



## EITARO ISHIGAKI, Retrospective

The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama (MOMAW) introduces the achievement of Eitaro ISHIGAKI, in commemoration of the 120th anniversary of his birth.

ISHIGAKI, a Taiji-town (Wakayama) - born emigrant to America was active mainly in New York from 1920's to 1940's. From Wakayama, especially from the southern region, not a small number of people emigrated to America. Among them were along with ISHIGAKI, Seimatsu HAMAJI (1885-1947) and Henry SUGIMOTO (1901-1990), who also played active roles as painters in America. Before the War, as the center of Art was in Europe, chiefly in Paris, the history of Japanese Modern Art is described with artists having studied and returning from there in large part. It is of course the significant history, but we regard the footmarks of Japanese artists in America as another history of Japanese Modern Art, that should not be missed. As the Museum in this region with such background, we keep researching, collecting and exhibiting their activity, in order to pass their achievement down the generations.

For many emigrant-artists, the purpose of settlement was not studying art, but living. ISHIGAKI also dropped out of *Shingu Junior High School* at the age of fifteen in 1909, and moved to America to work. Changing jobs frequently, he attended San Francisco Institute of Arts and Art Students League of New York, and began his career as a painter. Almost in tandem with the Russian Revolution, he became aware of Socialism in the wake of meeting Sen KATAYAMA (1859-1933). ISHIGAKI portrayed people's life in 1920's and achieved recognition as a so-called *Social-scene* artist. From 1930's after the Depression, his theme became the issues in America of the day like unemployment or racial discrimination, and the impact of *Mexican muralista art movement* sized up his painting. After the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War and the Pacific War, he painted many works appealing for antiwar and antifascism.

In this exhibition, ISHIGAKI's life in the turbulent times is presented. The section of his coevals like Seimatsu Hamaji and Henry Sugimoto gives depth to the show. In addition, newly-discovered materials of the female sculpter Gertrude Boyle (1878-1937) who had a great influence on ISHIGAKI are exhibited with the cooperation of Taiji Ishigaki Memorial Hall.

This is the retrospective show that is the first time in sixteen years after the exhibition at MOMAW in 1997, *Japan in America: Eitaro ISHIGAKI and Other Japanese Artists in the Pre-World War II*.

**[Related Events]**

**Guest Lecture** by SAKURAI Hayato

*Taiji, over the Waters: the History of Immigrants from the Southern Kishu*

Mon./Hol., October 14

14:00- at Auditorium, Open Door

**Lecture** by Curator, OKUMURA Ichiro

*Life and Works of Eitaro ISHIGAKI*

Mon./Hol., September 23

14:00- at Auditorium, Open Door

**Curator's Talk in the Gallery**

Sat., September 7

Mon./Hol., September 16

14:00- at Gallery, Ticket Required

**Curator's Talk for Kids**

Sun., September 29

Sun., October 6

14:00- at Gallery, Ticket Required

**[General Information]**

- The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
- September 3, 2013 - October 20, 2013
- Open 9:30 to 17:00
- Closed on Monday, except for September 16, 23 and October 14 (closed on September 17, 24 and October 15, instead)
- 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.

Supported by:

Taiji Ishigaki Memorial Hall

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