

## Zenzaburo Kojima

### Biography

Zenzaburo was born in Fukuoka City, Kyushu area in 1893. As a painter he was mostly self-taught but later studied in Europe from 1925-1928. There he visited many museums to learn and absorb the techniques and expressions of both classical and modern masters. After returning to Japan, he sought to perfect a Japanese style of oil painting which was coined "Kojima style". He summarized nature in bold forms and filled the canvas with the life force that overflows from it. He would go on in his later years to sketch the scenery around his studio season by season and whenever he traveled far. He completed paintings of a magnificent larger-scale, and did so with an exuberant touch. He also put a great deal of effort into drawing portraits and flowers, bringing out the life in his subjects and making them vibrant on the canvas. The more than 2,000 works he made during his lifetime attracts many fans to this day. His works are in the collections of many Japanese museums and continue to please adoring audiences.

2023 will mark the 130th anniversary of his birth, and the Fukuoka Prefectural Museum of Art is planning a major exhibition to commemorate his legacy. The late critic Atsuo Imaizumi emphasized at the end of his eulogy for Zenzaburo 60 years ago: "I believe that the day is close when your work will be truly and properly appreciated after your death. I believe that your painting will leave a significant mark as one of the most outstanding artworks of the Showa period in the history of Japanese painting." I believe we are now witnessing this come true. Zenzaburo has become an artist who is bid regularly in the 20th/21st century section of Christie's Auctions in Hong Kong, and he is seeing more and more popularity in Asia as well.

- 1893 Born in Fukuoka city Japan.
- 1912 Graduated from Fukuoka Prefectural Shuyukan High School. Entered to Nagasaki School of Medicine.
- 1913 Left the medical school during the term to go up to Tokyo aspiring to be a painter.
- 1914 Failed the entering examination for Tokyo School of Fine Arts, started studying painting by himself. Left Tokyo for home because of illness.
- 1919 Went up to Tokyo again.
- 1922 Built the studio in Yoyogi Hatsudai Awarded for Nika Exhibition
- 1925 Travel to Europe. Stayed in Paris, Spain and Italy.
- 1928 Returned home. 24 pieces of during the stay in Europe was shown in Nika Exhibition as highlight.
- 1930 Became a member of Nika association, however left the organization in November. Founded the Dokuritsu Bijutsu Kyokai (Independent Art Association).
- 1951 *Road to the Japanese Alps* was shown at the 20th memorial exhibition of Dokuritsu Bijutsu Kyokai, then the work became a collection of National Museum of Modern Arts Japan.
- 1955 *Dahlia*s and *Spiraeas* and *Callas* became a collection of National Museum of Modern Arts Japan.

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- 1957 *Atami* was shown at the International Exhibition.
- 1958 *Mountain Lake, Road to Japanese Alps, and Mimosa Arrangement* were shown at the Japanese Modern Art Exhibition tour in Europe.
- 1959 *Spiraea and Callas in Persian Vase* was shown at The Exhibition of Japanese Modern Still life Painting held by National Museum of Modern Arts Japan.
- 1961 *Nishi-Izu* was shown at the 29th Exhibition of Dokuritsu Bijutsu Kyokai.
- 1962 Died at the age of 69 Many of exhibitions were held after his death.

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *This very green*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
- 2007 *Zenzaburo Kojima - The Shine of Idyll*, Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo  
Japan Art Dealers Association *de Kuroda a Foujita: Peintres Japonais a Paris*, Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris , Paris
- 1998 The Shoto Museum of Art, Tokyo
- 1989 Nara Sogo Museum 1993 Exhibition of commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth at Fukuoka Art Museum and 3 other locations
- 1976 Fukuoka Prefecture Culture Center, Fukuoka
- 1978 Sapporo Sogo Museum, Sapporo  
Kobe Sogo Museum, Kobe
- 1971 Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Kitakyushu
- 1972 Takashimaya Tokyo, Tokyo
- 1964 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 1960 Solo Exhibition of new works, Nihonbashi Gallery, Tokyo
- 1953 Solo exhibition at Saegusa Gallery, Tokyo

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *(Nothing but) Flowers*, Karma Gallery, New York
- 2017 *YŌGA: MODERN WESTERN PAINTINGS OF JAPAN* at Museum of National Taipei University of Education, Taipei  
Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami
- 2007 Japan Art Dealers Association “de Kuroda a Foujita: Peintres Japonais a Paris” at Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris, Paris
- 1985 *PARIS VU LES ARTIISTES JAPONAIS* (Japanese Artists who drew Paris), Carnavalet Museum, Paris
- 1958 Traveling Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition in Sydney, Melbourne, and 9 other cities.
- 1952 The Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture at Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
- 1951 1st São Paulo Art Biennial, Sao Paulo

Permanent Installations,  
Museum and Public Collections

Long Museum China, Shanghai  
Busan Museum of Art Korea, Busan  
National Museum of Korea Korea, Seoul  
Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Aichi  
Menard Art Museum, Aichi  
Seki Art Gallery, Ehime  
Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka  
Fukuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Fukuoka  
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Fukuoka  
Kurume City Art Museum, Fukuoka  
Nogata Tanio Art Museum, Fukuoka  
Tomioka City Museum, Gunma  
Hiroshima Museum of Art, Hiroshima  
Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum, Hiroshima  
Izumi Museum of Art, Hiroshima  
Rantokaku Museum of Art, Hiroshima  
Woodone Museum of Art, Hiroshima  
Hakodate City Museum, Hokkaido  
Otaru City Museum of Art, Hokkaido  
Otani Memorial Art Museum, Nishinomiya City, Hyogo  
Kasama Nichido Museum of Art, Ibaraki  
The Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki, Ibaraki  
Takamatsu Art Museum, Kagawa  
Pola Museum of Art Kanagawa  
The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama, Kanagawa  
Yokosuka Museum of Art, Kanagawa  
Jingu Choko-kan Museum Mie  
Mie Prefectural Art Museum Mie  
The Miyagi Museum of Art, Miyagi  
Kisoji Art Museum, Nagano  
Hori Art Museum, Nagoya  
Nakano Museum of Art, Nara  
The Niigata Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Niigata  
Nankai Collection, Oita  
Ohara Museum of Art, Okayama  
Iwami Art Museum, Shimane  
Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Shizuoka

## Permanent Installations, Museum and Public Collections

The Tokushima Modern Art Museum, Tokushima  
Artizon Museum, Tokyo  
Fuchu Art Museum, Tokyo  
Hachioji Yume Art Museum, Tokyo  
Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo  
Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo  
Ome City Museum Art, Tokyo  
Sen-Oku Hakuko kan, Tokyo  
Tamashin Art Museum, Tokyo  
The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Tokyo  
Tottori Prefectural Museum, Tottori  
Yamagata Museum of Art, Yamagata  
Tendo City Museum of Art, Yamagata  
Fujiyama Museum, Yamanashi  
The House of Representatives, Tokyo  
Natural Parks Foundation, Tokyo  
Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka  
Fukuoka City Government, Fukuoka  
The Hokkaido Bank, Ltd, Hokkaido  
The Nitori Culture Foundation, Hokkaido  
Fukuoka Prefectural Shuyukan High School, Fukuoka

## Publications

- 2022 *KOJIMA Zenzaburo Catalog Raisonné vol.2* will be published by Toshio Kojima  
2012 *KOJIMA Zenzaburo Catalog Raisonné / KOJIMA Zenzaburo Selected Works* published  
by Toshio Kojima