

Kuniyoshi Yasuo (1889–1953) and Ishigaki Eitaro (1893–1958) went over to America before the World Wars. This exhibition traces the two artists who succeeded as painters through the hard times of World War II.

Kuniyoshi was born in Okayama City, Okayama, and Ishigaki was born in Taiji town, Higashimuro districts, Wakayama. They both emigrated to America when they were less than twenty. The two who experienced various jobs, went to art school, and wished to be painters, began to show their art works actively from the 1920s and lived in the same age.

Kuniyoshi was rated high at the art world in America and held the first retrospective at the Whitney



▲ KUNIYOSHI Yasuo, *Mr. Ace*, 1952, oil on canvas

Museum of American Art as a living artist. Ishigaki depicted his daily life and accused various social problems at his time with

his painting devoting himself to socialism. They both began painting at the Art Students League of New York and kept their friendship since then. They were next-door neighbors at New York, and Ishigaki's wife Ayako (1903–1996) looked back the memory that the two had often been coming and going across the wall on the roof. Once the World War II began, their position was regarded as "Enemy aliens". However, they believed the American ideal of freedom and Democracy, criticizing the Japanese Militarism.

Their styles of painting are different: Kuniyoshi concealed strong messages with symbolical objects in his paintings, and Ishigaki depicted things and matters much more directly. Yet the paintings by the both hold their complex minds and feelings between two countries at the wavering time of America, such as Japan-ejection movement, the Great Depression, and World Wars.

This exhibition looks back how they faced to the time and society and what works they left.

Kuniyoshi Yasuo and Ishigaki Eitaro

Two Emigrants Painting America



◀ ISHIGAKI Eitarou, *The Popular Front*, c.1936–37, oil on canvas

Organized by:

The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
Fukutake Foundation

With the cooperation of:

Okayama Prefectural Museum of Art
Ishigaki Memorial Museum

Curatorial cooperation:

Yasuo Kuniyoshi Project, Okayama
University Graduate School of Education

▼ General Information

- October 7 – December 24
- Open 9:30 to 17:00
- Closed on Monday except October 9 (closed October 10 instead)

▼ Admission

- Adults: 700 (560) yen. Students: 400 (320) yen. Prices in brackets indicate group rate.

▼ Admission Free

- Under 18 (High School Pupils), over 65, the disabled, and foreign students studying in Wakayama. / Free entrance for college students on October 28, November 25, and December 23. (Every fourth Saturday: Kiyo cultural foundation day) / Free entrance for all on November 18, 19 (Kansai Cultural Day), and 22 (Prefectural Foundation Day).

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