



## Art on the Road – Three Traveling Exhibitions from the Hara Museum

March 10 (Saturday) – June 24 (Sunday), 2018

Galleries A, B and C (Contemporary Art)



[1] Shigeo Toya, *Woods II*, 1989-90 ©Shigeo Toya Installation view at Hara Museum ARC Photography: Tadasu Yamamoto

This exhibition looks back on three seminal traveling exhibitions organized by and held at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo. These exhibitions, *Primal Spirit – Ten Contemporary Japanese Sculptors* (1990-1991), *Photography and Beyond in Japan; Space, Time and Memory* (1994-1997) and *Shiro Kuramata 1934-1991* (1996-1999) were large-scale projects intended to introduce to the wider world cutting-edge expression by Japanese artists in the areas of sculpture, photography and design, respectively. By showing selected works from each of these projects, this exhibition seeks to shine a spotlight on the artworks themselves and their position and impact within the art world.

### ■Featured Artists

Nobuyoshi Araki, Toshikatsu Endo, Emiko Kasahara, Tadashi Kawamata, Shiro Kuramata, Kazuo Kenmochi, Tokihiro Sato, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Kimio Tsuchiya, Shigeo Toya, Hitoshi Nomura, Miran Fukuda, Yasumasa Morimura, Tadasu Yamamoto, Yayoi Kusama, Tabaimo

## ■Traveling Exhibitions Organized by the Hara Museum during the 1990s

### ***A Primal Spirit – Ten Contemporary Japanese Sculptors*** (1990 –1991)

With the promotion of international exchange through contemporary art as one of its guiding policies, the Hara Museum organized and held this exhibition to introduce foreign audiences to Japanese contemporary art which till then had had relatively little overseas exposure. Invited as guest curator, Howard N. Fox, then of the Los Angeles County Art Museum, showcased 10 Japanese artists whose work not only exemplified the unique and dynamic developments happening in Japan, but also embodied the deep spirituality of Japanese culture. Following photo shoots for the catalogue and a preview of the show in Japan at Hara Museum ARC, the exhibition traveled to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and National Gallery of Canada.

Organized by: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

Artists: Koichi Ebizuka, Toshikatsu Endo, Chuichi Fujii, Tadashi Kawamata, Kazuo Kenmochi, Takamasa Kuniyasu, Emiko Tokushige, Shigeo Toya, Kimio Tsuchiya, Isamu Wakabayashi



[2] Nobuyoshi Araki, from *Naked Faces*, 1984 ©Nobuyoshi Araki

### ***Photography and Beyond in Japan: Space, Time and Memory*** (1994 -1997)

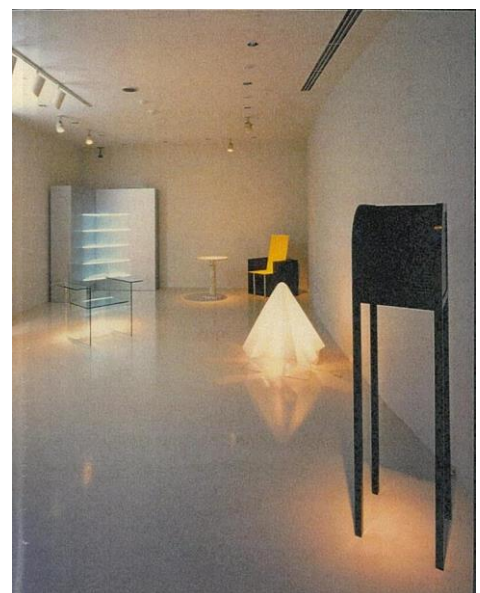
This exhibition, which was guest-curated by Robert Stearns, an independent curator from America, showcased the work of 12 contemporary artists from Japan who use photography as a medium for artistic expression. This critically acclaimed show threw new light on the unique nature of contemporary photographic expression in Japan through its analysis using the universal concepts of space, time and memory. After a preview of the show was held at the Hara Museum in Tokyo, it traveled to the Museo Tamayo in Mexico, Vancouver Art Gallery, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Denver Art Museum and Honolulu Museum of Art.

Organized by: Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

Artists: Nobuyoshi Araki, Yoshihiko Ito, Emiko Kasahara, Kotaro Koyama, Tokihiro Sato, Toshio Shibata, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Hitoshi Nomura, Miran Fukuda, Yasumasa Morimura, Nobuo Yamanaka, Tadasu Yamamoto

### ***Shiro Kuramata 1934-1991*** (1996 – 1999)

This exhibition looked back on 30 years of the influential designer's career, with a focus on furniture design. It was held at the Hara Museum in 1996, five years after Kuramata's death in February 1991 at the young age of 56. The layout design at the Hara Museum was the work of one of Italy's leading architects and designers, Ettore Sottsass, who was Kuramata's trusted and revered teacher. Sottsass's goal was a show that was not merely a display of Kuramata's posthumous works, but an embodiment of the vision that Kuramata sought to express. Panel photos by Nobuyoshi Araki displayed during the exhibition were also noted for the resonance they had with Kuramata's design by virtue of their shared sense of nostalgia and sensuality.



[3] Installation view of *Shiro Kuramata 1937-1991* at Hara Museum, Tokyo (1996)

Photography: Mitsumasa Fujitsuka

From the Hara Museum, the exhibition traveled the next three years from 1997 to 1999 to Cultural Center and Contemporary Art Museum (Mexico), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (USA), the Grey Art Gallery, New York University (USA), the Montreal Decorative Arts Museum (Canada), Museum of Decorative Arts, Paris (France), Austrian Museum of Applied Arts/Contemporary Art (Austria) and Kyoto National Museum of Modern Art (Japan). The exhibition enjoyed critical success wherever it went, particularly at the New York and San Francisco venues for which it received the 1998 annual award for Best Design Show from The International Association of Art Critics-USA.

Organized by: Shiro Kuramata Exhibition Committee (Tadao Ando, Toshio Hara, Arata Isozaki, Issey Miyake, Kishin Shinoyama, Ettore Sottsass, Ikko Tanaka, Tadanori Tokoo), Hara Museum of Contemporary Art  
Special Participation by Nobuyoshi Araki

## ■ Related Events

### Artist Talk

The artist Shigeo Toya will give a talk about his work on April 21 (Sat.) at 2:00 to 3:30 pm. There is will be no charge for the event, but museum admission is required.

### Guided Tour for Members of the Press

On the day of the Artist Talk, a guided tour will be given to members of the press. The tour will start at 1:00 pm and last about 40 minutes.

### How to Make a Reservation

Please send your request for a reservation by email at [press@haramuseum.or.jp](mailto:press@haramuseum.or.jp) . Please note that the artist talk is open to the general public, but participation in the guided tour is limited to members of the press only. Both events will be given in Japanese.

## ■ Concurrent Exhibition at Hara Museum ARC

*The Power of Ink – Kano School Partition Paintings* is on view at the Kankai Pavilion.

### Hara Museum ARC (Gunma)



[4] Jean-Michel Othoniel, *Kokoro*, 2009 Photography: Yuichi Chiraku

Hara Museum ARC opened in 1988 in Shibukawa, Gunma prefecture as an annex to the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo (see box on the last page). Situated in the foothills of the Mt. Haruna, one of the so-called *Jomosanzan* or "Three Peaks of Jomo" (the old name of Gunma), the museum's large-scale wooden buildings with their sleek black exteriors (designed by Arata Isozaki) stand in stark contrast to rich greens of the surrounding highland scenery. In addition to exhibitions centered on the museum's permanent collection, Hara Museum ARC holds events, workshops and various art education programs. In 2008, an Open-view Storage and Kankai Pavilion were added as part of

an expansion that has enabled Hara Museum ARC to serve as a capacious setting for art that transcends the boundaries of time and place.

## ■Exhibition Details

**Title:** *Art on the Road – Three Travelling Exhibitions from the Hara Museum*

**Dates:** March 10 (Saturday) – June 24 (Sunday), 2018

**Venue:** Gallery A, B and C at Hara Museum ARC

2855-1 Kanai, Shibukawa-shi, Gunma 377-0027

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<http://www.haramuseum.or.jp> (official website) <http://mobile.haramuseum.or.jp> (mobile site) <http://www.art-it.asia/u/HaraMuseum> (blog) <http://twitter.com/HaraMuseumARC> (Twitter)

**Hours:** 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (last entry at 4:00 pm)

**Organized by:** Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

**Closed:** Thursdays (except March 29 and May 3)

\*Subject to temporary closure in the event of severe weather.

**Admission:** General 1,100 yen, Students 700 yen (high school and university) or 500 yen (elementary and junior high), Free for Hara Museum members, 10% discount for a group of 20 or more, Combination ticket for Hara Museum ARC and Ikaho Green Bokujo (except during Golden Week): General 1,800 yen; Students 1,500 yen (high school and university) or 1,400 yen (junior high), 800 yen (elementary), half price for those over 70, discount for groups of 20 or more

\*Children must be accompanied by an adult.

\*For residents of Gunma Prefecture: Free admission for elementary and junior high school children every Saturday during the school term/200-yen-discount on admission for up to five persons upon presentation of the Guchoki Passport.

**Directions:** By train: Take the Joetsu Shinkansen to Takasaki, change to the Joestu Line, and disembark at Shibukawa. From Shibukawa, ARC is 10 minutes away by taxi or 15 minutes by bus (take the Ikaho Onsen bus to "Green Bokujo Mae"). By car: 8 kilometers (about 15 minutes) from the Kan-etsu Expressway Shibukawa Ikaho Interchange (in the direction of Ikaho Onsen).

## ■Images for Publication

\*Please include the credit along with the respective caption.

\*Please do not trim or alter the images. Putting text over the images is prohibited.

### **About the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art (Tokyo) and the Collection**

The Hara Museum of Contemporary Art was founded in Gotenyama, Tokyo in 1979 as one of the first institutions in Japan specializing in contemporary art. Since its inception, under the auspices of the Foundation Arc-en-Ciel, a designated Special Public Interest Promotion Corporation, the Hara Museum has ceaselessly pursued activities to promote international exchange through contemporary art and the further development of contemporary art and cultivation of artists. Originally built in 1938 as a private residence by Kunizo Hara, the grandfather of the current director Toshio Hara, the building (designed by Jin Watanabe) stands today as a rare example of Western modernist architecture in Japan. The Hara Collection comprises a rich cross-section of contemporary art by leading artists from around the world, ranging from masters of post-1950s art to young artists on the forefront of art today.

### **Concurrent Exhibition at the Hara Museum, Tokyo**

*My Favorites: Toshio Hara Selects from the Permanent Collection*

Part II: March 21 (Wednesday/national holiday) – June 3 (Sunday), 2018

## ■Press Enquiries

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