:00 (Last admission 16:30)

Admission: Adults 1,100 (850) yen, University students 800 (600) yen, High school students and seniors (65 and over) 550 (400) yen

*Figures in parentheses: Advance purchase and groups of 30 or more. *Junior high school students and younger: Free admission

Organized by: Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art Supported by: Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education, The Chugoku Shimibun, The Asahi Shimibun,

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Moments to Fly Up: Ikeda Masuo and the Demokrato Artists

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Ikeda Masuo (1934–1997) was born in Mukden, former Manchuria, and moved back to Nagano with his parents at the end of the war. After graduating from high school, he moved to Tokyo to become a painter, and through Ay-O, he met Ei-Q, who led the Demokrato (Artists Association), and Kubo Sadajiro, an art critic, leader of the Souzo Biiku Movement, and a collector of prints.

The Demokrato (Artists Association) was active mainly in Tokyo and Osaka, and the only condition for participation was “not to exhibit in established art circles,” which attracted many artists who sought freedom in their creations. Ikeda was one of them, and he learned copperplate engraving from Ei-Q and devoted himself to printmaking under Kubo’s patronage.

In 1957, Japan, which was recovering its national strength after the war, held the first international contemporary art exhibition, the Tokyo International Print Biennale. Ikeda and other artists from the Demokrato group were selected to exhibit their works at the exhibition, and it became a catalyst for their breakthrough, but Ei-Q decided to dissolve the Demokrato group. However, the young artists were awakened to the possibilities of printmaking and showed vigorous creative activity, and Ikeda, in particular, won the International Grand Prize in printmaking at the Venice Biennale in 1966 and gained international acclaim.

This exhibition looks back on Japanese prints and paintings that attracted international attention at the time, featuring works from the museum’s collection of Ikeda’s works from the 1950s to 1966, a quarter of a century after his death, as well as works by artists who influenced Ikeda and with whom he was in contact.

EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Ikeda Masuo	Ay-O	Izumi Shigeru
Isobe Yukihisa	Ei-Q	Kato Tadashi
Toneyama Kojin	Funai Yutaka	Yoshihara Hideo

1. Toneyama Kojin, *Scene with Children*, 1957, lithograph on paper, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
2. Ei-Q, *Bicycle*, 1956, oil on canvas, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
3. Ikeda Masuo, *My Poet, My Cat*, 1965, drypoint and roulette on paper, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art
4. Yoshihara Hideo, *Bastard Man*, 1957, lithograph on paper, Private Collection
5. Izumi Shigeru, *A Fighting Cock*, 1957, oil on canvas, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
6. Kato Tadashi, *Poster for The 2nd Demokrato Art Exhibition*, 1953, lithograph on paper, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
7. Ay-O, *Ennu*, 1955, oil on board, Private Collection

ACCESS

From Hiroshima Station

Streetcar: Line #5 for Hiroshima Port →

Get off at Hijiyama-shita stop and walk approx. 500m

Bus: Machinowa-Loop for Daigaku Byoin, Asahi-machi, or Ken Byoin →

Get off at Danbara-chuo stop and walk approx. 700m via Hijiyama Skywalk moving walkway

TAXI: Approx. 10 min

On Foot: Approx. 25 min

From Hatchobori (central Hiroshima)

Bus: #23-1 for Daigaku Byoin via Hijiyama Tunnel →

Get off at Danbara-chuo stop and walk approx. 550m via Hijiyama Skywalk moving walkway

From various parts of the city

Hiroshima Sightseeing Loop Bus “meipuru-pu” Orange Route →

Get off at Gendai-Bijutsukan-mae and walk approx. 100m

Peacecle Bicycle Sharing

Approx. 100m from Hijiyama-koen port

1 Day Pass is available at the museum shop.



Hiroshima MOCA
Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art

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