

HOSHUN YAMAGUCHI MEMORIAL HALL

Hoshun YAMAGUCHI (1893-1971), a Japanese style painter and an honoree of Order of Culture, is known for his painting style "Hoshun Modernism".

He lived here and created many masterpieces, such as "Summer Impression(1950)", "Autumn(1961)", and "Maple Tree(1967)" (Fig.1) painted on a cedar door in the Tokyo Imperial Palace.

His studio-cum-residence was remodeled into a museum, and was opened to the public as "HOSHUN YAMAGUCHI MEMORIAL HALL" in 1991.

Special exhibitions are held several times a year. In each exhibition Hoshun's paintings and his antique collections are organized by theme, so visitors can retrace the steps of the artist. In addition, visitors can enjoy walking around the Japanese garden which the artist and his wife loved, and relax in the atelier which was designed by Isoya YOSHIDA, an expert architect of tea-ceremony house.

Hoshun YAMAGUCHI, the explorer of modern Japanese-style painting

Hoshun YAMAGUCHI, born in 1893, started to study Western-style painting in his high school days.

In 1915, he enrolled in the Tokyo School of Fine Arts (present Faculty of Fine Arts of Tokyo University of Arts) first as a student of the Western Painting Course, then moved to the Japanese Painting Course. This was the first turning point in his artist life.

He learned traditional Japanese-style painting under Eikyu MATSUOKA, and developed his talent. In 1926, his first entry was specially selected for the grand prize at the Japan Art Academy Exhibition "Teiten". Furthermore, the prize-winning work had the honor to be bought by the Imperial House. In spite of the brilliant debut, Hoshun didn't rest on his laurels. He broke away with the traditional Japanese painting school to explore new styles of painting.

After many years of sustained effort, he found a clue to produce his new style under the influence of Western art. "Nanto Hakubo" (Twilight in the South Island)(Fig.2) is considered as a good example.

Hoshun moved on, and at last succeeded to establish his original style "Hoshun Modernism", inspired by the works of French artists, such as Braque or Matisse.

"Sanko" (Mountains and Lake)(Fig.3) and "Bokyo" (Longing for Home)(Fig.4) are recognized as key works of "Hoshun Modernism".

He continued to pursue the suitable way to express the spirit of the times, and created numerous great works for life. "Maple Tree" painted on a cedar door in the Tokyo Imperial Palace is the masterpiece of his later years.

Hoshun received the Order of Cultural merit 1965, and passed away in 1971.

Fig. 1 Kaede (Maple Tree)(1967)
Imperial Household Agency



Fig.2 Nanto Hakubo (Twilight in the South Island)(1940)
Hoshun Yamaguchi Memorial Hall



Fig.3 Sanko (Mountains and Lake)(1947)
Matsuoka Museum of Art



Fig.4 Bokyo (Longing for Home)(1953)

