

## Francis ALÿS

Francis Alÿs was born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1959. After studying architecture in Venice, Italy, he was sent to Mexico in 1986 as an NGO architect, where he has lived ever since. He began working as an artist around 1989 and has been producing works on the theme of Latin America's turbulent politics, society, and economy in a wide range of media, including video, performance, photography, and painting. In 2022, he was selected to represent Belgium at the Venice Biennale. His works are housed in the collections of major museums in the United States and Europe, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles; the Museum für Moderne Kunst; the Tate Gallery; and the Centre Pompidou.

## Le CORBUSIER

Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, better known as Le Corbusier, was born in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, in 1887. Shaping the architecture of the 20th century, he is known as one of the three great masters of architecture, along with Frank Lloyd Wright and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. After studying architecture at the firms of Auguste Perret, the pioneer in concrete architecture, and Peter Behrens, a central figure in Deutscher Werkbund, he traveled around Europe to settle in Paris in 1917. He then started advocating Purism with the painter Amédée Ozenfant, and while working on his paintings, he founded the magazine “L’Esprit Nouveau” in 1920, where he developed his architectural theory under the pseudonym Le Corbusier. He influenced architects around the world through his thesis presented in his publications and at Congrès International d’Architecture Moderne (CIAM), including the “Dom-ino system,” an architectural theory that utilizes reinforced concrete; the “Modulor system,” an application of the golden ratio for architectural dimensions for the human body; and “Five points of architecture” that extracted the essential elements for new liberated architecture. Le Corbusier’s work includes Villa Savoye (1928), Unité d’habitation (1952), Chapel of Ronchamp (1955), and the Chandigarh City Plan. The National Museum of Western Art (1959) in Japan was based on the architect’s schematic design. In 2016, his existing architectural works across seven countries, including Japan, were listed as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites.

## Tracey EMIN

Tracey Emin (b. 1963, London, England) graduated with a BA from Maidstone College of Art and an MA from the Royal College of Art. For her 1999 installation *My Bed* in which her own bed was used, Emin was shortlisted for the Turner Prize and exhibited at the Tate. She was one of the members of the group eventually called the Young British Artists (YBAs) that included Sarah Lucas and Damien Hirst and attracted considerable attention. Her first solo show was held at White Cube in 1993. Since then, she has held exhibitions in various parts of the world. Emin was appointed Professor of Drawing at the Royal Academy of Arts in 2011. In 2013, Queen Elizabeth II appointed Emin a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for her contributions to the visual arts. Emin is known for transforming her very own everyday experiences into works of art. She also utilizes smart-phones for her work as well.

## Jadé FADOJUTIMI

Jadé Fadojutimi was born in London in 1993. Her graduation work for her master's degree at the Royal College of Art (RCA) received the Hine Painting Prize. In 2019, at the age of 26, she became the youngest artist to have their work included in the Tate Collection. In 2021, she participated in the Liverpool Biennale. A fan of Japanese anime, Fadojutimi takes inspiration from diverse elements of animation, including narrative, music, landscape, and fashion. During her studies at RCA, she also stayed in Kyoto as an exchange student. In 2022, she participated in the exhibition "The Milk of Dreams" at the main venue of the 59th Venice Biennale. Her work is housed in major museums in Europe and the United States, including the British Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

## Alberto GIACOMETTI

Alberto Giacometti was born in the small village of Borgonovo, Switzerland, in 1901, as the son of a Swiss Impressionist painter, Giovanni Giacometti. In 1922, he moved to Paris to study under Antoine Bourdelle, one of Auguste Rodin's students, at Académie de la Grande Chaumière. Acquainted with Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst, and Joan Miró, he created sculptures in the Surrealist style, but left the Surrealist movement in 1935 to revert to representational sculptures to explore human figures. After World War II, he experimented with his brother Diego and a Japanese professor of philosophy, Isaku Yanaihara, as models to perfect his new sculptural style of thin elongated bodies. In 1962, he received the Grand Prize for Sculpture at the 31st Venice Biennale, and his major retrospective exhibition was held at the Kunsthaus Zürich. He died in 1966 at the age of 65. He was one of the greatest sculptors of the 20th century, and his portrait was adopted on the Swiss 100 franc banknote in 1998.

## Kazunori HAMANA

Kazunori Hamana was born in Osaka in 1969. After graduating from high school, he studied natural farming in the United States. Returning to Japan, he began selling vintage clothes and denim at flea markets, entering the industry as a fashion buyer. In 1994, he opens a sneaker store, “blues,” in Harajuku, Tokyo, which became one of the epicenters of the 90s sneaker craze. After relocating to Isumi, Chiba, HAMANA developed an anchovy sauce, “Seguro-no-Kusare,” made from local sardines by improving old fish sauce techniques. He also studied pottery at a free class held at a local community center and started producing ceramics almost self-taught and held solo exhibitions in international cities, including Tokyo, London, and Los Angeles. He is currently based in Chiba, where he produces pottery and works in agriculture and fishery.

## Wilhelm SASNAL

Wilhelm Sasnal was born in Tarnów, Poland, in 1972. After studying painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, he continued his artistic pursuits while working as an illustrator and has gained international recognition since the 2000s. Having spent his youth in a tumultuous period when his home country saw a transformation from socialism to democracy, Sasnal's work often deals with sociopolitical themes and draws the attention of his audience to real-world social issues. He uses various media to present his works, including painting and video. Major public collections include the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Tate Modern collection; and the Walker Art Center. He currently lives and works in Kraków.

## Pierre JEANNERET

Pierre Jeanneret was born in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1896. After studying architecture at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Geneva, he worked at the studio of Auguste Perret, who pioneered using reinforced concrete in architecture. In 1922, he founded an architectural firm with his cousin Le Corbusier. With Charlotte Perriand, who joined the firm later, the three worked on furniture design, as typified by the LC series. He briefly left the office during World War II due to irreconcilable differences in political views, but he was invited back by Le Corbusier in the 1950s to supervise the urban planning of Chandigarh, then a newly planned city in northern India. Jeanneret's holistic design, from furniture to architecture and urban landscape, contributed to the development of modern architecture in India. A vast amount of archive related to the Chandigarh project, including drawings, photographs, sketches, and correspondence, is currently preserved at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA). The 2000s have seen a resurgence of interest in the furniture of French Modernist architects and engineers, such as Jean Prouvé and Charlotte Perriand, with Pierre Jeanneret now also garnering renewed attention.



## Donald JUDD

Born in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, USA in 1928. After serving in the United States Army, Judd studied art at the Art Students League in 1949 and graduated cum laude with a B.S in philosophy at Columbia University in 1953, where he became devoted to logical positivism and pragmatism. He later studied art history under Meyer Schapiro at Columbia University Graduate School. Judd questioned traditional painting formats and in the 1960s he began work in three dimensional relief. In 1964 he commissioned a contractor for his work for the first time. In the same year, he produced his first progression, a wall-mounted piece whose length was determined by a sequence of numbers. The following year, he wrote the essay "Specific Objects". Judd aimed to break away from narrative and symbolism in his works of art. In 1984, he broke new ground with a multi-colored work using the RAL color chart.

## Kumi KAGURAOKA

Kumi Kaguraoka received her master's degree from the Musashino Art University and has been working with the concept "The Metamorphosis of Beautiful Bodies," based on which she produces devices to transform bodies "aesthetically," such as headgear to transform the bone structure to form a high-bridged nose or casts to make the legs longer. The cruelty of such aesthetics raises the question of what beauty is. In 2015, she won the Grand Prize at SICF (Spiral Independent Creators Festival), an art festival held by Spiral aimed at discovering and nurturing young emerging artists. In recent years, Kaguraoka has had solo exhibitions at Seibu Shibuya Gallery, Spiral, and Wacoal Study Hall Gallery. In 2019, she also received the Junya Yamamine Award at the Art Innovation International Symposium held at Kyoto University. In 2022, she was selected as a grant artist for a New York residency by the Yoshino Gypsum Art Foundation.

## Goro KAKEI

Goro Kakei was born in Shizuoka in 1930. He decided to pursue a career as a sculptor during high school, when he saw the sculptural works by Katsu Kiuchi. He entered the Sculpture course at the Tokyo University of the Arts, where he also obtained his master's degree. In 1957, he received the New Artist Prize at the Shinseisaku Exhibition for his work "Annunciation." He continued to present his works at the same exhibition and became an official member of the Shinseisaku Art Society in 1961. In 1965, after participating in the São Paulo Biennial, he traveled to the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, and Mexico. He spent two years from 1968 in Mexico teaching at a university. He not only created sculptures but also produced oil paintings, drawings, etchings, and lithographs, working with diverse materials and techniques to create works full of humanistic warmth and humor. He died in 2021 at the age of 91.

## Izumi KATO

Izumi Kato was born in Shimane in 1969. He produces oil paintings and wooden sculptures characterized by organic forms adopting motifs of primitive yet anonymous organisms reminiscent of fetuses, insects, and plants. In 2005, he participated in the exhibition “Little Boy: The Arts of Japan’s Exploding Subculture” at the Japan Society Gallery in New York. In 2007, he was invited to participate in the International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale, entering the international spotlight. He began exhibiting wooden sculptures in the 2000s, and today he uses a wide range of materials, including PVC, stone, fabric, and plastic models. He is currently based in Tokyo and Hong Kong.

## Yves KLEIN

Yves Klein was born to a painter couple in Nice, France, in 1928. He did not receive any art training, instead studied at the École Nationale de la Marine Marchande and the École Nationale des Langues Orientales. He began practicing judo when he was 19, devoting himself to its philosophy. At the same time, he discovered an immaterial world in the sky, from which he started producing blue monochrome paintings. The material/immaterial became the greatest theme for his later works. The artist visited Japan in 1952, where he stayed for one year and received inspiration for his “Anthropometry” series from his encounters with artifacts and experiences, such as handprints by sumo wrestlers, ink rubbings of fish profiles, and the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. In his exhibition in 1958, “The Specialization of Sensibility in the Raw Material State into Stabilized Pictorial Sensibility” (known as “The Void”), he painted the gallery space entirely in white while showing nothing else (i.e. the void), which was a concept received as controversial. In 1960, he named the pigment he developed “International Klein Blue” and acquired a patent. In the same year, he founded the Nouveau Réalisme group with the art critic Pierre Restany. In 1961, the Museum Haus Lange opened a major retrospective of his work. In 1962, he died in Paris of a heart attack at the age of 34.

## Masato KOBAYASHI

Masato Kobayashi was born in Tokyo in 1957. After graduating with a degree in oil painting from the Department of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts, he began in the mid-1980s to create works that explore the nature of painting. Having deemed that “it is too late to paint after stretching a canvas over a wooden frame,” he developed a painting style where he takes paint in his hands directly from tubes, and paints while stretching canvas over the frame, constructing the image and space simultaneously. In 1996, he participated in the São Paulo Biennial representing Japan. In 1997, he moved to Ghent, Belgium, upon invitation of the contemporary art curator Jan Hoet. After returning to Japan in 2006, he has been working in his atelier in Tomonoura, Hiroshima. His works are in numerous public collections, including the National Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Sezon Museum of Modern Art, and S.M.A.K. (the Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art Ghent). Recently, he has been working on his autobiography, “Paint of this Planet,” of which the first volume was published in 2018 and the second in 2020.

## Toshiyuki KONISHI

Toshiyuki Konishi was born in 1980 in Hiroshima, where he lives and works.

He has been painting human figures with a distinctive methodology in which he references personal snapshots of his family or friends and resolutely sweeps away details with bold strokes made with paint brushes and fingers. Through dialogues with his psychologist grandfather, he has obtained at a young age an objective perspective towards human decision-making and behaviors. Deepening his thought through the act of painting, the artist renders human figures as undulating, distorted vestiges. He vividly illustrates the human mind and body of those compelled to live with a sense of fragility and uncertainty in a world polarizing between artificial and natural environments. His recent exhibitions include “UNDER CURRENT” at Powerlong Museum (Shanghai, 2022); “Collection – Asian Landscapes” at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Ishikawa, 2018); “Islands, Constellations & Galapagos” at the YOKOHAMA TRIENNALE 2017 (Kanagawa, 2017); “Collection 2 Diary” at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Ishikawa, 2016); “Nostalgia and Fantasy: Imagination and Its Origins in Contemporary Art” at the National Museum of Art, Osaka (Osaka, 2014); and “The Way of Painting” at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery (Tokyo, 2014). In 2016, he was nominated as the finalist for the Prudential Eye Awards. In July 2023, his solo exhibition “Toshiyuki Konishi” was held at the Aranya Art Center in Qinhuangdao, China.

## Tadaaki KUWAYAMA

Born in Nagoya, Aichi in 1932, Kuwayama graduated from the Department of Japanese Painting at the Tokyo University of the Arts in 1956 and moved to the United States two years later, where he began his work in New York. He combines panels of a single color with a homogenous finish to produce abstract paintings of consistently high precision and purity. Since the 1970s his work has been predominantly in metallic colors, and he also experimented with circles, triangles and other forms of canvas. The reason for using metallic colors is that “I want it to be artificial. I don’t want nature to intervene in art”. In the 1990s he carried out a number of projects in Germany and other parts of the world in which he exhibited many panels of the same shape and size.



## LEE Kit

Lee Kit was born in Hong Kong in 1978. He has been creating installations intermixing paintings, video, and found objects. His works rooted in his personal experiences and the world he lives in, often evoke the audience of the socio-political climate of the time. Based in Taiwan, the artist has been taking part in residency programs creating site-specific works all over Asia, the United States, and Europe. In 2013, he represented Hong Kong at the Venice Biennale. In the same year, he was nominated for the inaugural Hugo Boss Asia Art Award. His work is housed in public collections, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; M+, Hong Kong; Tate Modern, London; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

## Kimiyo MISHIMA

Kimiyo Mishima was born in Osaka in 1932. She studied under Tsuguro Ito, a Western-style painter in Ashiya City, Hyogo, and exhibited oil paintings at the Dokuritsu Exhibition from 1954. She began her experimental two-dimensional collage works in the 1960s after meeting Shigeji Mishima (who she later married), a painter who studied under Jiro Yoshihara of the Gutai Bijutsu Kyokai (Gutai Art Association). From the 1970s, the artist began creating silk screen transfers of newspapers and advertising flyers on ceramics. Taking an inspirational source from the fear of drowning in the ever-increasing consumer wastes and overflowing information, her novel works have drawn attention at exhibitions of Japanese contemporary ceramics overseas. From 1986 to 1987, she lived in New York on a scholarship from the Rockefeller Foundation. After returning to Japan, she has been based in Juso, Osaka, and Toki City, Gifu. Her work is housed in public collections, including the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; the National Museum of Art, Osaka; the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo ; M+, Hong Kong, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston; the British Museum , London; Le Centre Pompidou , Paris; the City of Paris Museum of Modern Art, Paris.

## Sadamasa MOTONAGA

Sadamasa Motonaga was born in Mie in 1922. After graduating from a local trade high school, he was drifting from job to job while aspiring to become a manga artist. He began painting when he started studying under Mankichi Hamabe, a Western-style painter. In 1952, he moved to Kobe, where he was introduced to abstract painting at the Ashiya City Art Exhibition. In 1955, his work “*Takara ga aru (There is a Treasure)*” exhibited at the same exhibition caught the attention of Jiro Yoshihara, who invited him into the Gutai group. There he produced abstract oil paintings depicting the night view of the Rokko Mountain range, large-scale installation that utilizes the properties of water and gravity, and performances using smoke. Motonaga’s abstract paintings that make use of the fluidity of paint and erosion effect of colors, inspired by the *tarashikomi* technique of Japanese painting, especially received recognition in relation to the Art Informel movement that was taking the world by storm at the time. After living in New York from 1966 to 1967, the artist created a new style using an airbrush and acrylic paint, establishing his unique world of what he calls “Funny Art.” Since the 1970s, he worked on many children’s books and expanded his creative activities in a wide range of fields. He died in 2011 at the age of 88.

## Oscar MURILLO

Oscar Murillo was born in La Paila, Columbia, in 1986. He moved to London with his family during childhood, where he received his BFA from the University of Westminster and MFA from the Royal College of Art. He travels around the world creating his works through diverse methods, including painting, drawing, block printing, sculpture, video, installation, and collaborative projects. Murillo's work housed is in public collections across the world, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles; Fondazione Prada, Milan; and Museum Ludwig, Cologne. For the Turner Prize 2019, he formed a collective with the three other finalists and shared the award.

## Oscar NIEMEYER

Oscar Niemeyer was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1907. He graduated from the architecture department of the National Academy of Fine Arts in Rio de Janeiro and joined the design studios of Lúcio Costa and Carlos Leão. Participating in the design project of the Ministry of Education and Health in Rio de Janeiro, he was granted an opportunity to meet Le Corbusier for the first time. In 1952, he joined the design team for the United Nations Headquarters in New York with Le Corbusier. In 1956, Niemeyer was commissioned by President Juscelino Kubitschek to build the new capital of Brazil, in which he designed all the major architecture under the general supervision of Lúcio Costa. Due to the political instability in Brazil, the artist moved to Paris in 1967. After the restoration of democracy in 1985, he returned to Brazil where he restarted his design practice and continued to work arduously on projects, including the Niteroi Contemporary Art Museum and Oscar Niemeyer Museum until he died at the age of 104.

## Kenjiro Okazaki

Artist. He works in Tokyo. Kenjiro Okazaki (b. 1955) is a Japanese visual artist whose works span over several genres, including painting, sculpture, as well as landscape and architecture. Many of his works has been featured in public collections throughout Japan and in various exhibitions around the world. In 2002, Okazaki was selected of the director of the Japanese pavilion of the International Architecture Exhibition in Venice Biennale. His works include a collaborative performance 'I Love my Robot' with the choreographer Trisha Brown, premiered in early 2007. He received Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship at Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (HMSG) in 2014. Okazaki is also extremely active as a theoretician and critic, and is the author or co-author of several books, including *Renaissance: Condition of Experience* (Bunshun Gakugei Library, 2015) featuring his analysis of Filippo Brunelleschi, and *Abstract Art as Impact: The Concrete Genealogy of Abstract Art* (Akishobo, 2018) received the Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts in 2019.

## Saya OKUBO

Saya Okubo was born in Fukuoka in 1992. In the year she received her master's degree from the Kyoto University of Art and Design (now Kyoto University of the Arts), she received the Masami Shiraishi Award in the 4th Contemporary Art Foundation (CAF) Award, entering the spotlight. Okubo has been working on paintings in which two separate elements exist: symbolic images expressed as contour lines and the phenomenal undulation of the image arising with materiality. The human figures she adopts as motifs are based on the drawings she produces daily, and she has recently been working on three-dimensional works as well. She is currently based in Kyoto.

## Enrico Isamu OYAMA

Enrico Isamu Oyama (b. 1983, Italian / Japanese) creates visual art in various mediums that features Quick Turn Structure; the motif composed of spontaneous repetition and expansion of free-flowing lines informed by aerosol writing of 1970's-80's New York and beyond. After attending MFA at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2007-09, he named the motif Quick Turn Structure, and has positioned his practice in the midst of contemporary art and street culture. Oyama stayed in New York for 6 months in 2011-2012 as a grantee of Asian Cultural Council. He went on to live and work in Brooklyn during the 2010s. Oyama held solo exhibitions internationally at institutions including Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation (London), Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art (Kansas), Pola Museum of Art (Hakone), Nakamura Keith Haring Collection (Yamanashi), Tower 49 Gallery (New York), Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery (Yokohama) and Keio Museum Commons (Tokyo). Since 2020, Oyama works in 2 studios in New York and Tokyo back and forth.



## Charlotte PERRIAND

Charlotte Perriand was born to dressmaker parents in Paris in 1903. Her interior design “Bar under the Roof” exhibited at the Salon d’Automne in 1927 received acclaim, which led to her joining Le Corbusier’s atelier. She is known for furniture design, including the LC series, using new materials at the time, such as iron, aluminum, and glass. In c.1940, having received a proposition from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, she visited Japan to give guidance on export crafts. Perriand interacted with the members of the *mingei* (Japanese folk crafts) movement, including Soetsu Yanagi and Kanjiro Kawai, as well as Japanese product designers, such as Sori Yanagi and Isamu Kenmochi, which led to her creating bamboo-made chaise longue and more furniture pieces that applied traditional Japanese handicraft techniques. In the 1950s, in collaboration with Jean Prouvé, she designed furniture for Le Corbusier’s projects, including Unité d’habitation and Maison du Brésil. In 1999, she died at the age of 96. Recently, her works are once again receiving attention, with a major retrospective held in 2019 at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris, and the founding of the Charlotte Perriand Award, an architectural award named after her, in 2022.

## Pablo PICASSO

Pablo Picasso was born in Málaga, Andalucía, Spain, in 1881. Under the guidance of his father who was an art teacher, he displayed his precocious artistic talent as a child. In 1899, he frequented the Barcelonian café, Els Quatre Gats, and distinguished himself as a promising young painter. The café was the epicenter of the cultural and artistic movement, Modernismo, which originated in the Catalonia region. In 1901, he started painting predominantly in shades of blue. The artist moved to Paris in 1904, where he later developed Cubism with Georges Braque, and played a leading role in avant-garde art. In 1937, the artist unveiled “Guernica,” a large mural painting at the Spanish Pavilion of the Paris International Exposition. After World War II, he moved to the south of France, where he started making ceramics and continued to produce his creative works in his later life. He died in 1973 at the age of 91. He is one of the greatest painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and his works are housed in museum collections worldwide, including museums dedicated to his art in Paris and Málaga.

## Jean PROUVÉ

Jean Prouvé was born to an École de Nancy painter father and a musician mother in 1901 in France, during the height of Art Nouveau. He started his career as a metal artisan and founded Ateliers Jean Prouvé in 1931. He then switched over to experimental and progressive work using steel and other new materials, expanding his creative field from furniture to architecture. Responding to the demand for mass production, Prouvé worked on factory production of furniture for public institutions and universities, and prefabrication of building materials. Calling himself a “constructor,” he collaborated with many architects. The series of furniture he designed with Charlotte Perriand and Pierre Jeanneret for architectural projects designed by Le Corbusier are particularly notable as masterpieces of French modernism. In 1971, he served as the chairman of the jury for the Centre Pompidou international design competition and selected the proposal by Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano. His work was highly acclaimed by numerous architects during his lifetime. Since the 2000s, his work has reentered the spotlight and is once again attracting attention in the art market, garnering high bids.

## Gerhard RICHTER

Gerhard Richter was born in Dresden, Germany, in 1932. After graduating from Dresden Art Academy, he moved to West Germany right before the Berlin Wall was constructed, where he enrolled in Düsseldorf Art Academy. He starts the Capitalist Realism movement with Konrad Fischer and Sigmar Polke, attracting the audience with their unique artistic expression. He produces works that question the conditions of visual representation through diverse styles, including Photo Paintings, Color Chart paintings, Grey Pictures, and Abstract Paintings.

Richter has had solo exhibitions at the world's prestigious museums, including the Centre Pompidou; Tate Galleries; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Tate Modern. From 2022 to 2023, he had solo exhibitions at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, and the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, welcomed by the Japanese audience.

The artist is currently based in Cologne, where he continues his creative works.

## Sterling RUBY

Sterling Ruby was born in Bitburg, Germany, in 1972. He creates works of diverse media adopting a wide range of materials and techniques, from sculptures made of polyurethane or bronze, drawings, collages, ceramics, oil paintings, photography, and video, to even quilts and garments. Many of his works shed light on the violence and pressure within society, as well as issues regarding art history. The artist is also standing out in the fashion world, through collaboration with Raf Simons for the Fall/Winter 2014-2015 collection, or with Calvin Klein for the interior design of the flagship store renewal in 2017 and their brand headquarters showroom. RUBY's work is in numerous major museums in Europe and the United States, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Tate Modern; and Centre Pompidou. He is currently based in Los Angeles, where he continues his artistic work.

## Makoto SAITO

Makoto Saito was born in Fukuoka in 1952. In the mid-1990s, he began producing paintings featuring people whose faces have the power to stimulate his creativity. Initially, he referred to full-body images of filmmakers, such as Stanley Kubrick, or figures from the scenes of their films, eventually shifting his focus to the faces upon which the madness of human beings is engraved. Saito developed a distinct style in which he digitally disassembles and reconstructs portraits of figures, including Lucian Freud, Francis Bacon, and Antonin Artaud to create blueprints comprised of a series of halftone dots, the digital data of which he transcribes onto the canvas through richly textured applications of paint. Created through the painstaking and time-consuming procedure of depicting countless dots by hand, the artist's paintings invite viewers to an extraordinary visual experience.

## Wilhelm SASNAL

Wilhelm Sasnal (b. 1972, Tarnów, Poland) studied architecture at the Krakow University of Technology (1992-1994) followed by painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow (1994-1999). Sasnal has emerged over the last two decades as one of Europe's preeminent contemporary painters. Sasnal regularly uses photographic imagery – drawn from films, reproductions of art, pop culture or his own phone – as the starting points for his paintings, which then undergo various levels of distortion, simplification or abstraction. His work often addresses weighty historical themes such as the Holocaust, or familiar pop-cultural icons, as well as the people, places and objects around him, constituting an artistic document of post-Communist Poland at a time of socio-political transformation.

## Chikuunsai TANABE II

Chikuunsai Tanabe II was born in Sakai, Osaka, in 1910 as the first son of Chiku'unsai I, with whom he began working with bamboo crafts at a young age. At the age of 21, his work "*Banryū no zubon*" was selected for the first time for the *Teiten* (Imperial Art Exhibition), and since then, he was selected every year for the *Teiten*, the Shin-Bunten (new annual art exhibition sponsored by the then Ministry of Education), and the Nitten (Japan Fine Arts Exhibition organized by the then Ministry of Education). He also served as a juror and councilor for the *Nitten*, for which he later received the *Nitten* Special Recognition Asakura Prize in 1952.

At the age of 27, he succeeded to the title after Chikuunsai I's death. Chikuunsai I was skilled in making Chinese-style bamboo work with an imposing presence, whereas Chikuunsai II developed a unique style, exemplified by his representative technique of openwork weaving that creates the beauty of light and shadow. He is also known for his free weaving made of soot-colored bamboo of *Bambusa multiplex cv. Fernleaf*, a technique he used for a flower basket named "*Hiun* (Cloud drift)," which is now housed in the Crafts Gallery of the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. He died at the age of 89 in 2000. Today, his grandchild has succeeded to the name of Chikuunsai IV.



## Yuji UEDA

Yuji Ueda was born in 1975 to a family of tea farmers in Shigaraki, Shiga, home to one of the six ancient kilns of Japan. After studying under Yasuhisa Kohyama, he opened his kiln in his hometown. He has established unique techniques, such as employing whole blocks of Choseki feldspar for glazing and building up irregular clay surfaces to be fired in anagama kilns. His work caught the attention of the contemporary artist Takashi Murakami, which led to the development of his solo exhibition at Murakami's gallery and entered the national and international spotlight. Ueda has also been producing paintings since 2019.

## Xu Ning

Xu Ning was born in Beijing in 1979. She began studying ink painting at the age of seven and graduated with a degree in oil painting from the Capital Normal University in Beijing. She moved to Japan with her family in 2006, where she studied oil painting at Tama Art University. During her fourth year of undergraduate studies, she won the International TAKIFUJI Art Award. She entered the spotlight when the graduation project for her master's degree received the Grand Prix at the Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2020. Influenced by diverse motifs that transcend time, national borders, and genres, including ancient philosophies from her native country China, religious art such as the Early Netherlandish paintings, and the decorativeness and innovativeness of Dolce & Gabbana's fashion, her work is executed with meticulous strokes of fine point brushes flowing on a large canvas. The artist is currently based in Kanagawa, Japan.

## Meguru Yamaguchi

Meguru Yamaguchi was born in Tokyo in 1984. In 2007, he moved to the United States, where he began working as an assistant at the studio of Tomokazu Matsuyama, a contemporary artist based in New York. In 2011, he participated in a group exhibition at AISHO MIURA ARTS in Tokyo and sold all of his eight works on the first day. The artist's representative work, the "OUT OF BOUNDS" series, captures the audience with a distinct technique and style that works with brushstrokes that seem to float in the air, freed from the surface. He is active in multiple genres crossing over boundaries, including collaboration with the fashion field, such as NIKE, UNIQLO, and ISSEY MIYAKE.