

## The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Teiji Takai's Birth

“Teiji Takai—The Painter of the Showa period” will be held from September 3, 2011 to October 16, 2011 at the Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama. This is a retrospective show of Teiji Takai (1911-1986), who was raised up in Koyaguchi, Wakayama.

The painter first came to attention in 1930, at the age of 19, when the 17<sup>th</sup> Nikaten (annual show of Nikakai Artists Association) accepted his work *Civilization*. His motifs like airplanes, machines and buildings were reflection of his pure longing for modern times and he drew attention of Seiji Togo or other representative modern artists, recognized as a budding painter.

Inspired by the urbanized culture of the early Showa period, he pursued his own paintings. On the other hand, he also took up illustration in various magazines. Besides he set up new exhibition groups with his many fellow painters, and played an active role in an artists group Kyushitsukai, whose members aspired for new expression.

After the 1931 Manchurian Incident, art in Japan was expected to have some specific social role. In order to meet the demand, he followed in the steps of mural painting movement in America: he sought appealing motifs and theme in China where he recorded military scenes as a painter. His realistic representation of the native people and things acquired a good reputation. After the World War II, he moved to New York and started afresh as an abstract painter. His works were shown in many exhibitions not only in Japan also in the States.

He changed his style according to the turbulent social situation of the Showa period, which proves that he tried to keep pace with the times. To look back such work of his lets us reconsider the relationship between society and art.

In this show, about 150 works will be on display including the big piece during the war, *Boys at the Border*. Some original pictures for magazine illustrations will be exhibited for the first time.

Open 9:30 to 17:00

Closed on Monday, except for September 19 and October 10 (closed on September 20 and October 11, instead)

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