

## YOSHISHIGE FURUKAWA

born 1921 in Fukuoka-shi, Japan

died 2008 in Sagamihara-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan

### Yoshishige Furukawa – biographical note

Yoshishige Furukawa moved to America in the 1960s, and split the last decades of his life between the United States and his native Japan. The impact of these decisions is reflected in his multifaceted work from the 1970s, which indicate an eye to Minimalism as well as a deep sensitivity to material and line that recalls Japanese Imperial architecture. beta pictoris will showcase his black-rubber-sheets series, which utilizes industrial materials like rubber, canvas, gum-sheet, and grommets to create works that have hard-edge lines and geometric components, but also revel in soft frays of fabric and natural puckering. Black squares—a reference to the void—appear throughout, but when tilted resemble dramatic architectural roofs and eaves, suggesting shelter along with expanse. And in the works where triangles of pink canvas peek out through lines of grommets like a corset, a glimpse of the female body is evident.

Furukawa's work was recently the subject of a major retrospective at the **Fukuoka Prefectural Museum of Art**. The paintings shown at Art Brussels were included in said retrospective, and several of them are included in the exhibition's publication. Furukawa's work is in numerous important Japanese Museum collections, including the **National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo**; the **National Museum of Art in Osaka**; the **National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto**; the **Fukuoka Art Museum in Fukuoka**; the **Kitakyushu Museum of Art**; the **Museum of Modern Art in Saitama**; and the **Saga Prefectural Art Museum**; amidst others.

His work has been exhibited in the U. S. and Japan throughout his life, including the **Albright-Knox Museum** in Buffalo, NY in 1991. He's the recipient of numerous important grants, twice from the **Pollock-Krasner Foundation** (1990 and 1997).

### Yoshishige Furukawa - education

1939 - 1943 Tokyo School of Fine Art (Tokyo University of the Arts)

### Yoshishige Furukawa - solo exhibitions

- 1955 Saegusa Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1956 Daimura Department Store, Fukuoka, Japan  
Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo
- 1957 Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo
- 1958 Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo
- 1959 Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo  
Fukuoka-Iwataya, Fukuoka
- 1960 Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo
- 1963 Nihonbashi Gallery, Tokyo  
Iwataya Gallery, Fukuoka  
Nihonbashi Gallery, New York
- 1968 East Hampton Gallery, New York

- 1972 Westbeth Gallery, New York
- 1973 Pace College Gallery
- 1974 Lotus Gallery Soho, New York
- 1976 Fuma Gallery, Tokyo
- 1977 Fukuoka City Art Gallery, Fukuoka
- 1979 New York University Gallery  
Kwan Gallery Soho, New York
- 1981 Yamaguchi Gallery, Tokyo  
Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 1983 Long Island University Gallery / South Hampton College, New York
- 1985 Gallery Stella, Fukuoka
- 1988 Oishi Gallery, Fukuoka
- 1989 Condeso/Lawler Gallery, Soho, New York  
Yamaguchi Gallery, Tokyo
- 1991 Northern Iowa University Gallery  
Condeso/Lawler Gallery, Soho, New York  
Yamaguchi Gallery, Tokyo  
Albright College Freedman Gallery, Reading, PA
- 1992 Retrospective at the Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka  
National Museum of Art, Osaka
- 1993 Condeso/Lawler Gallery, New York  
Gallery Emon, Tokyo  
Gallery Oishi, Fukuoka
- 1995 Condeso/Lawler Gallery, New York
- 1996 Yamaguchi Gallery, Tokyo
- 1997 Condeso/Lawler Gallery, New York  
Curwen Gallery, London
- 1998 Gallery Oishi, Fukuoka  
Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 1999 Saga Shimbun Gallery, Saga  
Curwen Gallery, London
- 2000 Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka  
Yamaguchi Gallery, Tokyo  
Gallery Oishi, Fukuoka

- 2001 Gallery Hashimoto, Fukuoka
- 2002 Gallery MMG, Tokyo  
Gallery Oishi, Fukuoka
- 2003 Shirota Gallery, Tokyo  
Gallery Hashimoto, Fukuoka  
Yamaguchi Gallery, Tokyo
- 2004 Sawara Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 2005 Gallery Yamane, Tokyo  
Gallery Oishi, Fukuoka
- 2006 Yamaguchi Gallery, Tokyo  
Gallery Oishi, Fukuoka
- 2007 Sawara Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 2009 Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 2013 "Drawings from the 1980's", Koki Arts, Tokyo
- 2015 "Yoshishige Furukawa 1921-2008" Retrospective, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka  
"Paintings from the 1990's", Koki Arts, Tokyo  
Gallery Oishi, Fukuoka
- 2016 "Black Rubber Sheet" - Yoshishige Furukawa's New York Paintings from the 1970's", beta pictoris gallery

**Yoshishige Furukawa - selected group exhibitions**

- 1946 Gardan Group Exhibition (Ichiryu Association)  
Shinko Art Exhibition, Mitsukoshi Department Store, Nihonbashi
- 1947 15th Annual Exhibition of the Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1948 Chutsu Imanishi Exhibition at Fukuoka-Iwataya, Fukuoka  
16th Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1949 17th Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1950 18th Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1951 19th Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1952 20th Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1953 21st Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1954 22nd Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum

- 1955 23rd Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1956 24th Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1957 9th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum  
25th Dokuritso Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1958 10th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum  
26th Dokuritsu Bijutsu Kyokai, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum  
4th Nobi Group Exhibition, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo
- 1959 11th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum  
5th Nobi Group Exhibition, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo
- 1960 Fugetsudo, Shinjuku, Tokyo  
12th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1961 13th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1962 14th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum  
Mudo Gallery, Tokyo  
Exhibition "Contemporary Art from Japan", Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1963 15th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum  
Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo  
1st Art Club Wxhibition, Shinjuku Dai-ichi Gallery, Tokyo
- 1964 15th New England Exhibition, Silvermine Guild of Artists, Connecticut
- 1965 16th New England Exhibition, Silvermine Guild of Artists, Connecticut
- 1967 18th New England Exhibition, Silvermine Guild of Artists, Connecticut
- 1968 19th New England Exhibition, Silvermine Guild of Artists, Connecticut
- 1970 Westbeth Gallery, New York
- 1972 "Contemporary Japanese Art" Exhibition, Union Carbide Building, New York
- 1975 "Ten Japanese artists", Alternative Center for International Arts, New York
- 1979 "Japanese Art Today" Exhibition, World Trade Center, New York  
Kwan Gallery, Soho, New York
- 1980 "Contemporary Asian Art" Exhibition, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 1981 Exhibition "Ishikawa Isamu and his friends", Nisshin Gallery, Tokyo
- 1984 Exhibition "New Acquisitions", The National Museum of Art, Osaka  
Nichido Contemporary Art" Exhibition, Nichido Gallery, Tokyo
- 1986 "Black and White in Art Today" exhibition, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- 1989 participates at Art Chicago

- 1990 participates at Art Frankfurt
- 1991 “New York Selection 1991” Exhibition, Albright-Knox Museum, Buffalo, NY  
participates at Art Montreal
- 1992 “New Acquisitions” Exhibition, Gallery Inage, Chiba
- 1993 Group Exhibition, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama  
Nagoya Contemporary Art Fair  
“30th Anniversary Exhibition II: Modern Art from the Collection”, Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto  
“New Acquisitions” Exhibition, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 1995 “10x10x(10)cm” Exhibition, Gallery Yamaguchi, Tokyo  
“vital signs / drawings” Exhibition, Condeso/Lawler Gallery, New York
- 1996 Group Exhibition, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 1997 Group Exhibition, Condeso/Lawler Gallery, New York  
“Masterpieces of Modern Japanese Art from the Museum Collection”, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 1998 Group Exhibition, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka  
“From Saburosuke Okada to Yoshishige Furukawa”, Saga Prefectural Art Museum, Saga
- 1999 “Let’s Go to the Museum”, Tagawa Museum of Art, Fukuoka
- 2000 Texas A&M University Gallery, College Station, Texas  
“Hana - flower” Exhibition, Gallery Yagamuchi, Tokyo  
“Art Jam” Exhibition, Gallery Yagamuchi, Tokyo
- 2002 “Oil Painter in our Hometown”, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 2006 “Contemporary Paintings of Sagamihara Collection and New Step” Exhibition, Sagamihara’s Citizen Gallery, Kanagawa
- 2007 “Furukawa Yoshishige and Akiko Mashima” Exhibition, Sawara Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 2008 4th “Art Jam” Exhibition, Gallery Yagamuchi, Tokyo

**Yoshishige Furukawa - awards and grants / public commissions**

- 1949 Recipient of the Dokuritsu Bijutsu Kyokai Prize, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1972 Recipient of the “Contemporary Art Prize for Japanese artists living in New York”
- 1973 Mural in the W. R. Grace Building on 42nd Street, New York
- 1989 Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant of \$12,000
- 1990 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant of \$10,000
- 1997 Six-panel installation “Variations on Nature” at the Washington National Airport
- 1997 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant of \$15,000

**Yoshishige Furukawa - selected collections**

Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts  
Pace College, New York, NY  
Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, California  
South Hampton College of Long Island University, Southampton, NY  
British Museum, London, U.K.  
The Roland Gibson Foundation at The State University of New York Art Museum, Potsdam, New York  
New York City Public Library, New York, NY  
Fukuoka City Hall, Fukuoka, Japan  
Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka  
Fukuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Fukuoka  
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Kitakyushu, Japan  
Tagawa Museum of Art, Tagawa, Japan  
Saga Prefectural Art Museum, Saga, Japan  
The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama  
National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto  
National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo  
National Museum of Modern Art, Osaka  
The Ohara Museum of Art, Kurashiki, Japan

**Yoshishige Furukawa - publications (selection)**

“Yoshishige Furukawa” exhibition catalogue, Daimura Dept. Store, text by Zenzamuro Kojima, 1956  
“Yoshishige Furukawa” exhibition catalogue, texts by Tatsuoki Nanbata and Koei Tokudiji, Tokyo, 1958  
“Special four page coverage in the “Bijutsu-shi Journal Art Magazine”, Tokyo, 1960  
“Yoshishige Furukawa” exhibition catalogue, Gallery Yamaguch, Tokyo, text by Stephen Westfall, 1989  
“Yoshishige Furukawa”, exhibition catalogue, Fukuoka Museum of Art, 1992  
“Yoshishige Furukawa 1921-2008”, Fukuoka Museum of Art, 2015