



Posthumous Work: Brake, a Big Flood [2012] oil on canvas, 291.0×291.0cm

USAMI Keiji (1940-2012) had been representative of Japanese painters since the sudden appearance in 1963, at the first one-man show held at *Minami Gallery*, Tokyo, a pioneer of contemporary art gallery. His work was some kind of experiment to define the issue in contemporary art with painting, and to respond to it.

USAMI was born in Suita-City, Osaka, and spent his boyhood in Wakayama. Aiming to be a painter, he began to teach himself painting. After gaining prominence at the *Minami Gallery*, he kept exhibiting works mainly at one-man shows. After achieving the thorough abstraction in the series 'Reduction', human figures gradually appeared on canvases. These figures got condensed into the four figures taken from the picture of Watts riots in the *Life magazine* in 1965, and became USAMI's fundamental subject since then.

Usami Keiji: A Retrospective Logos of Paintings

December 18, 2016
– February 14

He was such an acclaimed artist to be selected as the representative of Japan at the 36th Venice Biennale in 1972. He also taught at Tama Art University, Musashino Art University and Kyoto City University of Arts, and trained younger artists. He was also active in writing and published many discussions on art such as *Theory of Painting* (1980). It was his pursuit of the art as intelligence since the Renaissance.

This exhibition is the first opportunity to look back his work totally in the Kansai area after his death. Approximately 60 works from the watercolor paintings of the very beginning of his artist life to the posthumous work will be on view.



Elevation, Green [1997] oil on canvas, 259.1×193.9cm

▼ General Information

- March 1 – April 17, 2016
- Open 9:30 to 17:00
- Closed on Monday, except March 21 (closed on March 22, instead)

▼ Admission

- 510 (410) 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.

▼ Admission Free

- Under 18 (high school pupils), over 65 and the disabled/ March 26 for Collage Students (Every fourth Saturday)

▼ Related Events

- Guest Lecture by OKAZAKI Kenjiro (Artist) *Pathos and Logos of USAMI Keiji* March 21, 14:00-, at Auditorium (first 120 people)
- Curator's Talk March 13, 20, April 2 and 17 / 14:00-, at

Gallery (ticket required, no application necessary)

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