

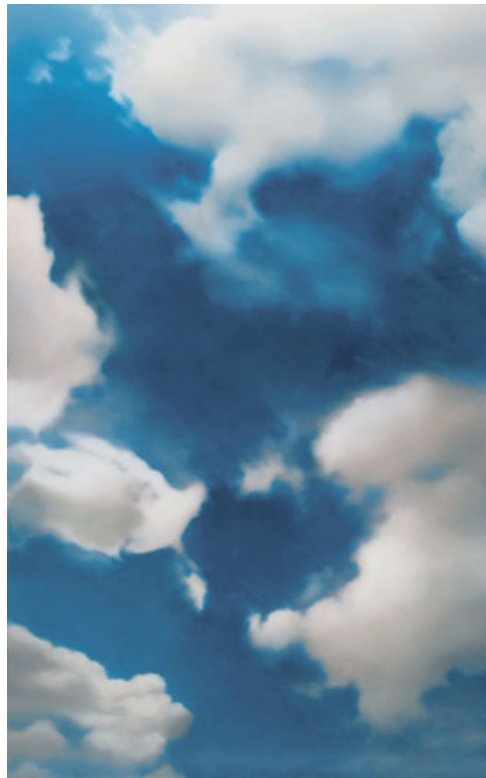
Press Release

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Gerhard Richter: Painting as Mirror

September 3 – October 26, 2005



Wolken [443a] (Clouds)

1978 Oil on canvas

Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf
(Leihgabe des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen)

©Gerhard Richter

***Painting as Mirror* is an exhibition by Gerhard Richter, which will open on Saturday, September 3, 2005 and close on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Director: Yutaka Mino, Address: 1-2-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan).**

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Gerhard Richter is one of the most important artists of our time. This solo-exhibition will show Richter's works from the past forty years of his artistic career, since the 1960s. This is the first time in Japan to have an exhibition showing more than fifty major works of Richter, including the ones loaned by the artist himself.

Gerhard Richter was born in Dresden, in former East Germany, in 1932. He moved to Düsseldorf, in former West Germany, right before the Berlin Wall was erected to separate his country. He now lives in Cologne. In 2002, he had a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and a solo exhibition in Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen at the beginning of 2005, which had as many as 110,000 visitors. Richter is considered to be one of the most important artists in the world.

Richter has an astonishing variety of artistic styles: *Photo-Painting*, where he precisely reproduces photographic images from newspapers and magazines and gives the finishing touch of a delicate blur, the *Colour Chart Series*, geometric arrangements of square and rectangular colourful chips, the *Grey Painting Series* and *Landscapes* that remind us of German Romantic paintings, *Abstract Paintings* with vibrant colour combinations, and works that use transparent and painted glass and mirrors.

These works seem to be incompatible as far as common artistic goals. They, however, have in common Richter's consistent philosophy to pursue potential in paintings. Through his original two-dimensional works that blur the borders between "photography and paintings," "figurative and abstract," "reality and virtual reality," Richter continues his pursuit of "vision." His works can be perceived as "mirrors" to reflect upon our world where reality and image are equally present in our contemporary life dominated by media such as the Internet.

Most of the works in this exhibition will be shown in Japan for the first time, including six new oil paintings. This will give us a very good opportunity to explore different aspects of Richter's art, which continues to evolve.



Rosen [799-2]
(Roses)
1994
Oil on canvas
46x51cm
Private Collection
©Gerhard Richter

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXHIBITION

1. An Extraordinary Solo-exhibition of the Contemporary German Master

Gerhard Richter is a contemporary German master, one of the most important painters in our time. In the 20th century, Germany became the epicentre of artistic movements such as Bauhaus and Expressionism, and has fostered important artists such as Joseph Beuys and Anselm Kiefer after World War II. Richter can also be positioned in this historical context. He was born in former East Germany and moved to West Germany right before the Berlin Wall was erected. His artistic career coincides with the history of the 20th century. This is the first time in Japan to have an exhibition that includes as many as fifty major works of Richter's, including the artist's own collection.

2. The History and Future of Painting Revealed in Richter's Works

Richter says that painting is an act and that act should not be restricted. The major theme that Gerhard Richter has continued to pursue has been the act of painting itself. He has been reinventing his own styles: *Photo-Painting* from the 1960s, *Landscape* paintings that reminds one of German Romantic paintings, and *Abstract Paintings* from the 1980s and 1990s. By looking back on the various themes and styles in his career, we can experience the different genres of paintings. In other words, the artistic history of Gerhard Richter is the history of 20th century painting. Further than that, he has discovered new possibilities in paintings, and added new experiments to look into the future of painting.

3. The Major Exhibition in the Event, *Deutschland in Japan*

Deutschland in Japan is celebrated in Japan in 2005 and 2006, introducing contemporary life and multi-culture within Germany. A number of outstanding events in the fields of culture, economy, and science are being carried out, offering many opportunities to get to know different aspects of Germany. More than three hundred events are happening all over Japan for *Deutschland in Japan*. *Gerhard Richter: Painting as Mirror* is one of the related events. With the support from the artist himself, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, and Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, we have an opportunity to introduce one of the most important contemporary German artists.

4. Special Works That Will Be Exclusively Shown at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Eight Grey is one of the major works of Richter's. Eight large (3.2 m high and 2 m wide) grey sheets of glass is installed in the rotunda gallery. Because of the size, this work closely relates itself to the site, environment, and architecture. *Eight Grey* was created in 2001 for 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa when the building was still in the process of being designed. These works are two-dimensional yet become an installation piece as well. As eight glass sheets cover the space, the glass itself becomes a wall that creates space. *Eight Grey* is included in *Painting as Mirror* at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

GERHARD RICHTER PROFILE

1932 Born in Dresden, former East Germany

1952-57 Studied at Kunstakademie, Dresden

1961-63 Studied at Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf

1971-94 Professor at Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf



Richter studied art in former East Germany. While travelling in West Germany, he encountered and was deeply impressed by the free style of Abstract Expressionism. Richter decided to move to Düsseldorf and did so two months before the Berlin Wall was erected. In 1962, he painted an oil painting entitled *Table* from a newspaper photograph and gave it the number *1* in a catalogue system that he uses today. He files personal snapshot photos and journalistic photos and explores his original style of painting a photograph and photographing a painting. In 1964, Richter had the first solo-exhibition in Munich and Düsseldorf. His works were also exhibited at the Venice Biennial in 1972. Richter won the *Golden Lion* award at the 47th Venice Biennale and was also presented with the *Praemium Imperiale* in Japan in 1997. His works are internationally acclaimed.

MAJOR STYLES OF GERHARD RICHTER

1. Photo-Painting

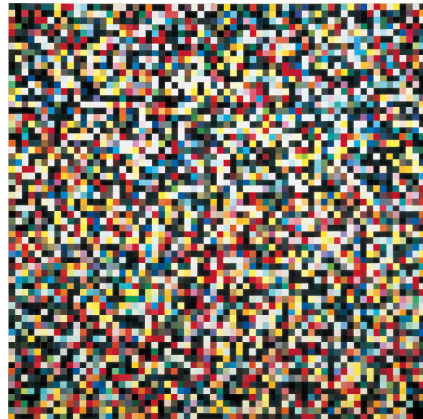
Richter accurately reproduces images out of journalistic photographs and snapshots with his extraordinary techniques. *Photo-Painting* is the beginning of Richter's artistic career. This, at glance, reminds us of "Photorealism," however, he brushes over the painting to blur the image, just like an out-of-focus photograph. It is a fundamental example of Richter's search for vision.



Motorboot (1.Fassung) [79a]
(Motor Boat (1st Version))
1965
Oil on canvas 169.5×169.5cm
Private Collection
©Gerhard Richter

2. Colour Chart

Colour Charts are a style of geometric paintings arranging square or rectangular colourful chips. Using colour samples of industrial products, Richter presents the colours on a canvas. The colours are randomly painted without any subjective decisions. Richter is now exploring this technique on stained glass in the south window of Cologne Cathedral. Using the technique of antique glass, the colours are ever so delicately reflected in the light.



4096 Farben [359]
(4096 Colours)
1974
Enamel on canvas 254×254cm
Privatsammlung als Leihgabe in der Galerie Neue
Meister, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden
©Gerhard Richter

3. Grey Painting

These paintings only use the colour "grey." In comparison to the *Colour Chart* paintings, that subdivide colours, *Grey Paintings* are the accumulation of all colours. The colour grey represents "nothingness" to Richter. The concept of "nothingness" that will transcend oneself is largely influenced by the words of John Cage: "I have nothing to say, and I'm saying it."

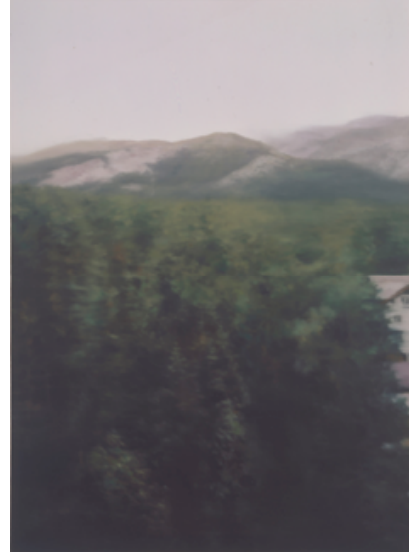


Abstraktes Bild [868-2]
(Abstract Painting)
2000
Oil on canvas 200×140cm
Private Collection
©Gerhard Richter

4. Landscape, Figurative, and Still Life

The cloud series contains sharp contrasts of light. The frames resemble windows or photo frames. Richter's landscapes remind one of German Romantic paintings. He has photographed more than a thousand landscapes. For example, *Waldhaus* (2004) is based on a photograph Richter took while he was spending a vacation in Engadin in Switzerland. The dark green colour field dominates the canvas and reconstructs nature in the painting. Different from his other paintings, Richter's landscapes show his admiration and sentiment toward nature. The representative images of still life in religious art history, such as skulls and candles, are also repeatedly painted.

Waldhaus [890-1]
(*Waldhaus*)
2004
Oil on canvas 142 × 98cm
Private Collection
©Gerhard Richter



5. Abstract Painting

Abstract painting is one of Richter's representative styles as well. He uses a wide squeegee that covers one whole side of a painting and repeats moving it over and over to layer and take away the paint on the surface. This erases the trace of brushstrokes and, at the same time, multi-layers the colours. By unconsciously improvising combinations of colours, accidental vision emerges on the surface.



Abstraktes Bild [889-14]
(*Abstract Painting*)
2004
Oil on canvas 225 × 200cm
Private Collection (courtesy: Wako Works of Art)
©Gerhard Richter

6. Mirror Painting

The mirror paintings use mirrors and glass. Richter's artistic intention to "present" and "reflect" all subjects in the world are simply executed. The images reflected on glass suggest the impossibility of grasping reality.



8 Grau [874-1/8]
(*8 Grey*)
2001
Enameled glass and steel 320 x 200 cm (each)
21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
Photo: Keizo Kioku
©Gerhard Richter

Catalogue:

Gerhard Richter, ¥2,700 (tax included) published by Tankosha.

176 pages, hardcover

Catalogue with text and approximately 100 colour illustrations

*Comes with a DVD that includes the documentary from the 2005 Richter retrospective in Germany, and interviews with Gerhard Richter and the organizers of the exhibition in the Munich exhibition site. (8 min.)



GERHARD RICHTER : PAINTING AS MIRROR

Date: September 3 – October 26, 2005

closed on September 5, 12, 20, 26, October 3, 11, 17 and 24

Place: 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Opening hours: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm (10:00 am – 8:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays)

Admission for exhibition:

adult; 1,000 yen, university student; 800 yen, elementary, junior high
and high school student; 400 yen, elder than 65 years old; 800 yen

Organized by 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa and the Hokkoku Shimbun Company

Patronized by Embassy of the Federal Republic Germany and NRW Japan K.K

Supported by Japan Arts Council

In cooperation with Nordrhein-Westfalen (the state of North Rhine-Westphalia), Japan Airlines, Goethe Institut Kyoto and Asahi Breweries, Ltd.

Planning and Coordination in cooperation with Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Wako Works of Art, Daiwa Radiator Factory Co., Ltd.

Other exhibition venue:

Kawamura Memorial Museum of Art (November 3, 2005 – January 22, 2006)

RELATED EVENTS:

Opening Lectures

Date : Saturday September 3, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Doors open at 1:30pm)
Lecturer : Prof. Dr. Armin Zweite (Director of Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen)
“The Beauty in the Beholder’s Eye – Gerhard Richter’s picture making strategies”

Prof. Dr. Armin Zweite, the leading scholar specializing in Gerhard Richter’s work, gives a lecture at the opening of the exhibition, Prof. Dr. Zweite also supported us in this exhibition

Charge : Admission Free (Need the ticket for the Gerhard Richter’s Exhibition)
Permitted by the first 160 people

Date : Sunday September 4, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm (Doors open at 1:30pm)
Lecturer : Mr. Minoru Shimizu (Associate professor of Doshisha University)
Venue : Theater 21 (in 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)
Charge : Free (Need the ticket for the Gerhard Richter’s Exhibition)
Permitted by the first 160 people

Piano Performance by Mr. Toshi Ichiyamagi

John Cage’s idea of “nothingness” fundamentally influenced Richter. The encounter of the two extraordinary artists are expressed through piano played by Mr. Toshi Ichiyamagi to create a resonance between space and sound.

Date : Sunday September 18, 7:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)
Venue : Exhibit room for the “Grhard Richter” exhibition
Able to see the exhibition during the performance
Admission : 2,000 yen Advanced ticket 1,500 yen
Advanced ticket on sale at Museum shop at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ticket box at Ishikawa Ongakudo, Ticket PIA

a string quartet *Quadrifoglio* “Caleidoscopio” - Music of J. S. Bach

Date : Saturday September 17, 6:00pm (Doors open at 5:30pm)
Venue : Theater 21 (in 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)
Admission : 2,000 yen Advanced ticket 1,500 yen
Advanced ticket on sale at Museum shop at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ticket box at Ishikawa Ongakudo, Ticket PIA

* In case of purchasing the concert ticket at the museum shop in 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 10% discount is available for those who have ticket for the Gerhart Richter Exhibition and the member of zawart.

*Advanced set ticket for “Piano Performance by Mr. Toshi Ichiyamagi” and “Quadrifoglio” is available at museum shop at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa for 2,500yen.

Kids Studio Workshop

- Let's Challenge Gerhard Richter "Painting as Mirror"

Date : Sunday September 25, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (tentative)

Venue : Kids Studio (in 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)

Applicants : Over 4th grade and junior high students

Permitted 15 people

Admission: free

Advanced application needed

* How to apply (in case of over application, determined by lot)

1. E-mail to richter@kanazawa21.jp (effective on the date, October 26)
2. Send a self-addressed stamped postcard with name, address, age, and phone number.

Address:

Kids Studio C/O 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

1-2-1, Hirosaka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, 920-8509 Japan

Application Deadline: September 15

Gallery Talks by Curator

Date : Saturdays September 10, 17, 24

Saturdays October 1, 22

* Talk starts at 2:00 pm

Venue : Lecture Hall (in 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)

The related events will be changed on account of the schedule of the museum.

FOR PRESS INFORMATION :

Hiroaki Ochiai / Aya Okada

Public Relations

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ACCESS TO KANAZAWA

From Tokyo

<Flight>

Tokyo (Haneda) ~ Komatsu [1 hour]

From Komatsu Airport, take shuttle bus to “Korinbo” Bus stop [50 min]

<Train>

(Joetsu Shinkansen Super Express)

Take “Toki” at Tokyo, and transfer to “Hakutaka” at Echigo-yuzawa
[4 hours 59 min]

(Tokaido shinkansen Super Express)

Take “Hikari” at Tokyo, and transfer to “Shirasagi” at Maibara
[5 hours 5 min]

From Osaka

“Super Raicho (Thunderbird)” Express Train [2 hours 30 min]

“Raicho” [2 hours 50 min]