

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

荒野のグラフィズム

Graphism in the Wilderness: KIYOSHI AWAZU

栗津潔展 奇才栗津潔、1500点一挙公開。

2007年11月23日(金) — 2008年3月20日(木)



Exhibition Outline

- **Exhibition Title:** Arano no Gurafuizumu: Awazu Kiyoshi Ten
- **English Name:** Graphism in the Wilderness: Kiyoshi Awazu Exhibition
- **Period:** November 23, 2007(Fri [national holiday])to March 20, 2008 (Thu [national holiday]). (Gallery 11 will remain open only until February 17, 2008)
Closed:
 - Mondays (Closed Tuesday instead when Monday is a holiday)
 - Year-end holidays (December 29, 2007 to January 1, 2008)
- **Hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (8 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays)
Tickets are sold until 30 minutes before closing
- **Admission:** That day
 - General: ¥1,000; College students: ¥800; Elem/JH/HS: ¥400; 65 and older: ¥800Advance Tickets, Group Tickets
 - General: ¥800; College students: ¥600; Elem/JH/HS: ¥400Note: Tickets allow joint admission to “Collection Exhibition II” (September 15 [Sat] to April 13 [Sun] 2008)
- **Exhibit Venues:** Galleries 6-12 and 14, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
Note: Gallery 6 is within the “Collection Exhibition II” venue
- **Works:** About 1,500 (paintings, prints, originals, posters, publications, sculptures, films, etc.)
- **Organized by:** 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
- **Co-organized by:** Japan Graphic Designers Association
- **Under the Patronage of:** Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization
- **With the Special Sponsorship of:** Nissha Printing Co., Ltd.; NCP Co.
- **Sponsored by:** Tanakaunso; Kodak Graphic Communications Japan Ltd.
- **In Cooperation with:** Printing Museum, Tokyo; Kanazawa Gakuin University; Kanazawa College of Art; Aomori Contemporary Art Centre; Shiruku no Kai; Sogetsu Foundation; The Adachi Institute of Woodblock Prints; Screen Process Kunieda; Takeo Paper Co.

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Please direct inquiries concerning media coverage or the loan of artwork photos to the above.

About the Exhibition

“Graphism in the Wilderness: Kiyoshi Awazu” presents the full scope of Kiyoshi Awazu’s oeuvre and considers its meaning for us today through the display of over 1,500 principal works—including notes, drawings, works never exhibited, and experimental films—from among the 2,600 Awazu works in the collection of 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

In his dedication to experimental expression, Kiyoshi Awazu has traversed wide-ranging genres, saying, “In all expressive fields, I resolve to remove not only the boundaries among forms of expression; I will also remove class, category, disparity, and the upward and downward that have appeared in art.” A singular genius with a ceaseless interest in the world around him, Awazu took up art amid his country’s reconstruction from the ruins of war and went on to build a foundation for graphic design in Japan. He has since blazed a career cutting freely across the genres of painting, posters, prints, book design, architecture, music, film, performance, and theater.

Having lost his father in a railroad accident soon after he was born, Awazu could look only to a newspaper article about the accident and three portrait photographs for clues to his father’s existence. “The city raised me,” he says of a youth surrounded by ex-soldiers, joiners, and factory workers in his neighborhood. After the war, while bouncing from job to job, he began to sketch and paint on his own, using movies and art magazines as textbooks. An enormous volume of sketches—studies of passengers on Yamanote Line trains and people seen along roadsides—remain from that time. After winning the Grand Prize at the 1955 Nissenbi (Japan Advertising Artists’ Club) Exhibition for his poster, “Umi wo Kaese” (Give Our Sea Back), Awazu entered the field of design, where he had experience with image reproduction and mass production using printing technology. “It was all a wilderness. The word ‘graphic’ didn’t even exist,” he recollects of that time. Perceiving as “graphism” the permeation of everyday life by automatically self-reproducing visual messages driven by modern reproduction technology, he searched intuitively for creative methods that were, by comparison, vulgar and pre-modern and formulated his own style.

While pioneering a world of uniquely personal line drawing, Awazu embarked on a pilgrimage-like journey among idiosyncratic popular icons—fingerprints, palm lines, maps, and ink seals in the 1960s, and turtles, birds, camellias, Mona Lisas, and Sada Abes in the 1970s. Recalling a childhood interest in reincarnation upon hearing the cellist Pablo Casals perform “Song of the Birds,” Awazu furthermore began to depict birds. Since the 1980s, he has developed a strong interest in the global environment and state of human civilization. Amid his journey of revisiting the starting point of his thinking, he has expanded his range of vision to encompass prehistoric cave drawings and pictographs found in ethnic art—subjects transcending time and place. A pilgrim thus among icons having origins in extremely fundamental existence, Kiyoshi Awazu continues, even now, to stand alone in the wilderness.

Exhibition Features

● **Presenting over 1,750 of the Awazu works gifted to the Museum**

Some 2,600 works in the artist's collection have been gifted to 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. This exhibition presents the 1,500 works of chief importance. Through paintings, prints, original pictures, posters, bound books, sculptures, and film works, the exhibition presents the world of Kiyoshi Awazu, an artist whose activities have cut across wide-ranging genres. By presenting the cosmos of lush imagery that has been gifted to the Museum, just as it is, and sharing it broadly with the general public, the exhibition will make the Museum itself a place of creative exploration and information.

Itemization of the Awazu Works in the Museum's Collection

201 paintings; 862 sketches, original pictures, illustrations, handwritten items, and block copy; 277 posters; 85 prints; 120 pamphlets, calendars, and handbills; 693 books and magazines; 266 photographs; 12 films; 22 3D objects; 27 pieces of documentation.

● **An installation based on Awazu's 1977 Sao Paulo Biennial work, "Graphism Trilogy"**

At the 1977 Sao Paulo Biennale exhibition venue, Azuma, using red, black, and white ink, silk-screened images of his exhibited works and covered nearly the entire floor and walls with them. Based on photographic documentation, an installation enabling a "vicarious experience" of the 1977 Sao Paulo Biennial installation has been created.

● **"Observe, Gaze, and Study"—A showing of Awazu's experimental films**

"Sada Abe" (1969) / "Invader (1969) / "Furyu" (1972) "Burning Piano" (1974) / "Genso Genya" (1974) / "Shunkashuto" (1974) / "Composition" (1974) / "Art of Antonio Gaudi" (1978) / "KIYOSHI AWAZU Early Works, Painting, and Illustrations"/ "WHITE SPACE" (1982)

● **Workshop Room for viewer participation, with live music and talks**

Direction: Awazu Design Room / Cooperation: Goji Hamada, Yoshio Kamitani, Taketoshi Terai, Shiruku no Kai, and Kanazawa College of Art students

One gallery of the Museum will be devoted to participatory workshops. Participants, both children and adults, will be able to create works using actual Awazu silkscreen stencils and have their works displayed. Workshops will look fundamentally at the principle of the printing plate and concepts of the original and the reproduction, and consider the meaning of collaboration and creative expression. Performances, talks, seminars, and live music will be offered continuously in this space, in a casual manner. For the exhibition's duration, the Workshop Room will be a place where things continually happen, often unpredictably, with opportunities to be witness to the birth of Awazu works, as it happens.

● **Book publication: “Kiyoshi Awazu: Graphism in the Wilderness”**

Book design: Shin Sobue. Article contribution: Ichiro Hariu, Shinichi Nakazawa, and others.

B5 size, 277 pages (4C=200 pages)

Language: Japanese

Published by Filmart-Sha Co., Ltd.

Artist Profile

AWAZU Kiyoshi

1929 Born in Tokyo

1948 Joined Sakuga Kai Co.

1954 Obtained a part time position at Dokuritsu Eiga Co. in the publicity department

1955 Joined Nikkatsu Movie Production Co. and worked in the publicity department

1958 Left Nikkatsu Movie Production Co.

1962 Designed the steel door of the Izumo Shrine with architect Kiyonori Kikutake and developed a lasting interest in architecture

1964 Established Awazu Design Room in Harajuku, Tokyo. In April, became an Associate Professor at Musashino Art University

1968 Became an editor in chief of "Design Hiho"

1978 Published "The Works of Kiyoshi Awazu" (Kodansha Publishing Co.)

2000 Became the first director of the Printing Museum

■ Major Exhibitions

1950 Third Nihon Indépendant Exhibit

1955 Nissenbi

1956 Nissenbi

1958 World Film-Poster Contest

1962 Milan Triennale, "Mirai no Toshi Ten" (with Kiyonori Kikutake and Noboru Kawazoe at Ikebukuro Seibu Department Store)

1966 "From Space to Environment" (Matsuya Department Store in Tokyo)

1968 "Environment 'A' for Four Projections" (Kyoto National Modern Art Museum)

1970 3rd International Poster Biennial, Warsaw

1974 One-man show (PARCO Shibuya)

1977 Sao Paulo Biennial

1980 "Kiyoshi Awazu Print Exhibition" (Art Front Gallery, Tokyo)

1981 "Kiyoshi Awazu One Man Show-Printed Works" (50 Earlham St. Gallery, London)

1982 "Awazu Printed Works" (Art Front Gallery, Zurich)

1984 "Kiyoshi Awazu Exhibition" (La Foret Museum, Harajuku)

"Kiyoshi Awazu Drawing Exhibition" (Inax Gallery, Tokyo)

1985 "Kiyoshi Awazu Exhibition" (Inax Gallery, Osaka)

1986 "Tokyo, Form and Spirit" (Collaboration with Fumihiko Maki; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, U.S.A., and La Foret Museum, Tokyo)

1992 "Kiyoshi Awazu: Artist and Designer Exhibit" (The Japanese American Cultural Community Center, Los Angeles)
1993 "Kiyoshi Awazu—Exhibition and Workshop" (Aspen, Colorado)
"Kiyoshi Awazu Exhibit 1949-1993" (Kawasaki Citizens Museum)
2000 "Shokeimoji Yugyo (A Journey through the world of hieroglyphs)" (Printing Museum P & P Gallery, Tokyo)
2003 2nd Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial
"Kiyoshi Awazu Exhibit (Aomori Contemporary Art Centre)
2006 "ex'pose '06—Kiyoshi Awazu Design Mandara" (Printing Museum P&P Gallery)

■ Major Awards

1955 Grand Prize, Nissenbi, for "Umi wo Kaese" (Give Our Sea Back)
1956 Encouragement Prize, Nissenbi, for "Nekrasov" and "Waga Matchi"
1958 First Prize, World Film-Poster Contest
1962 Silver Award, Milan Triennale
1970 Silver and Special Prizes, International Poster Biennial Exhibit, Warsaw, for posters, "Double Suicide" and "ANTI-WAR"
1973 Ministry of International Trade and Industry Award for best book design ("Gendai no Dento Kogei," Kodansha Publishing Co.)
1980 Japan Academy Award for art direction of the movie "Yashagaike"
1982 Special Prize, International Poster Biennial Exhibit, Warsaw
1987 Japanese Academy Award for art direction of the movie "Yari no Gonza"
2001 Mainichi Design Award and Special Prize for Printing Museum works

■ Major Public Collections

Crafts Gallery, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama
21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Related Events

In his creative journey, Kiyoshi Awazu has cut across wide-ranging genres and explored realms of thought in collaborations with numerous people. Inspired by his adventurous spirit, we will set aside one gallery as a “Workshop Room” offering silkscreen workshops and woodblock print demonstrations, as well as live music, talks, and performances. In the Lecture Hall, lectures examining Awazu’s career from many perspectives will be offered.

- 11.23 (Fri/Holiday) **Shigeo Fukuda** Lecture + Discussion: **Shigeo Fukuda x Kazumasa Nagai x Mitsuo Katsui** (14:00-17:00, @L)
 Silkscreen WS (14:00-16:00, @G)
 *also 11. 24 (Sst), 12.1 (Sat), 12.2 (Sun), 12.8 (Sat), 12.9 (Sun), 12.22 (Sat), 12.14 (Mon/Holiday), 1.13 (Sun), 1.20 (Sun), 2.10 (Sun)
11. 24 (Sat) **Ichiro Hariu** Lecture (14:00-16:00, @L)
- 11.25 (Sun) **Goji Hamada** Lecture (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 12.1 (Sat) “Let’s Read Picture Books” (13:00-13:30, @K)
Masayuki Nishie Lecture (14:00-15:30, @L)
- 12.2 (Sun) **Toshio Matsumoto** Film Screening & Lecture (14:00-15:30, @L)
- 12.4 (Tue) Gallery Tour for Mamas and Papas (10:30-11:50, @K)
- 12.8 (Sat) **Yusuke Nakahara** Lecture (14:00-16:00, @L)
- 12.9 (Sun) Gallery & Talk for Kids (13:00- /15:00-, @K)
- 12.15 (Sat) “Let’s Read Picture Books” (14:00-14:30, @K)
Adachi Woodblock Demonstration (15:00-17:00, @G)
- 12.16 (Sun) **Adachi Woodblock** Demonstration (13:00-15:00, @G)
Fram Kitagawa Lecture (15:00-17:00, @L)
- 12.22 (Sat) **Yoshio Kamitani** Lecture (14:00-15:00, @Meeting Room 1)
- 12.23 (Sun) **Goji Hamada** Performance (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 1.3 (Wed)-1/5(Sat) **Tomoko Momiyama** Workshop
- 1.5 (Sat) “Let’s Read Picture Books” (14:00-14:30, @K)
- 1.6 (Sun) **Tomoko Momiyama** Concert (several performances 13:00-17:00, @G)
- 1.11 (Fri) **Toshi Ichianagi + Akiko Samukawa** Concert (18:00-19:00, @G)
- 1.12 (Sat) **Toshi Ichianagi + Akiko Samukawa** Concert (15:00-16:00, @G)
- 1.13 (Sun) **Masahiro Shinoda** Film Screening (11:00-13:00, 16:00-18:00, @T)
Masahiro Shinoda Lecture (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 1.14 (Mon/Holiday) “Shining Sixties” Conversation: **Yoshimi Nara x Ken Awazu** (14:00-15:30, @T) / **AYUO** Live Music (16:00-17:30, @T)
- 1.19 (Sat) **Takehisa Kosugi** Concert (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 1.20 (Sun) “Let’s Read Picture Books” (14:00-14:30, @K)
AYUO Live Music (16:00-17:30, @G)
- 2.2 (Sat) “Let’s Read Picture Books” (13:00-13:30, @K)
Kazue Sawai Concert (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 2.3 (Sun) **Hikaru Hayashi + Dai Himeta** “Kaze no Concert” (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 2.9 (Sat) **Katsuhiko Hibino** Lecture (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 2.10 (Sun) Conversation: **Kyoko Kujo x Ryoichi Enomoto** (14:00-15:30, @G)
- 2.11 (Mon/Holiday) **AYUO** Live Music (16:30-18:00, @G)
- 2.16 (Sat) **Shin Sobue** Lecture “Design and Power” (14:00-16:00, @G)
- 2.17 (Sun) **Yosuke Yamashita** Live Music (17:00-18:00, @G)
- 3.1 (Sat) Let’s Read Picture Books (14:00-14:30, @K)
- 3.8 (Sat) **Yosuke Yamashita, Burning Piano 2008** (Noto Resort Area Masuhogaura// add: Aikami, Shika-machi, Hakui-gun, Ishikawa, Japan)
- 3.15 (Sat) “Let’s Read Picture Books” (14:00-14:30, @K)

G = In the “Graphism in the Wilderness” exhibition venue; No charge for participation (Admittance ticket is required).

“Silkscreen WS”: Silkscreen workshops employing actual Kiyoshi Awazu stencils (Gallery 11); Free of charge (Admittance ticket is required); Participants limited to first 40 arrivals (Numbered tickets will be distributed in Gallery 11 from 13:00 that day. Applications are taken until 15:30).

L = Lecture Hall, limited to first 80 arrivals (Numbered tickets will be distributed from 10:00 that day before the Lecture Hall); Free of charge (Admittance ticket is required).

K = Kids Studio

“Let’s Read Picture Books”: A gathering to read picture books created by Kiyoshi Awazu (for children of lower elementary school grades); Free of charge; No limit to number of participants.

“Gallery Tour for Mamas and Papas” (For mothers-to-be and guardians of infants; Nursery care available for a fee.) / “Gallery & Talk for Kids” (For children from elementary to junior-high-school age; Parent accompaniment is allowed.) Participation is limited to first 15 applications; Free of charge (Admittance ticket is required). To apply, please contact by telephone (076-220-2801) or e-mail (kids@kanazawa21.jp). No more applications will be taken after capacity is filled.

T = Theater 21

“**Masahiro Shinoda** Film Screening”: Advance tickets ¥800 (at Museum Shop of 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Cine-monde, or Ticket PIA); That day ¥1,000. Note: Tomo-no-kai discounts available (in the Museum only).

“Shining Sixties”: Limited to first 120 arrivals (Numbered tickets will be distributed from 13:00 that day in front of Theater 21); No charge for participation (Admittance ticket is required).

Note:

- Changes in planning are apt to occur.
- Events held for media coverage will be announced beforehand by press release