

Collection Exhibition 2 BLUE

2021.11.20 (Sat) -
2022.5.8 (Sun)

Exhibition Title	Collection Exhibition 2 BLUE
Period	Saturday, November 20, 2021 – Sunday, May 8, 2022 *Part 1A - Saturday, November 20, 2021 – Sunday, February 20, 2022 *Part 2A - Tuesday, February 22 – Sunday, May 8, 2022 *Part 1B - Saturday, November 20, 2021 – Sunday, March 27, 2022 *Part 2B - Tuesday, March 29 – Sunday, May 8, 2022
Hours	10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays) *Ticket sales end 30 minutes before closing
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Galleries 1-6, Leandro Erlich <i>The Swimming Pool</i> , Anish Kapoor <i>L'Origine du monde</i> , James Turrell <i>Blue Planet Sky</i>
Closed	Mondays (except November 22, January 3 and 10, March 21), November 24, December 29 - January 1, January 4 and 11, March 22
Number of works on view	Throughout - 17, Part 1A - 6, Part 1B - 3, Part 2A - 6, Part 2B - 2
Admission	Adults: ¥450 (¥360) / Students: ¥310 (¥240) / 18 and under: Free / 65 and over: ¥360 *Prices in parentheses for groups of 20 or more *Admission free for Kanazawa citizens on Promote the Arts (second Saturday of each month). Proof of residency required. *Online and advanced sales tickets not available; same-day ticket sales at the venue only.
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)
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**About
the Exhibition**

In the visible light spectrum, while long red light waves advance in a straight line, shorter blue ones disperse in all directions, dissolving into the space. As symbolized by the ungraspable likes of sky and water, the color blue is perceived in terms of its depth, and for this reason has aroused feelings of longing and adoration since ancient times. Shifting our gaze to land, we find blue to be a highly unusual color in nature, lapis lazuli for example being prized in both East and West. And just as film director Derek Jarman once described blue as “darkness made visible,” blue is also a color that appears in the interval between light and dark, life and death. As we now turn increasingly inward, blue could also be described as the color that most speaks to our souls.

This exhibition presents myriad manifestations of the color blue by artists from different countries and cultures, focusing on the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa collection and encompassing a wide range of genres from painting and sculpture, to craft and film.

We are confident it will also shed new light on works on permanent exhibit at the Museum such as Leandro Erlich’s *The Swimming Pool*, James Turrell’s *Blue Planet Sky*, and Anish Kapoor’s *L’Origine du monde*. Also on display will be work by our guest artist for the exhibition: painter and film artist Takashi Ishida, creator of distinctive drawing animations striking in their use of blue coloring and light. Come experience for yourself the myriad tapestries of blue woven by a fascinating and diverse lineup of artist.



Rosemary Laing, *Flight Research #5*, 1999
© Rosemary Laing

**Features of
the Exhibition****Showcasing diverse expressions of the color blue**

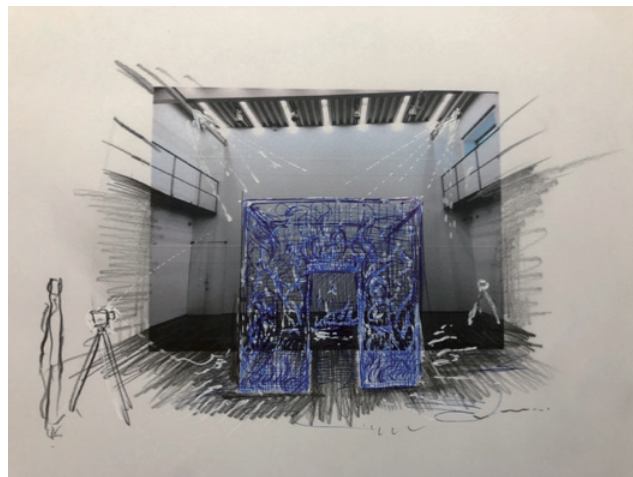
Turning its attention to the color blue in contemporary art, “BLUE” presents many different expressions of the eponymous color, focusing primarily on works in the Museum’s collection. Experience for yourself the realms of blue created by fifteen contemporary artists from Japan and elsewhere, based in different parts of the world and working in media ranging from painting and sculpture to photography, glass, and installation. “BLUE” will also take a fresh approach to permanent exhibits *The Swimming Pool* by Leandro Erlich, James Turrell’s *Blue Planet Sky*, and Anish Kapoor’s *L’Origine du monde* as expressions of blue, offering new insight into these much-loved works.

Delving into representations of blue via a diverse program of associated events

Ahead of the opening of “BLUE,” the Museum will present a drawing performance in color and sound courtesy of guest artist Takashi Ishida, and Kanazawa-born performer, composer, and sound poet Tomomi Adachi. Part 2 of the exhibition will feature a talk by Shihoko Fukumoto, maker of exhibited work *Curtain of Mist*; screenings of blue-themed films and talks on those films, including *Burning Chair* by Takashi Ishida; and a lecture by University of Tokyo professor emeritus and author of *Ao no bijutsushi (The Art History of Blue)* Yasuo Kobayashi, guiding us on a journey across the history of blue. The curator of “BLUE” will also give three 30-minute talks during the exhibition, no booking required. These events taking diverse approaches to the exhibition theme will help visitors delve deeper into the manifold manifestations of blue in art, and gain a greater understanding of the works on show.

Live painting and animation courtesy of guest artist Takashi Ishida

Using the drawing animation technique of filming his own pictures frame by frame, painter and film artist Takashi Ishida presents in installation form works that with time transform the “light” of colors and brushstrokes in painting, and the “light” that is the essence of video. “BLUE” will see Ishida as guest artist embarking on the public making of a new work inspired by the light-filled space of Gallery 5, over a period of around a fortnight at the Museum’s Project Room, for eventual display in Gallery 5. Unlike the indoor blue light and blue walls seen in Ishida’s previous works, this new offering, a 3D animation project titled *Small Blue House*, will look at the structure of the building itself from both inside and out. One of Ishida’s most prominent works of recent years, the installation *Between Tableau and Window (2018)* will also be on display throughout the exhibition. In this new venture using blue light, Ishida will respond to the “blue” works on display from the collection in a fashion sure to expand even further on the exhibition’s eponymous theme.



Sketch of live painting/video project

Exhibiting artists
 (in alphabetical order)

Throughout November 20, 2021 – Sunday, May 8, 2022

Leandro Erlich / Takashi Ishida (guest artist), *Between Tableau and Window*
 Anish Kapoor / Rosemary Laing
 Peter Newman / Lieko Shiga / James Turrell

Part 1A November 20, 2021 – February 20, 2022

Luc Tuymans / Yee I-Lann

Part 1B November 20, 2021 – March 27, 2022

Katsura Funakoshi / Midori Tsukada

Part 2A February 22 – May 8, 2022

Francis Aljys / Shihoko Fukumoto / Hiroshi Sugimoto

Part 2B March 29 – May 8, 2022

Jan Fabre
 Takashi Ishida (guest artist) Live painting/video project *Small Blue House*

Gallery notes
Gallery 1
Blue Hour
Part 1B Katsura Funakoshi

Born 1951 in Iwate, Japan. Based in Tokyo.

Part 2B Jan Fabre

Born 1958 in Antwerp, Belgium. Based in Antwerp.

The entomologist Jean - Henri Fabre dubbed the interval of lyrical tranquility when night turns to day, and dark turns to light, "The Hour Blue." This is the hour when nocturnal animals retire, and diurnal creatures awake. In seasonal terms, "The Hour Blue" is perhaps equivalent to the time from when animals hibernate, to their reemergence in spring. Part 1 of the exhibition will feature Funakoshi Katsura's *Touch of Winter* bust in blue garb, and Part 2, Jan Fabre's *Walking Leaves*, a work in which the entire picture plane is filled using blue Bic ballpoint pen. Though their materials, motifs and forms may differ, both works harbor in their serene stillness the dynamic energy of life. The "BLUE" exhibition begins with these works that employ the color blue to symbolic effect.



Katsura Funakoshi, *Touch of Winter*, 1996
 © Katsura Funakoshi
 photo: Atsushi Nakamichi / Nacása & Partners



Jan Fabre, *Walking Leaves*, 1992
 © Angelos bvba / Jan Fabre
 photo: Taku Saiki

Blue Depths

Part 1A Yee I-Lann

Born 1971 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. Based in Kuala Lumpur.

Part 2A Shihoko Fukumoto

Born 1945 in Osaka, Japan. Based in Kyoto.

Hiroshi Sugimoto

Born 1948 in Tokyo, Japan. Based in Tokyo and New York.

The next gallery is a space showing the incredible depth of the color blue. In Part 1, we see a batik cloth by Yee I-Lann, from her “Orang Besar Series” of works produced using the traditional Southeast Asian wax-resist dyeing technique. Through its use of batik, a technique closely tied to national identity, and the people depicted as the *orang besar* – authority figures, literally the “big people” – this work casts a critical eye over the conventional power structures that lurk beneath the idyllic boundless blue of Southeast Asian waters.

In Part 2, the gallery will be occupied by two works: Sugimoto Hiroshi’s *Sea of Japan, Rebun Island*, and *Curtain of Mist* by Fukumoto Shihoko. In that they are black and white, Sugimoto’s “Seascapes” half-sea, half-sky series of photographs evoke exquisitely the spiritual expansiveness of the color blue. The shimmering indigo ombre of Fukumoto’s aizome-dyed curtain meanwhile will bring to mind scenes of mountains glimpsed amid hanging mist, and the profundity of abstract spaces.



Yee I-Lann, *The Orang Besar Series – Empires of Privateers and Their Glorious Ventures*, 2010
© Yee I-Lann
photo: Keizo Kioku



Shihoko Fukumoto, *Curtain of Mist*, 2002
© Shihoko Fukumoto
photo © Hiroshi Sugimoto



Hiroshi Sugimoto, *Sea of Japan, Rebun Island*, 1996
© Hiroshi Sugimoto, courtesy Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo

Quiet Blue**Part 1A Luc Tuymans**

Born 1958 in Mortsel, Belgium. Based in Antwerp.

Part 2A Francis Alÿs

Born 1959 in Antwerp, Belgium. Based in Mexico City, Mexico.

Part 1 in Gallery 3 will feature works by Luc Tymans, an artist who takes images submerged in the everyday and turns them into paintings. *No. 7 Needles*, which suggests the impossibility of seeing, and *Double Sun*, depicting the symbol of the Jesuits, who still hold enormous power in the present day, both employ the color blue to hint at a domain beyond the visual.

Part 2 will feature Francis Alÿs, whose dominant theme to date has been that of “walking,” and consist of allegorical paintings positioned randomly on the gallery walls. In these works, part of the artist’s “Déjà Vu” series, humans and animals in bizarre walking poses float amid bleak blue landscapes, like scenes from a dream or vision. In the calm quiet of their works, which invite deep introspection on the part of the viewer, can also be identified the blue tradition of the Flemish painting that once flourished in the homeland of these two artists.



Luc Tuymans, *Double Sun*, 2006
© Luc Tuymans
photo: Taku Saiki



Francis Alÿs, *The Consequence of Ignorance*, 1997
© Francis Alÿs
photo: Taku Saiki

Between Light and Dark

Takashi Ishida

Born 1972 in Tokyo, Japan. Based in Tokyo.

As guest artist for “BLUE” we welcome painter and film artist Takashi Ishida, whose video installation *Between Tableau and Window* will unfold in a large gallery space. This work comprising a 4'33" projection, a 16mm film piece approximately half this length, and a painting that appears in both, is shot through with drawings layered in blue and white. Light from the window and frantically flickering artificial light overlap on organic lines and geometric forms that appear and disappear between the dual rectangles of painting and window, inviting us to experience a primordial moment in painting and video, in which drawing and viewing are condensed. For this presentation of *Between Tableau and Window* the window of the gallery and light-reflecting floor will also be incorporated in the work, creating a space suffused with blue light and darkness.



Takashi Ishida, *Between Tableau and Window*, 2018
© Takashi Ishida, Courtesy of Taka Ishii Gallery

Prisms of Blue

Part 1B Midori Tsukada

Born 1972 in Gifu, Japan. Lives and works in Toyama.

Part 2B Takashi Ishida

Born 1972 in Tokyo, Japan. Based in Tokyo.

First up in Gallery 5 are glass works by Tsukada Midori. *Colony*, here referring to a cluster of cells, and *Wax and Wane*, referring to the phases of the moon, consist of countless fluid blue striations sealed in clear glass. These are formed by copper leaf that has melted and turned blue in reaction to heat, and which receives light and diffuses blue color in the manner of a prism.

This will be followed in Part 2 by display of the new work to be produced by Ishida Takashi in a live painting and video project in March 2022; an attempt to make a “small blue house” using the 3D animation techniques employed by Ishida in recent years, a concept inspired by the space of this glass-sided gallery located in one of the Museum’s courtyards. The blue emitted by the small nested house will disperse into endless blue skies, and the cosmos itself.



Midori Tsukada, *Colony*, 2002
© Midori Tsukada
photo: Taku Saiki

Openings to Different Worlds

Lieko Shiga

Born 1980 in Aichi, Japan. Based in Miyagi.

Rosemary Laing

Born 1959 in Brisbane, Australia. Based in Sydney.

Peter Newman

Born 1969 in London, UK. Based in London.

The final gallery will display works that offer premonitions of openings to other realms beyond the visible world. Lieko Shiga's "RASEN KAIGAN" series was born out of Shiga's efforts to get close to the land and the bodies of the people living there following a move to Miyagi in 2008. Ghostly blue light appears in images fixed by photography, evoking a world outside of life lurking in the background of human endeavor and the natural world. Rosemary Laing's "Flight Research" series of photographs and Peter Newman's video *Free at Last* are freewheeling works showing human figures who have launched themselves into the air. In the former, a woman wearing a wedding dress, alluding to a transformed innocence, floats in the skies above the Blue Mountains on the outskirts of Sydney, while in the latter, a skydiver adopts a pose from the introspective meditation practice of yoga. Positioned at the furthest limits of life amid boundless blue skies, their bodies seem to have acquired the ultimate in freedom.



Lieko Shiga, *rasen kaigan 36*,
from the series "RASEN KAIGAN," 2010
© Lieko Shiga



Rosemary Laing, *Flight Research #9*, 1999
© Rosemary Laing



Peter Newman, *Free at Last*, 1997
© Peter Newman

Associated
programs**Pre-event: Takashi Ishida x Tomomi Adachi**

Performers: Takashi Ishida (painter/film artist), Tomomi Adachi (musician)

Date/time: Saturday, October 16 16:00–19:00

Venue: City Hall Side Park (in case of rain, the Info Terminal)

Admission: free

Curator talks

Given by: Yukiko Yokoyama (Assistant curator, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art)

Dates/times:

Saturday, November 20 14:00–14:30

Sunday, January 9, 2022 14:00–14:30

Saturday, April 16, 2022 14:00–14:30

Venue: Lecture Hall

Attendee max: 50 per talk (no booking required)

Admission: free

Shihoko Fukumoto Artist talk

Given by: Shihoko Fukumoto (*Aizome* artist)

Date/time: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:00–12:00

Venue: Theater21

Attendee max: 70 (Booking required)

Admission: free

Takashi Ishida *Small Blue House* live painting/video project

Dates/times: March 17–27, 2022 10:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00 (time subject to change)*

Venue: Project Room

Attendee max: If the project room becomes crowded, visitors may be asked to wait for others to exit before entering (no booking required)

Admission: free

*The finished work will be shown in Gallery 5 from March 29.

Takashi Ishida Screening / Artist talk

Given by: Takashi Ishida

Date/time: Sunday, March 20, 2022 14:00–16:00

Venue: Theater21

Attendee max: 70 (Booking required)

Admission: free

Yasuo Kobayashi Lecture “The Art History of Blue”

Speaker: Yasuo Kobayashi (University of Tokyo professor emeritus)

Date/time: Monday, March 21, 2022 14:00–15:30

Venue: Theater21

Attendee max: 70 (Booking required)

Admission: free

*Program content subject to change

**Associated
event**

Famed Kanazawa confectioners Yoshihashi and the Museum's popular café-restaurant Fusion21 will collaborate on offerings in keeping with the theme of "BLUE" exhibition: a Fusion 21 drink set coupling Yoshihashi namagashi imaged after Tsukada Midori's *Wax and Wane* and Fukumoto Shihoko's *Curtain of Mist*, both appearing in the exhibition, with "BLUE"-inspired drinks. Savor these treats at café-restaurant Fusion21.

*Details will be posted on the Museum website and social media.

**Free days for
Kanazawa citizens**

Promote the Arts Day (*2nd Sat each month during the period): December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9

*Admission on the above days is free for Kanazawa citizens. (Proof of residency required.)

**Images for
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