

**W**atercolor painting is one of the techniques that were born in Europe. Its import into Japan became frequent around the time from the end of the Edo period to the Meiji restoration. It was the time when the policy of national isolation (*Sakoku*) was losing its power, and at the end the ban was lifted. Afterwards, as the technique was adopted for public education, it has become so common for most people to have actually tried it.

The reason why the technique has become so popular is its easiness: it is water-based, it dries up quickly, and its tools are simple. For its convenience, watercolor is often used for rough sketches of oil paintings. Therefore it is sometimes regarded to be a supplemental technique for draft making.

However, watercolor painting has its own characteristics like transparent coloring and fresh expression of blurring and shading. Depicting object impromptu makes rhythmical movement. The easiness as a technique is also suitable for plain-air painting.

It was OSHITA Tojiro (1870-1911) who was attracted by this watercolor painting and exerted himself for its development in Japan from the middle to the end of the Meiji period. OSHITA began the painting when there were few experts in Japan. It took no more than 20 years for him to spread it throughout Japan by painting and education.

In this exhibition, OSHITA's activity as the pioneer and the promoter is introduced with about 120 fascinating watercolor paintings and related materials. The year of 2018 is the 150th year from the Meiji restoration. This exhibition will be a good occasion to reconsider Japan at that time through his achievement. OSHITA was precisely the man of the Meiji period.

This exhibition is realized with the special support by the Iwami Art Museum that collects items connected with MORI Ogai.

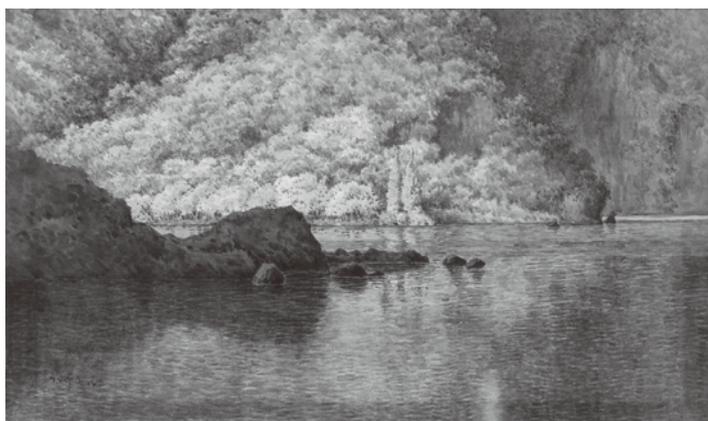
# Oshita Tojiro

## The Pioneer of Japanese Watercolor Painting

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration

Organized by: **The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama** With the cooperation of: **Iwami Art Museum**

February 10 – March 25



*Riverside of Tamagawa, 1907, Iwami Art Museum*



*Commanding a view of Mt. Fuji, 1897, Iwami Art Museum*

### ▼ General Information

- February 10 – March 25, 2018
- Open 9:30 to 17:00
- Closed on Monday except February 12 (closed February 13 instead)

### ▼ Admission

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

(20 or more).

### ▼ Admission Free

- Under 18, (High School Pupils), over 65, the disabled, and foreign students studying in Wakayama. / Free entrance for college students on February 24 and March 24. (Every fourth Saturday: Kiyo cultural foundation day)

The Museum of  
Modern Art,  
Wakayama



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