

herstories: Tracing Art History from Female Perspectives

Dates and Time : March 20 – May 25, 2025 (Closed on Mondays; Open on May 5, Closed on May 7) 10:00AM–5:00PM

Admission: Free

Venue: University Art Museum, Kyoto City University of Arts

Organizer: Kyoto City University of Arts

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Exhibition Overview

“herstories: Tracing Art History from Female Perspectives” commemorates the retirement of AKAMATSU Tamame, the first female president of Kyoto City University of Arts. This exhibition seeks to reinterpret art history through a female lens, highlighting the roles played by female artists and educators in an art history traditionally narrated from a male-centered viewpoint. It brings into focus the diverse social and cultural backgrounds these women represent.

Centered on AKAMATSU herself, the exhibition showcases works and educational activities by past and present female faculty members, weaving a narrative of “herstories”—the stories of women. It aims to foster dialogue around contemporary gender and diversity issues, creating a space for constructing a new art history.

Expected Artists:

- AKAMATSU Tamame
- AKINO Fuku
- Felice (Lizzi) RIX-UENO
- OGUSHI Sachiko
- SHIGEMATSU Ayumi
- TANIZAWA Sawako
- TOJINBARA Nozomi
- HIROI Nobuko

Related Programs During the Exhibition

To explore the work of female artists and its significance, various events will be held throughout the exhibition period:

1. Cross Talk

- **Date and Time:** Saturday, March 22, 2025, 1:30 PM–3:00 PM

- **Location:** Lecture Room 1, Building C, Kyoto City University of Arts
- **Admission:** Free, No Registration Required
- Language: Japanese
- **Details:** A two-part discussion featuring exhibiting artists sharing their experiences in education and creative activities at the university. Moderated by KASUYA Akiko, curator of the exhibition and professor at Kyoto City University of Arts.
 - *Second Part:* Starts at 3:30 PM in the same room, featuring a related event for the AKAMATSU Tamame Retirement Commemorative Exhibition: Artist's Talk.

2. Gallery Talk

- **Dates and Times:** Tuesday, March 25, and Tuesday, April 22, 0:15PM–0:45PM each day
- **Venue:** Kyoto City University of Arts Art Archive Museum
- **Admission:** Free, No Registration Required
- Language: Japanese

3. Workshop by TANIZAWA Sawako: “Words in Paper Cutouts”

- **Date and Time:** Saturday, April 26, 2025, 1:00 PM–4:00 PM
- **Eligibility:** Middle school students and above, limited to 15 participants
- **Venue:** Kyoto City University of Arts
- **Advance Registration Required:** Register via Google Form



- **What to Bring:** Craft knife, pencil, eraser
- Language: Japanese
- **Details:** Participants will view TANIZAWA Sawako's work, select words related to their identities, and create paper cutouts to be displayed in the venue.

4. International Symposium: “Art and Gender: Perspectives on Diversity and Inclusion”

- **Dates:** Saturday and Sunday, May 17–18, 2025
- **Location:** Lecture Room 1, Building C, Kyoto City University of Arts (tentative)
- Language: Japanese, English
- **Details:** This symposium aims to uncover perspectives of women that are often overlooked in history and explore diverse approaches to art and gender. From Poland, participants include Marta SMOLIŃSKA and Anna BOROWIEC, with a focus on Magdalena ABAKANOWICZ's work. From Japan, participants such as KOKATSU Reiko, PACHCIAREK Paweł, KASUYA Akiko, AKAMATSU Tamame, FUKAYA

Kuniko, and NAKAMURA Midori will join the discussions, working together to build new art histories.

Biographies

AKAMATSU Tamame

Born in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, in 1959. Graduated from the Master's Program in Oil Painting at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts, in 1984. Her research focuses on the inner world of humans, where conflicting emotions coexist and evolve in complex ways. She combines painting techniques such as oil painting, watercolor, and fresco. After engaging in creative activities in Italy, she became a professor in the Oil Painting Department at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts, in 1993. During the 1990s, she collaborated as part of an artist trio, and in the 2010s, she promoted communication and support through art with people with disabilities, their families, and supporters. She served as the president of Kyoto City University of Arts from April 2019 to March 2025.

AKINO Fuku

Born in 1908 in Shizuoka Prefecture. Graduated in 1926 from Shizuoka Women's Normal School and began studying under ISHII Rinkyō in 1927. In 1929, she joined NISHIYAMA Suisho's art school, *Seikosha*. In 1937, she helped form the *Shundei-kai* art society in Kyoto. In 1948, she co-founded *Sōzō Bijutsu* (now *Sōga-kai*). The following year, she joined the Kyoto City School of Arts and Crafts (now Kyoto City University of Arts) as a faculty member specializing in Japanese painting. In 1962, she became a visiting professor at Visva-Bharati University (now Tagore International University) in India. She frequently visited India, where she actively created works inspired by its culture, nature, and the lives of ordinary people. Akino retired from Kyoto City University of Arts in 1974, after which she returned to India and continued her artistic practice. She was named Professor Emeritus at Kyoto City University of Arts. Her honors include the Person of Cultural Merit Award in 1991 and the Order of Culture in 1999. She passed away in 2001 at the age of 93.

Felice [Lizzi] RIX-UENO

Born in Vienna in 1893, Felice RIX-UENO graduated from the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts in 1917 and joined the Wiener Werkstätte that same year. In 1925, she married architect Isaburo UENO and moved to Kyoto in 1926. Her designs encompassed a wide range of practical items and interior decorations, including wallpaper and textiles, with work

spanning both Vienna and Kyoto. In 1951, she became a faculty member in design at Kyoto City University of Fine Arts (now Kyoto City University of Arts). After retiring in 1963, she established the International Design Institute that same year. She passed away in 1967 at the age of 74, leaving a significant legacy through her dedication to nurturing future generations.

OGUSHI Sachiko

Born in 1934 in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture. Completed the graduate program in Western painting at Kyoto City University of Arts in 1959. Starting in April of the same year, she served as an assistant in the same department. From April 1966 to March 2000, she was a full-time faculty member in the Faculty of Fine Arts at Kyoto City University of Arts. She is now Professor Emerita at Kyoto City University of Arts. Ogushi has developed her own expressive world through abstract color compositions rich in poetic sentiment, evoking natural landscapes.

SHIGEMATSU Ayumi

Born in 1958 in Osaka Prefecture, SHIGEMATSU is based in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture. She completed the graduate program in ceramics at Kyoto City University of Arts in 1983. During her studies, she was mentored by founding members of the *Sodeisha* group and gained attention as a leading figure in innovative ceramic expression. Her work explores the relationship between “interior and exterior” in hand-built ceramic forms, pursuing organic shapes adorned with vibrant colors. From April 2002 to March 2024, she served as a full-time faculty member in the Faculty of Fine Arts at Kyoto City University of Arts. She is now Professor Emerita at Kyoto City University of Arts.

TANIZAWA Sawako

Born in 1982 in Osaka Prefecture, Tanizawa currently resides in Kyoto City. She graduated in 2007 with a Master’s degree from the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts. Her works explore themes such as the “liberation of imagination” and “female imagery,” driven by her interest in gender issues and challenging fixed evaluations of female artists. Tanizawa works across multiple mediums, including installations, ceramics, papercutting, and painting, and she also collaborates with writers and artists. Starting in 2024, she will serve as a faculty member specializing in Oil Painting at Kyoto City University of Arts.

TOJINBARA Nozomi

Born in 1984 in Shiga Prefecture, TOJINBARA is based in Kyoto. She earned her Doctorate

in Fine Arts in 2020 from Kyoto City University of Arts. Her oil paintings blend elements of Western classical painting, children's literature, and Japanese popular culture. Her works frequently feature boys and girls, creating a mythical and narrative world. Since 2023, she has been a faculty member in the Department of Fine Arts (Oil Painting) at Kyoto City University of Arts.

HIROI Nobuko

Born in 1951 in Kobe City, Hiroi completed her studies in Textiles at the Graduate Program in Fine Arts at Kyoto City University of Arts in 1977. From April 1988 to March 2017, she taught in the Department of Crafts, specializing in Textiles, at the same university. From 1997 to 1998, she conducted research as a Ministry of Education research fellow at Kansas State University in the United States. Since 2010, Hiroi has been a collaborative researcher at the National Museum of Ethnology. Her works focus on rediscovering the origins of handcraft, from fiber to thread and cloth, while continuing to exhibit her creations. HIROI is Professor Emerita at Kyoto City University of Arts.

Works



AKAMATSU Tamame, *Sound of the Rainy Season*, 2000, oil on canvas



AKINO Fuku, *Monsoon*, 1969, pigments, glue-based paint on cotton



Felice [Lizzi] RIX-UENO, *Wall paper*, c.1962, Ink on paper



OGUSHI Sachiko, *Untitled*, 1997, Oil on canvas



SHIGEMATSU Ayumi, *Jomon Organ*, 2023, Earthenware, terra sigillata, hand built



TANIZAWA Sawako, *Female Image Exercises*, 2024, Acrylic on paper



TOJINBARA Nozomi, *Encounter / The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*, 2023, Oil on canvas



HIROI Nobuko, *Read a Book*, 2014, silk, cutting, tying, weaving

Concurrent Event:

AKAMATSU Tamame Farewell Exhibition: " Ladies — An Ending and A New Beginning "

- **Dates:** Thursday, March 20 (public holiday) – Sunday, March 30, 2025
- **Venue:** Kyoto City University of Arts, C Building, 1st Floor Project Room, C Building, 6th Floor Interaction Space, Art Space K.Kaneshiro, D Building, 1st Floor President's Office Exhibition
- **Event: March 22** Artist's Talk by AKAMATSU Tamame

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