

KAWAGUCHI KIGAI: CELEBRATING HIS 120TH BIRTHDAY

November 10, 2012 - January 14, 2013



KAWAGUCHI Kigai (1892-1966), born in Aridagawa-cho, Wakayama, tried to attain a new expression of paintings before and after World War II, and kept on painting for life. Moving up to Tokyo in his teens to be an artist, he devoted his life to create his own expression. His progress on the basis of European Art made its mark on the history of Japanese Modern Art.

KAWAGUCHI was born in Goryo-mura village in 1892, and went to the Wakayama Prefectural Normal School. Having the aspiration to be an artist, he chose to leave school and hurry up to Tokyo. Leaving school meant to him abandoning the possibility for further study further in public schools like Tokyo School of Fine Arts. That is why he named himself Kigai, which means “out of the way.” Privately he took lessons from YASUI Sotaro, and then went to France in 1920, where he learned directly from André Lhote and Fernand Léger. Besides, strong influence of Marc Chagall was not negligible.

When KAWAGUCHI came back to Japan in 1929, he participated in the establishment of Dokuritsu Bijutsu Kyōkai (Association of Independent Artists). Presenting monumental and illusory paintings, he came to be one of leading artists of his age. Even though the World War II hindered his vigorous creation for a while, after the war, he kept on opening up the new artistic world, trying many abstract works in the latest trends at that time, for instance, *Informel style*. This year falling on his 120th birthday, we would like to trace his longstanding career as an oil painter before and after World War II.

[Events]

Guest Lecture by SAKAI Tetsuro (former Director of Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art)

Life and Art of KAWAGUCHI Kigai

November 10, (Sat) 14:00-, at Auditorium

Curator's Talk: November 10, 17, 23, December 23, January 13 and 14. / 14:00-, at Gallery (ticket required)

[General Information]

- Kawaguchi Kigai: Celebrating His 120th Birthday
- The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
- November 10, 2012 (Sat.) - January 14, 2013 (Mon./Holiday)
- Open 9:30 to 17:00
- Closed on Monday, except for December 24 and January 14 (closed on December 25 and January 15, instead), and New Year's Holiday (December 29 - January 3)
- 500 (400) yen for adults, 300 (250) for college students, free of charge under 18, over 65, disabled, and foreign students studying in Wakayama. Prices in brackets indicate group rate.

[Extracts from Exhibits]

A Girl and Seashells, 1934, Oil on canvas, 167.3 x 267.2cm

Still Life with a Pitcher, 1934, Oil on canvas, 80.0 x 267.2cm

At Café, 1934, Oil on canvas, 79.0 x 64.0cm, Private Collection

Bohemian, 1928, Oil on canvas, 117.0 x 80.7 cm

The Earth, 1932, Oil on canvas, 155.5 x 195.5 cm

Flowers and a Girl, 1938, Oil on canvas, 117.1 x 91.2 cm

A Group, 1956, Oil on canvas, 160.6 x 112.3 cm

Harbor, 1956, Oil on canvas, 117.0 x 80.4 cm

In the Forest, 1964, Oil on canvas, 116.0 x 95.7 cm, Private Collection