

The Artist Who Painted Women of the New Era: Niwa Akiko

One work depicts a woman aiming an arrow in a dress with high heels, while another work depicts a woman in long-sleeved kimono playing golf. Both of these works are produced by the Japanese-style painter, Niwa Akiko (1900-1988) in the early Showa period. After studying under Uemura Shoen (1875-1949), Niwa entered the private school of painting called “*Shoko-sha*” founded by Nishiyama Suisho (1879-1958) from Shoen’s recommendation. She made her first government sponsored exhibition debut in the 11th Teiten exhibition in 1930. Due to illness, her activities as an artist came to a halt in 1945, and her short-span as an artist resulted in low name recognition. However, living as an artist during the remarkable time of women’s social advancement, Niwa’s works depicted trends and social conditions of the time with young, active women represented in life-sized scale, vibrant in energy as if the liveliness of the new age is painted on.

Long-Distance Arrow (No.25) was exhibited in 1935 at the 1st Shiten (Kyoto City Museum of Art) and it is one of Niwa’s representative works. The woman in the picture wears a high-waisted dress with layers of flower patterned yellow and dark red, with ankle-strap high heels and a bob cut called “*danpatsu*” with a perm or “permanent” which were both latest hairstyles at the time. With the incompatibility of an urban dressed woman in a field of spring in full bloom with flying butterflies, dandelions and violets, her hand holds a large bow which almost covers her whole body. The gap of a woman in Western clothing participating in ancient Japanese archery might startle the viewer at first, but the woman’s serious gaze towards the arrow’s end with lips sealed tight in rouge, displays a strong will of an independent woman living in the new age.

On the contrary to *Long-Distance Arrow*, *Golf* (No.2) which was painted during the same time, depicts a woman in Japanese clothing playing a Western sport. “Golf” in this instance refers to “miniature golf” which is a simple amusement area placed such as in balconies of hotels. The first golf course in Japan was completed in Hyogo prefecture’s Mount Rokkō in 1901; initially considered a recreational activity for the upper class, it was



Long-Distance Arrow
by Niwa Akiko, 1935



Golf
by Niwa Akiko, Early Showa period

popularized to the mass during the Showa period, which became casual and inexpensive. In this picture, objects such as miniature arched bridge and a garden lantern are placed as the course’s obstacle in the form of a Japanese garden, which oddly completes and harmonizes the combination of Japanese and Western styles. The woman is wearing a light blue long-sleeved kimono with an obi worn high on her chest, and has the popular braided and waved hairstyle with makeup. It was a time when the government recommended Western clothing, however, its usage was low with the exception of the young generation of women enjoying trendy hairstyles and makeup. This piece of work realistically captures scenes which can only be seen during this time of prosperity with high-pitched modernization.

(The Museum Curator - Omori Natsuko)

Silent Will of the Fighting Spirit Embodied in Simple Form
Chicken Ornament
"Hero of the Fighting Spirit," Cast Bronze

by Tsuda Shinobu, 1934

With its neck stretched straight, feet firmly grabbing the ground—the gamecock, bred for fighting encompasses the will of its fighting spirit with its strong, flexible physique and dignified posture. The artist Tsuda Shinobu (1875-1946) studied abroad in Western countries in pursuit of metalwork research from 1923, and was a judge of the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts (Art Deco) in 1925. The simple form found in its feathers and tail reflects the style of Art Deco, which was the trend during that time in Europe.

After returning from the year of Art Deco, Tsuda started a new trend of Western craftwork between young metalwork artists. Led by the metalwork artist, Takamura Toyochika (1890-1972) who was taught by Tsuda, the craftwork group called “*mukeni*” was formed. The group’s development of activities aimed towards changing the mindset of craftworks which were not evaluated from an artistic point-of-view at the time, played a role in breaking down the age-old tradition of domestic craftworks by producing works which employed Western trends. Their activities led toward the large effect of producing a new division of arts and crafts at the 8th Teiten Exhibition (1927). Stimulated by Tsuda, the passionate will of the young artists facilitated the innovation of craftworks in Japan. (The Museum Curatorial Assistant -Kageyama Yukie)



Collection Room Spring

Special Display: The Fascinating Showa-Modern

Mar. 10 (Fri), 2023 – Jun. 18 (Sun), 2023 Main Building (South Wing) 1F

List of Works

* Due to various reasons, exhibited items may change.
* List order and exhibit order is not intended to match.

No.	Inv.No.	Artist	Birth and Death	Title	Date	Material; Shape	Size (cm)	First exhibition
Spring Masterpiece								
1	N-223	KIKUCHI, Hobun	1862-1918	Spring Evening, Frosty Morning	1903	Pigment on silk; pair of eight-fold screens	158.5×485.0 each	5th National Industrial Exposition, Osaka

The Fascinating Showa-Modern								
2	N-1028	NIWA, Akiko	1900-1988	Golf	Early Showa period	Pigment on silk; framed	195.8×151.0	

The People Illuminating the New Age								
3	N-647	KAJIWARA, Hisako	1896-1988	Returning Home	c. 1918	Pigment on silk; framed	205.0×84.5	
4	N-003	NAKAMURA, Daizaburo	1898-1947	Piano	1926	Pigment on silk; four-fold screen	164.5×302.0	7th Teiten
5	N-597	NISHIYAMA, Hideo	1911-1989	Spring Rain	1934	Pigment on paper; framed	123.0×141.0	Inaugural Exhibition
6	N-021	KIKUCHI, Keigetsu	1879-1955	Taking a Stroll	1934	Pigment on silk; framed	173.0×173.5	15th Teiten
7	N-018	OTA, Chou	1896-1958	Smallpox Vaccination	1934	Pigment on paper; framed	199.5×119.0	21st Inten
8	N-025	IKEDA, Yoson	1895-1988	Osaka in the Rain	1935	Pigment on silk; framed	130.0×202.0	1st Shiten (purchased by Kyoto City)
9	N-044	HASHIMOTO, Meiji	1904-1991	Purification of the Heart	1937	Pigment on silk; framed	290.0×173.0	1st Shin Bunten
10	N-1029	NIWA, Akiko	1900-1988	Cool of the Evening	Early Showa period	Pigment on silk; framed	193.0×115.5	
11	Y-005	MIKAMI, Tomoharu	1886-1974	Interior	1934	Oil on canvas; framed	51.5×63.5	Inaugural Exhibition
12	Y-020	mitsuyasu, Hiroyuki	1891-1970	Three Women	1936	Oil on canvas; framed	161.0×226.0	Bunten Kansaten
13	Y-021	SHINOKI, Keiji	1891-1969	One Day at the Studio	1936	Oil on canvas; framed	191.0×161.5	Bunten Kansaten
14	Y-135	MORIWAKI, Tadashi	1888-1949	Playing Cards	1937	Oil on canvas; framed	151.0×181.0	1st Shin Bunten
15	Y-035	MINAMI, Masayoshi	1908-1976	Red Vest	1939	Oil on canvas; framed	115.0×89.0	3rd Shin Bunten
16	Y-189	IIDA, Seiki	1909-1972	Waterside	1939	Oil on canvas; framed	120.0×160.0	
17	Y-039	KINOSHITA, Takanori	1894-1973	Girl Reading a Book	1940	Oil on canvas; framed	59.5×49.0	5th Shiten
18	Y-295	NAKAJIMA, Seiichi	1917-1988	Suzuran Street Lights	1943	Oil on canvas; framed	90.9×116.7	8th Shiten
19	Y-461	HATTORI, Kizo	1893-1978	Wartime Blackout	1943	Oil on canvas; framed	116.4×80.0	8th Shiten

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We are "MOGA (Modern Girls)"								
20	N-1074	WAKAMATSU, Midori	1905-1933	Young Girl	1930	Pigment on silk; framed	72.3×63.7	6th Kikuchijuku Exhibition
21	N-046	KATSUDA, Tetsu	1896-1980	Morning	1933	Pigment on silk; framed	166.0×180.0	14th Teiten
22	N-146	KIKUCHI, Keigetsu	1879-1955	Girl in Yuzen-dyed Kimono	1933	Pigment on silk; framed	152.0×88.0	9th Kikuchijuku Exhibition
23	N-931	YURIMOTO, Keiko	1906-2000	Maiden in Summer Attire	1933	Pigment on silk; framed	175.0×120.0	14th Teiten Exhibition
24	N-014	KIKUCHI, Takashi	1911-1982	A Brief Rest	1934	Pigment on paper; framed	132.0×107.0	Inaugural Exhibition
25	N-1020	NIWA, Akiko	1900-1988	Long-Distance Arrow	1935	Pigment on silk; framed	219.0×150.0	1st Shiten
26	N-105	AKINO, Fuku	1908-2001	Red Clothing	1938	Pigment on paper; framed	208.0×174.0	2nd Shin Bunten (Special Award)
27	N-1073	YURIMOTO, Keiko	1906-2000	Telescope	1940	Pigment on silk; framed	228.0×176.0	3rd Shiten
28	N-1067	NISHI, Ayame	1903-1989	Woman with Shawl: Self-Portrait	1940	Pigment on silk; framed	42.5×36.9	
29	N-1066	NAKAGAWA, Isaku	1899-2000	Portrait of a Woman	Early Showa period	Pigment on silk; framed	38.0×42.4	

Modernism of Crafts: Metalworks and Ceramics

30	K-002	TSUDA, Shinobu	1875-1946	Chicken Ornament "Hero of the Fighting Spirit," Cast Bronze	1934	Cast bronze	55.0×16.0×27.0	Inaugural Exhibition
31	K-017	TOYODA, Katsuaki	1897-1972	Vase "Fine Autumn Day," Cast Bronze	1936	Cast bronze	40.0×32.5×16.5	Bunten Shotaiten
32	K-520	NUMATA, Ichiga	1873-1954	Crane Incense Burner	Early Showa period	Earthenware	10×26.0×12.0	
33	K-953	MIZOGUCHI, Yasutaro	1900-1968	Spirit of Water (Bronze Vase)	1927	Cast bronze	H 25.5, Body Diam. 17.1, Diam. 17.5 (with handle)	
34	K-873	KATORI, Hotsuma	1874-1954	Cast Bronze Candlestick	1930	Cast bronze	H 32.2, Diam. 15.3	8th Teiten
35	K-212	MORINO, Kako	1899-1987	Vase with Overglazed Floral Design, Blue-and-White Porcelain	c. 1930	Earthenware	37.9×21.2×21.2	2nd Prince Shotoku Commemorative Art Exhibition
36	K-888	KUROI, Komin	1891-1975	Cigar Case	1932	Iron, glass	13.5×21.0×21.0	
37	K-082	ITO, Suiko	1894-1980	Round and Square Rhombic Flower-Patterned Porcelain Vase	1934	Porcelain	H 43.0, Body Diam. 17.2	
38	K-022	YAMAWAKI, Yoji	1907-1982	Tortoise Ornament with Silver Dragon Design	1938	Carved silver	11.0 × 26.0 × 22.5	2nd Shin Bunten
39	K-025	MURAKOSHI, Michimori	1901-1943	Copper Vase with Leaf Design	1940	Carved copper	H 23.5, Body Diam. 26.5, Opening Diam. 21.0	Commemorative Exhibition

Modernism of Crafts: Lacquer

40	K-837	OKUMURA, Kajo	1893-1937	Two-story Table with Grape Design in Maki-e	c. 1920-24	Maki-e on wood	76.0×36.5×35.0	
41	K-838	OKUMURA, Kajo	1893-1937	Stemmed Cup with Paulownia Seed Design	c. 1929-34	Lacquer on wood	H 12.5, Diam. 34.0, Bottom Diam. 21.0	
42	K-847	TOKURIKI, Hikonosuke	1905-1996	Paddling Sounds Echoing in Rich Greenery	1927	Maki-e on wood	32.6×26.2×17.3	8th Teiten
43	K-870	IDA, Senshu	1892-1974	Food Container in Arabesque Design in Maki-e	1929	Lacquer and maki-e on wood	H 24.5, Diam. 31.0	Kyoto Art and Crafts Exhibition
44	K-850	HIRADATE, Shu	1897-1981	Cosmetic box with Alpine Flower Design	1932	Maki-e on wood	44.5×32.7×21.2	13th Teiten

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45	K-006	YAMAZAKI, Kakutaro	1899-1984	Jewelry Chest of Drawers with Snail Design	1934	Maki-e and colored lacquer on wood	17.0×25.5×10.5	Inaugural Exhibition
46	K-009	TOKURIKI, Hikonosuke	1905-1996	Streamlined Table Clock	1934	Maki-e, gold-leafed thin leather, wood	15.5×37.0×15.0	Inaugural Exhibition
47	K-331	TOKURIKI, Hikonosuke	1905-1996	Hyperbolic Radio	1934	Lacquer on wood, silver	59.7×67.5×50.5	
48	K-848	TOKURIKI, Hikonosuke	1905-1996	Concept of Flowing Surfaces–Table	1934	Lacquer on wood	25.6×71.0×30.2	1st Exhibition of Ryukei-ha, or the School of Streamline Shapes and Crafts Study Group (Daimai Kaikan Hall, Kyoto, 1934)
49	K-013	DOMOTO, Shikken	1889-1964	Vase "Snake Gourds"	1935	Maki-e and black lacquer on wood	H 37.0, Body Diam. 13.0	1st Shiten (awarded the Murasaki Prize, purchased by Kyoto City)
50	K-016	BAN-URA, Shogo	1901-1982	Flower-Patterned Colored Lacquer on a Partitioning Screen	1936	Maki-e and colored lacquer on wood	91.0×109.0×31.0	Bunten Kansaten
51	K-019	OKUMURA, Kajo	1893-1937	Lacquered Panels "Deer"	1937	Maki-e on corkboard; framed	172.0×172.0	1st Shin Bunten
52	K-020	SUZUKI, Hyosaku II	1905-1991	Drifting Cloud Design on Lacquered Chest of Drawers	1937	Maki-e and colored lacquer on wood	83.5×112.5×30.5	1st Shin Bunten

The VOCA Exhibition: Commemorating Its 30th Anniversary								
53	Y-795	TOGO, Yasuhiko	1968-	SPRAWL	1997	Oil on canvas; set of 2 pieces	227.3×363.0	1997 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
54	Y-789	OKADA, Shuji	1959-	Take #10	1998	Oil on canvas; set of 3 pieces	190.0×399.0	1998 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
55	Y-792	SAKAI, Yoshie	1965-	A Glowing Place	2000	Oil on canvas	181.8×227.3	2000 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
56	Y-796	NAITO, Kinuko	1970-	Words of Prayer 1999.11	2000	Oil pigment, cloth, Japanese paper, etc; set of 3 panels	195.0×360.0	2000 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
57	Y-787	IWAKI, Naomi	1969-	View-Barn-	2003	Oil on canvas	80.3×116.7	2003 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
58	Y-788	IWAKI, Naomi	1969-	View-Red Roof-	2003	Oil on canvas	145.5×227.3	2003 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
59	Y-790	KOYANAGI, Yutaka	1977-	ETHER -House of a back alley-	2004	Acrylic, oil, cotton cloth; panel	168.5×168.5	2004 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
60	Y-791	KOYANAGI, Yutaka	1977-	ETHER -Distant lights-	2004	Acrylic, oil, cotton cloth; panel	110.0×195.6	2004 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
61	Y-797	NAKAGAWA, Torao	1974-	The Wind Blows and Everything Ends	2005	Acrylic, oil; set of 2 panels	227.3×340.0	2005 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
62	Y-784	ISHIRO, Junko	1974-	N34.21.29 E135.52.13	2005	Oil on canvas; set of 3 pieces	194.0×372.0	2005 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)
63	Y-798	PLATT, Robert	1974-	Rendezvous	2006	Oil on canvas	183.0×230.0	2006 VOCA Exhibition (The Ueno Royal Museum,Tokyo) (awarded Incentive Prize)

Opening New Vistas of Crafts								
64	K-374	HOSODA, Azumi	1974-	Coral * Snow	2004	Wax resist dyed long-sleeve silk kimono	183.0×149.0	2004 Kyoten (awarded Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art Prize)
65	K-759	MASUDA, Haruka	1987-	Stars Under the Sun	2017	Stencil dyeing on silk; panel	243.0×247.0	2016 Kyoten (awarded Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art Prize)
66	K-758	SAKAI, Saori	1982 -	Workings of Higher Powers	2017	Polypropylene, cotton and acrylic string; wool and chemical dye hand-woven	280.0×210.0	2016 Kyoten (awarded Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art Prize)
67	K-835	ISHIZUKA, Genta	1982-	Flatland#3	2009	Lacquer, plywood, sewing needles, cutter blades, staples, fishhooks, washers	120.0 × 120.0 × 3.0	Solol exhibition "Extra Dimension" (Art Space Niji, Kyoto/2009)
68	K-863	KUROKAWA, Toru	1984-	Three Embryos	2018	Black earthenware	102.0×65.0×32.0	Solo exhibition (Gallery Sokyo/ Kyoto/2018)
69	K-818	KINO, Satoshi	1987-	Oroshi or Wind Blowing Down from Mountains (Twisting)	2018	Porcelain	36.0×89.0×8.5	Solo exhibition (Gallery Kei-fu/ Kyoto/2018)