



100 Works Selected from 450 Recommended by Museum Curators around Japan
100 Must-see Artworks in Japan: Japanese Contemporary Art Edition
Dedicated Website to be Launched on March 27, 2026

The National Center for Art Research, Japan (abbreviation: NCAR; director: Kataoka Mami) has embarked on a new initiative titled "100 Must-see Artworks in Japan" to show the public the collective appeal of art museum collections across Japan. **100 Must-see Artworks in Japan: Japanese Contemporary Art Edition** will launch on March 27 at the initiative's website (<https://art100-ncar.artmuseums.go.jp>). This initiative is at the behest of the Art Promotion Working Group in the Cultural Economy Subcommittee within the Council for Cultural Affairs.

Japan's art museums boast many exceptional collections, but while individual works of art have attracted attention, there has been no opportunity to appreciate these collections as a whole. This new initiative has been launched in the hope that people from all over will learn about the abundance of art in Japan and visit museums throughout the country.

In this program, NCAR intends to select and publish lists of 100 selections based on a different theme each time. The theme for this first group of 100 works is "Japanese Contemporary Art," a topic that attracts international attention. The selection was made from among works created from 1945 onward. NCAR asked curators from over 400 museums nationwide to participate, and after extensive deliberation a selection committee of six individuals, including outside experts, chose 100 works from the 450 works that had been recommended by the curators. These works are in the collections of museums located in thirty-two of Japan's forty-seven prefectures. Care was taken to ensure gender balanced representation, so the selection includes works by fifty-five men and forty-three women.*

The dedicated website allows visitors to browse images of the 100 works and it presents basic information, commentary, and museum links. There are also plans to publish content such as chronological timelines and interviews with artists and museum personnel.

*Group works are excluded from the count.

■ List of 100 works

Artists	Title	Year	Collection
AIDA Makoto	AZEMICHI (a path between rice fields)	1991	Toyota Municipal Museum of Art
AKASEGAWA Genpei	Impounded Objects/Wrapped Work by Model 1000yen Notes(bag)	1963	Nagoya City Art Museum
AKUTAGAWA (MADOKORO) Saori	From the Ancient Chronicle "Kojiki"	1957	Setagaya Art Museum
AOKI Noe	Moya 1 (Cloud Valley 1)	2002	Aomori Contemporary Art Centre
ARAKAWA and Madeline GINS	Site of Reversible Destiny—Yoro Park	1993–95	Yoro Park, Gifu
ASAKURA Setsu	Japan 1958-2	1958	Yamaguchi Prefectural Art Museum
Ruth ASAWA	Untitled (S.317, Wall-Mounted Tied Wire, Open- Center, Five-Pointed Star with Overlapping Branches)	c. 1965	The National Museum of Art, Osaka
ENDO Toshikatsu	Epitaph—Cylindrical	1990	Shimane Art Museum
FUKUDA Miran	Looking Back Beauty, Mirrored Group Images	2016	The Hiratsuka Museum of Art
FUKUSHIMA Hideko	Brilliant Starvation	1956	Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design
FUNAKOSHI Katsura	Saving the Wind	1983	Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts
FURUHASHI Teiji	LOVERS	1994	The National Museum of Art, Osaka
GODA Sawako	Anxious Veronica	1972	The Museum of Art, Kochi

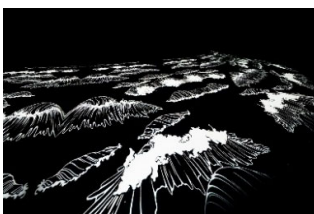
HARAGUCHI Noriyuki	Untitled	2007	Toyota Municipal Museum of Art
HIDAKA Rieko	Looking Up the Trees VII	1993	The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
IDEMITSU Mako	What a Woman Made	1973	Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts
IKEMURA Leiko	Beach at Night	2002-2003	Mie Prefectural Art Museum
ISHIDA Tetsuya	Having a meal just like refueling	1996	Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art
ISHIUCHI Miyako	Mother's	2000-2005	Tokyo Photographic Art Museum
IWASAKI Takahiro	Reflection Model (Ship of Theseus)	2017/2021	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
KATAYAMA Mari	I have child's feet	2011	Tokyo Photographic Art Museum
KATO Izumi	Untitled	2006	The National Museum of Art, Osaka
KATSURA Yuki	Man and Fish	1954	Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art
KAWAMATA Tadashi	Project "People's Garden"	1992	Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo
KAWARA On	Bathroom	1953	The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
KAZAMA Sachiko	Alas! Heisoku-kan (Raging Battle-ship the Dead-End)	2012	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
KIKUHATA Mokuma	Roulette No.1	1964	Fukuoka Art Museum
KINOSHITA Susumu	Eyes of the Centenarian (Portrait of Haru Kobayashi,Goze:a Blind Female Strolling Musician)	2001	Niigata City Art Museum
KONOIKE Tomoko	Chapter One	2006	Ohara Museum of Art
KUBOTA Shigeo	Nude Descending a Staircase	1975-1976/1983	Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design
KUDO Tetsumi	Votre Portrait	1963	Takamatsu Art Museum
KUSAMA Yayoi	Untitled (No. White A.Z.)	1959	Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art
LEE Ufan	From Line	1973	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
MARUKI Iri, MARUKI	The Hiroshima Panels	1950-1982	Maruki Gallery For The Hiroshima Panels
Mieko (chieko) Shiomi	Spatial Poem No.1	1965/1980	Urawa Art Museum
MIKAMI Seiko	World Membrane: Disposal Containers - Suitcase	1992-1993	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
MIKI Tomio	EAR	1965	Toyota Municipal Museum of Art
MISHIMA Kimiyo	Memories of the 20th Century	1984-2013	Nerima Art Museum
MIYAJIMA Tatsuo	Death of Time	1989	Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art
MIYAWAKI Aiko	UTSUROHI:a moment of movement	1981/2015	The Hakone Open-Air Museum
MOHRI Yuko	I/O	2011-2016	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
MORIMURA Yasumasa	Portrait (Futago)	1989	Mori Art Museum
MOTONAGA Sadamasa	Work	1961	Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art (The Yamamura Collection)
MURAKAMI Takashi	Sea Breeze	1992	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
MURAOKA Saburo	Storage-The Ecology of Flies and Their Momenta	1972	Chiba City Museum of Art
NAITO Rei	Matrix	2010	Teshima Art Museum
NAKAHARA Kodai	Untitled (Lego Monster)	1990	Toyota Municipal Museum of Art
NAKAMURA Hiroshi	5th Sunagawa	1955	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
NAKANISHI Natsuyuki	Clothespins Assert Churning Action	1963/1981	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
NAKAYA Fujiko	Dynamic Earth Series I, Fog Sculpture #47610	2021	Nagano Prefectural Art Museum
NARA Yoshitomo	Miss Spring	2012	Yokohama Museum of Art
NISHIYAMA Minako	The PINKŪ House	1991/2006	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
Isamu NOGUCHI	Kokeshi (Japanese Wooden Dolls)	1951	The Museum of Modern Art, Hayama
OHTAKE Shinro	Rubbish Men	1987	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
OHTAKE Tomie	Untitled	1986	Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art
OIWA Oscar	Greenhouse Effect	2001	Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art
OKAMOTO Taro	Law of the Jungle	1950	Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki
OKANOUE Toshiko	Invitation	1955	The Museum of Art, Kochi
OKAZAKI Kenjiro	Akasakamitsuke	1981	Takamatsu Art Museum
ONO Yoko	Grapefruit	1964	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
OZAWA Tsuyoshi	Museum of Soy Sauce Art	1999	Fukuoka Asian Art Museum
SAITO Yoshishige	Inside	1981	Yokohama Museum of Art
SASAMOTO Aki	Spirits Cubed	2020	Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art
SHIGA Lieko	Rasen Kaigan	2009-2012	Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art
SHIMABUKU	The Chance to Recover Our Humanity	1995	The National Museum of Art, Osaka
SHINOHARA Ushio	Boxing Painting	1991	The National Museum of Art, Osaka
SHIOTA Chiharu	Memory of Water	2021	Towada Art Center
SHIRAGA Fujiko	A Work	1961	The Miyagi Museum of Art
SHIRAGA Kazuo	Work II	1958	Hyogo Prefecture Museum of Art
SUDA Yoshihiro	Ginza weed theory	1993	Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art
SUGA Kishio	A Division by Wood	1983	Iwaki City Art Museum
SUGIMOTO Hiroshi	Seascape	1987	Shimane Art Museum
SUGITO Hiroshi	the Second Lounge	2002	Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art
SUNAZAWA Bikky	God's Tongue	1980	Sapporo Art Museum
Tabaimo	Midnight Sea	2006/2008	Hara Museum ARC

TABE Mitsuko	Artificial Placenta	1961/2004	Contemporary Art Museum Kumamoto
TADA Minami	Frequency FL10-6874	1974	Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts
TAKAMATSU Jiro	Shadow	1977	The National Museum of Art, Osaka
TAKAMINE Tadasu	God Bless America	2002	The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
TANAKA Atsuko	Electric Dress	1956/1986	Takamatsu Art Museum
TANAKA Koki	A Pottery Produced by Five Potters at Once (Silent Attempt)	2013	The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
TATSUNO Toeko	Work 84-P-1	1984	The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
TERAUCHI Yoko	Hot Line 68	1986	Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art
TERUYA Yūken	You-I, You-I	2002	Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Art Museum
TEZUKA Aiko	Extracting Warp Threads - Five colours	2004	Fukuoka Art Museum
TOYA Shigeo	Woods II	1989-1990	Hara Museum ARC
TSUBAKI Noboru	Esthetic Pollution	1990	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
TSURUOKA Masao	Heavy Hand	1949	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
WAKABAYASHI Isamu	Valleys (2nd stage)	1989/2006	Yokosuka Museum of Art
YAMAGUCHI Katsuhiko	Vitrine No.1	1952	Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design
YAMASHIRO Chikako	A Woman of the Butcher Shop	2012	Mori Art Museum
YAMASHITA Kikuji	The Tale of Akebono Village	1953	The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
YAMAZAKI Tsuruko	Work	1963	Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art (The Yamamura
YANAGI Miwa	Elevator Girl House B1	1997	Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka
YANAGI Yukinori	The World Flag Ant Farm 1990	1990	Benesse Art Museum
YANOBE Kenji	Contaminated Atom Suit	1997	Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art
YOKOO Tadanori	TADANORI YOKOO	1965	The Tokushima Modern Art Museum
YOSHIHARA Jiro	Red Circle on Black	1965	Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art
YOSHIMURA Masunobu	Anti-material; Light on Möbius	1968	Oita Prefectural Art Museum
YOSHIZAWA Mika	He-45	1993	Iwaki City Art Museum

■ Selected works and logo



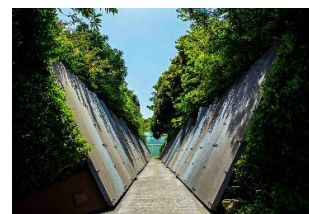
SHIOTA Chiharu, Memory of Water, 2021, Towada Art Center ©JASPAR, Tokyo, 2026 and Chiharu Shiota



TABAIMO, Midnight Sea, 2006/2008, Hara Museum ARC ©Tabaimo
Courtesy of Hara Museum ARC



NAKAYA Fujiko, Dynamic Earth Series I, Fog Sculpture #47610, 2021, Nagano Prefectural Art Museum ©Fujiko Nakaya
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WAKABAYASHI Isamu, Valleys (2nd stage), 1989/2006, Yokosuka Museum of Art photo: Yamamoto Tadasu



TAKAMATSU Jiro, Shadow, 1977, The National Museum of Art, Osaka ©The Estate of Jiro Takamatsu, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates, Tokyo, Pace Gallery, New York and Stephen Friedman Gallery, London. Photo: Fukunaga Kazuo



YAMAZAKI Tsuruko, Work, 1963, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art (The Yamamura Collection) ©Estate of Tsuruko Yamazaki, courtesy of LADS Gallery, Osaka and Take Ninagawa, Tokyo



Logo for 100 Must-see Artworks in Japan

■Message

Kataoka Mami

Director, National Center for Art Research

Since the concepts of fine art and the museum were introduced to Japan during the Meiji era (1868–1912), many art museums have been established across the country over time, each with its own history and governing body. When we consider the works held by Japan’s art museums as a whole, they are not only of individual artistic value but also collectively constitute valuable cultural and social assets that serve as records of their respective eras. Until now, however, there have been few opportunities to approach museum collections nationwide from this perspective.

The fiscal 2023 report *Summary of Key Issues from the Art Promotion Working Group, Third Cultural Economy Subcommittee, Council for Cultural Affairs* examines the role of art promotion within cultural economic policy and draws attention to art museums as institutions that sustain both the artistic and social value of art. It proposes “reviewing the history of art collections in Japan and promoting the visibility and effective use of outstanding collections located in Japan, through methods such as a ‘One Hundred Masterpieces’ initiative.”

In response to this recommendation, in fiscal 2025 the National Center for Art Research launched “100 Must-see Artworks in Japan,” a project designed to bring greater visibility to outstanding works held in art museums across the country. The first edition focuses on contemporary Japanese art, and the project is scheduled to continue in subsequent editions covering various periods and categories. The 100 selected works were chosen through discussions among curators and specialists from museums nationwide, and the selection process also reaffirmed that Japan’s art museums possess many highly important works that represent their respective eras.

In the early history of Japan’s art museums, many functioned primarily as venues for temporary exhibitions and did not maintain permanent collections, and there was a long-standing tendency to place greater emphasis on special exhibitions. In recent years, partly in response to this history, the importance of strengthening collection exhibitions has also been recognized. It is hoped that this project will serve as an opportunity to shed renewed light not only on the 100 selected works but also on the collections held by each museum and their exhibitions featuring these collections, and that the rich history of art and art museums in Japan will be more widely conveyed both at home and abroad.

< Press and Media Inquiries >

The National Center for Art Research, Japan, Public Relations Department
(within the office of PRAP JAPAN, INC.)

Persons in Charge: Natori, Watanabe, Hoshikawa

TEL: 03-4570-2273 (Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) FAX: 03-4580-9127

E-mail: ncar@prap.co.jp

< Website for NCAR >

<https://ncar.artmuseums.go.jp/en/>