

KISHIDA Ryusei,  
Mural Decoration  
for The Second  
Exhibition of  
Fūzan-kai [Fusain  
Society], 1913,  
Fondation du  
musée nichido

# Paintings GO Motion!

Kitayama Seitaro and Artists in the Taisho Era

November 19, 2016 – January 15, 2017

Various different Western art forms were brought to Japan after its opening to the world at the time of the Meiji Restoration. And then just as the end of the Meiji period approached, art books and magazines published in the West were brought to Japan almost immediately after publication, and they too helped introduce Western art to Japanese audiences. Over the course of that inflow of information, the past half century of modern European art movements, from Impressionism to Post Impressionism, and on to Cubism and Futurism, swept like a huge wave into Japan.

Amidst this flood of information, Japanese young painters who were about to be aware of the modern attitude to uncover one's own self or ego, tried to seek a foothold for true individuality amidst the suggestion of new expression introduced from the West. The energy to discover, absorb and then express these ideas as their own motivated Japan's modern art, takes it to a succession of new steps and advances.

There was one person who contributed to this development of modern art in Japan, who supported the activities of these young painters seeking their own self-expression. **Kitayama Seitaro** (1888-1945), born in Wakayama city, was that person. Along with publishing the art magazine *Gendai no Yōga* and its fervent introduction of Western art, he also actively contributed to the activities of young Western-style painters such as **Kishida Ryusei** and **Kimura Shohachi**, through his holding of exhibitions and publication of exhibition catalogues. The painters who were the grateful recipients of this support dubbed him **Père Kitayama**, after the Frenchman Père Tanguy, an art supply storeowner in Paris who helped the careers of van Gogh and other young painters.

This exhibition takes Kitayama's activities as an entry point to a consideration of the passion for Western art that swept Japan in the Taisho era, and the modern Japanese art movements that developed under its influence. What of the Western Art did the painters of the time Study from the newly available information, and as it influenced them, how it could be transformed into their own personal expression.

We would like to reconsider these questions afresh through this exhibition sensing the heated atmosphere and the passion for art that existed a hundred years ago, in the Taisho era.

**Organizers**: The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama, The Yomiuri Shimbun, The Japan Association of Art Museums

**With the Sponsorship of**: Lion Corporation, Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc.

## ▼ General Information

- Open 9:30 to 17:00 \*Exhibition opens at 10:00 on November 19.
- Closed on Monday and the year-end and New Year holidays (December 28 – January 3), except January 9 (closed on January 10 instead)
- 1000 (800) yen for adults, 800 (600) for college students, free of charge under 18, over 65, disabled, and foreign students studying in Wakayama. Prices in brackets indicate group rate.
- Free entrance for college students on November 26 and December 24 (Kiyō cultural foundation day)

The Museum of  
Modern Art,  
Wakayama



MOMAW

1-4-14 Fukiage, Wakayama,  
640-8137, JAPAN  
TEL: +81-(0)73-436-8690  
FAX: +81-(0)73-436-1337  
<http://www.momaw.jp>