

110th Year Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition, *HIDAI NANKOKU* Extended & 100th Anniversary Exhibition, *Soichiro Tomioka / A World of White* Now on View



Due to popular demand, the 110th Year Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition, *HIDAI NANKOKU* currently on view at √K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary, Tokyo) has been extended until February 4 (Sat), 2023. Additional events such as gallery talks have been scheduled and the exhibition has undergone a partial exhibition changeover of new, previously unexhibited works.

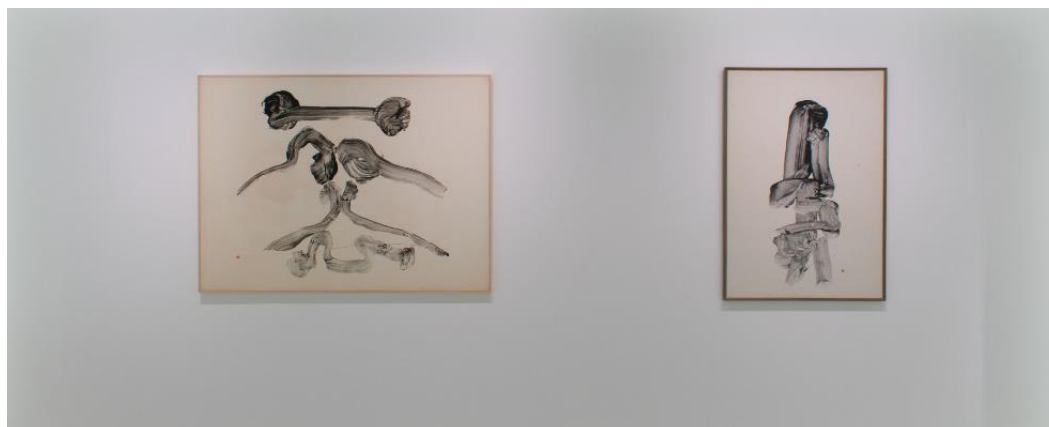
In addition, *Soichiro Tomioka / A World of White*, a special exhibition held in commemoration of the artist's centennial birth year anniversary in 2022 has opened and is currently on view in the gallery's basement space.

110th Year Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition, *HIDAI NANKOKU*
Exhibition Changeover & February 4 Extension Announcement

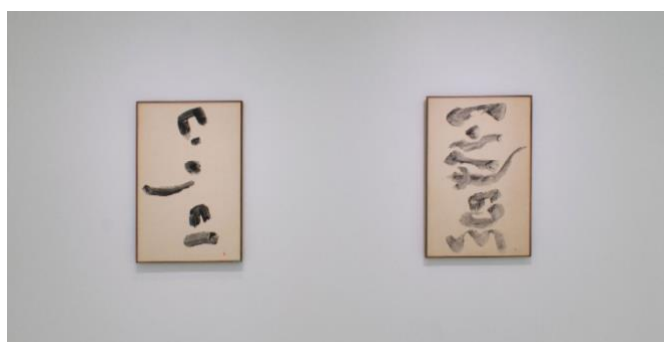
Due to popular demand, the exhibition held in commemoration the 110th year since the artist's birth in 2022, *HIDAI NANKOKU* has undergone a partial exhibition changeover and has been extended until February 4 (Sat). Featuring previously unexhibited works, the renewed 2023 display offers a rare and comprehensive presentation of the artist's diverse oeuvre.



Work 70-A , 1970



Left: *Work 64-A*, 1964
Right: *Work 79-5*, 1979



Left: *Work 63-2-1*, 1963)
Right: *Work 63-4*, 1963)



From the left
Shinsen No.5 , 1947
Work No. 6 Kanae and Funeral, 1947
Work No. 7 "Bird and Bow", 1949
The Analects, 1953

For details on the exhibition, visit: https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/hidai-nankoku_2022/

【HIDAI NANKOKU Special Events】

Diving deeper into the esoteric history of Nankoku's oeuvre, additional events, from a gallery talk featuring the Director of Shiga Museum of Art, Mr. Kenjiro Hosaka, to a Kyoto University of the Arts calligraphy lecture, are scheduled to take place during the period of the exhibition.

In addition, video recordings of talks featuring the late artist's daughter and Tenraishoin Chairman, Kazuko Hidai, contemporary artists, and curators are also scheduled for distribution.

Kyoto University of the Arts Calligraphy Lecture

A special HIDAI NANKOKU-themed Kyoto University of the Arts calligraphy lecture will be held at our gallery on January 28 (Sat) from 2:30 pm. Led by Nankoku Hidai's daughter, Ms. Kazuko Hidai, participants are welcome to join in person or online via Zoom.*

*This is a Japanese-only event. In addition, visiting participants should mind that they may be recorded as part of the Zoom broadcast of the lecture.

Event Details

Schedule : January 28 (Sat) 2:30 pm to 4 pm

Venue : √ K Contemporary

Admission : Free

Zoom Link : <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81875720398>

HIDAI NANKOKU Gallery Talk

In this special event, former National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo Chief Curator and current Shiga Museum of Art Director, Mr. Kenjiro Hosaka will take a deep dive into the history, complexities and character of the artist, Nankoku Hidai's works and his original concept of "the Art of the Line".

Dates : February 3, 2023 (Friday) 7pm to 8pm

Venue : √K Contemporary (Minamicho 6, Shinjuku-ku)

Admission : Free

Reservations : Please contact the below with your name, contact details, and the number of attendees.

√ K Contemporary (Root K Contemporary)

Tel 03-6280-8808 / Email info@root-k.jp

《 Guest Speakers 》

Kenjiro HOSAKA | Director, Shiga Museum of Art

Hosaka was curator at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (MOMAT) from 2000 through 2020 prior to the Shiga Museum of Art (SMoA) where he assumed the position of director on January 1, 2021. He has curated many exhibitions including Double Vision: Contemporary Art from Japan (Moscow Museum of Modern Art and Haifa Museum of Art, 2012), Logical Emotion: Contemporary Art from Japan (Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, etc., 2014-15), The Voice Between: The Art and Poetry of Yoshimasu Gozo (MOMAT, 2016), The Japanese House: Architecture and Life after 1945 (MAXXI, the National Museum of 21st Century Arts, and MOMAT, 2016-17), and Genius: The Human Gift for Creating and Living (SMoA, 2022). (Quoted from the AICA Japan website.)

Kazuko HIDAI | Chairman, Tenraishoin

The eldest daughter to Nankoku Hidai, Tenrai Hidai's second son of Tenrai Hidai, Hidai received her master's degree in philosophy at the Graduate School of Humanities, Gakushuin University. Following graduation, Hidai participated in the editing and compilation of Chukei Fushimi's "Shodo Jiten" (lit. Calligraphy Encyclopedia) (Kadokawa Shoten Publishing). After working for a publishing company, Hidai

established Tenraishoin Co., Ltd. Since its establishment, Tenraishoin has continued to introduce and educate the public on calligraphy through publishing literature, producing video content and DVDs, and giving lectures. From 2000 to 2002, Hidai served as the director of Saku City (former Mochizuki Town)'s Tenrai Memorial Hall.

Susumu TAKAHASHI | Professor Emeritus, Japan Women's College of Physical Education,
Nankoku Hidai Researcher

Administrator of the official NANKOKU website.

In 1979, Takahashi withdrew from his doctoral course in philosophy at Gakushin University's Humanities Department despite completing his course requirements. After working as a philosophy assistant at Gakushin University's Literature Department, Takahashi became a full-time lecturer at Japan Women's College of Physical Education in 1983. From 2006 until his retirement in 2015, Takahashi served as a Japan Women's College of Physical Education professor. Having majored in modern Western philosophy and intellectual history, Takahashi taught philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, and art history at Japan Women's College of Physical Education.

Takahashi is a co-translator of Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* (Jimbun Shoin), Nancy Reynolds and Malcolm McCormick's *No Fixed Points: Dance in the Twentieth Century* (Keio University Press), and more.

On Nankoku Hidai | Kazuko Hidai Video Interview

A recorded interview led by Kazuko Hidai featuring young artists and active curators is scheduled for release. *

Featuring figures from a wide spectrum of backgrounds, from contemporary artist, Enrico Isamu Oyama to independent curator / Echangeur22 curator, Masamichi Tamura and calligrapher Tatsuya Sato, these interviews will approach Nankoku Hidai and his works through a range of differing perspectives.

Further details are to be posted on the official √K Contemporary HIDAI NANKOKU website.

**Please note that English subtitles will be supplied at a later date following release.*

Exhibition Website | https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/hidai-nankoku_2022/

【Exhibition Details】

Exhibition Title : *110th Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition, HIDAI NANKOKU*

Dates : November 12 (Saturday), 2022 to February 4 (Saturday), 2023

Admission : Free

Venue : √K Contemporary (Minamicho 6, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)
Tel (+81) (0)3-6280-8808 / Email info@root-k.jp
Organizer | Japan Art Inheritance Association
Planning | √K Contemporary
Collaborators | Tenraishoin, Kazuko Hidai, Yoshinobu Hidai, Susumu Takahashi, Soseki Takahashi,
SEI-RIN Co., Ltd.
Design | Shintaro Tabara

【On Tenraishoin】

The origins of Tenraishoin source to Shogakuin, an establishment founded in 1917 by Hidai Tenrai, the founder of modern calligraphy. Home to a large collection of rare, historical works, Shogakuin was succeeded by Hidai Nankoku and became Tenraishoin in 1990 under Hidai Kazuko. Today, Tenraishoin continues to engage in a wide range of activities, such as publishing, organizing calligraphy-related events and providing video distribution, to help promote and enhance the art of calligraphy.

Official Website: <https://www.shodo.co.jp/>

【Currently on View: 100th Anniversary Exhibition, *Soichiro Tomioka / A World of White*】

Soichiro Tomioka / A World of White (organized by the Japan Art Interhitece Organization) is currently on view in √K Contemporary's basement, Space √K.



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A collaboration between √K Contemporary and the Japan Art Interhitece Association, an organization that aims to entrust legacies of the past unto future generations, *Soichiro Tomioka | A World of White* was planned with the intention to help foster and preserve the history of Japanese art.

On the Exhibition

Soichiro Tomioka was born and raised in Niigata prefecture's snow-filled terrain. Surrounded by snow since his childhood, Tomioka continued to paint snow, a symbol of his earliest memories, throughout his career. Influenced by his love and knowledge of snow, Tomioka spent many years developing his very own white paint. Unique in color and texture, and resistant to discoloration and cracks. In turn, the snowscapes Tomioka rendered with this paint gave form to the world of white he witnessed and tried to convey throughout his career.

Reminding viewers of, both, humanity's place within nature and ensuing feelings of awe, Tomioka's bird-eye works render perspectives that present views of natural landscapes that are seen, not from the perspective of humans, but of something larger. Through these humbling, omniscient scenes, these works present the notion that humanity resides in a world of unforeseen phenomena that transcends human comprehension, exists within nature's embrace, and is alive for just a moment within the eternal passage of time.

【Artist | Soichiro Tomioka (1922-1994)】

Born 1922 in Takada City (current Joetsu City), Niigata Prefecture. Following graduation from high school, the artist would learn to paint independently whilst working at the Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation's advertising department. Tomioka would subsequently gain great recognition for his receiving of the 1962 Shin-seisaku Exhibition's New Art Society Award and the 1963 7th Sao Paulo International Art Bienal's Museum of Modern Art award. With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation's international scholarship program, Tomioka moved to New York in 1965 and would spend the next 7 years in the city before his 1972 return to Japan. Following his return, the artist would undergo a pilgrimage around Japan's snow country while producing more works along the way. The artist would receive the Seiji Togo Museum Award in 1984 and began his commission to design murals for Japanese Air Force One aircraft operated by the Prime Minister's Office in 1989. In 1990, the Tomioka White Art Museum opened in Muikamachi (current Minamiuonuma City), Niigata Prefecture. The artist passed away at the age of 72 in 1994.

Public Collections

The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (Tokyo) / The Niigata Prefectural Museum of Modern Art (Niigata) / Hakone Open-Air Museum (Kanagawa) / Akasaka Palace (Tokyo) / The Idemitsu Museum of Arts (Tokyo) / Sompo Museum of Art (Tokyo) / Nagano Prefecture Hakuba Village Government Office VIP Room (Nagano) / The International Conference Room of the Nippon Seinenkan Hotel (Tokyo) / U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Japan (Tokyo) / The Prime Minister's Office and Government Planes of Japan (Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Meeting Room, Ladies' Room, Entrance)

【Exhibition Details】

Exhibition Title : 100th Year Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition, *Tomioka Soichiro | The World of White*

Dates : December 20 (Fri), 2022 to February 4 (Sat), 2023

Admission : Free

Venue : Space √K (√K Contemporary B1F, Minamicho 6, Shinjuku-ku)
Tel (+81) (0)3-6280-8808 / Email info@root-k.jp

Organizer : Japan Art Inheritance Association

Collaborators : √K Contemporary

Design : Shintaro Tabara

【The Japan Art Inheritance Association】

The Japan Art Inheritance Association was established with the aim of securing past legacies unto future generations. Through the three pillars of succession, preservation and restoration, the association serves to protect the history and culture of artworks.

Official Website: <https://www.art-inheritance.org/> (Japanese Only)

About √K Contemporary

Guided by the notion that new art is generated from years of refinement, √K Contemporary deals mainly with contemporary art from the post-war period onwards. With an ethos colored by its roots in traditional art, √K Contemporary hosts and organizes various unique exhibitions and events that aim to provoke, stimulate, and evoke new thoughts and ideas. In conserving its acts, the gallery hopes to place itself within and pave its way toward the future art scene.

Manifesting this notion, the 300 sqm gallery space was envisioned as a "gallery from space", where works are shown with new values and viewed with new eyes. With innovation at its heart, √K Contemporary strives to become the next-generation art space that represents "the present of the future".

Official Website: <https://root-k.jp/en>

TW: @rk_contemporary | FB: @rootkcontemporary | IG: @rk_contemporary

※Depending on the state of COVID-19, business days and hours are subject to change.

Please check updates on the √K Contemporary website, Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter periodically for updates.

For all Press & Media Related Inquiries

Contact: Naoko Watanabe, Aisei Tamura

√K Contemporary (Managed by SEI-RIN Co.,Ltd.)

6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0836

Tel: (+81) (0)3-6280-8808 | Fax: (+81) (0)3-6280-8809 / <https://root-k.jp/en>