

Darkness • Blue • Dot - A

H91×137.9×8cm / oil on canvas / 2021

Masahiko TSUBOTA Solo Exhibition

Period & Time : June 8th to 19th, 2021 *closed on June 13th / 13:00~19:00 *till 18:00 on the last day

Venue : H-art Beat Gallery | 2-38-10 Tako Bldg. 2F Kanda-Jimbocho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051 Japan

H-art Beat Gallery is pleased to announce Masahiko TSUBOTA Solo Exhibition will be held from June 8 to 19.

Masahiko TSUBOTA was born in 1947, in Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture. He studied at Osaka University of Arts and graduated from the Fine Arts Department in 1970. He later returned to his university to teach mainly printmaking, and while doing so, he continued to create his works including paintings, drawings, and prints, until he retired in the spring of 2018.

He made his solo debut in 1971 after graduating from university and had been active in the Osaka metropolitan area. Until the 1980s, his works were mainly pieces using paper support, such as drawings and prints. In 1976, he was chosen to participate in “Art Now ‘76” held at the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, so he had been highly acclaimed since he was in his 20s. From 1980 on, he started to take the “subtractive” approach, which expresses deletion and absence as formative art. He created prints and paintings by using techniques such as wiping off ink that were once applied and punching small holes on paper in an orderly manner.

Tsubota’s works, at first glance, do not reflect strong assertion, and the artist does not seek peculiarity. Most of his works are combinations of lines, colors, and dots, which are minimum elements of paintings. The period “young Tsubota” lived was when Japan was in its postwar years of spectacular economic growth. Also, in the world of art, movements based on various concepts were evident both in Japan and overseas. Therefore, anyone could have been influenced by such movements, but in the case of Tsubota, that was not true, as his works show that they were created in a sound speed that he naturally possesses.

In 2018, he completed his role in teaching young students and obtained a new atelier in Osaka where he continues to create works in an unchanging manner. His attitude towards creating new works is as though he keeps “a quietly burning flame” within himself. Also, his presence remains imperturbable, like flowing clouds, but at his solo exhibition held in Osaka in the summer of 2019, I was enthralled to see “freshness” and “sharpness” that were enhanced in his new works. It was as if Tsubota had returned to the “springtime of his life” after the age of 70. As expressed in the famous poem, “Youth,” written in his seventies by Samuel Ullman, an American poet; all living beings, including humans, face physical deterioration, but can stay young at heart. And Tsubota’s works showed me that his spirit is rejuvenating and not declining.

In the conversations with Tsubota, it is easily imaginable that his approach in creating works and his involvement with society have not changed. However, he is an artist who I wish to pay even more attention to the new works he will continue to create.

CV :

- 1947 Born in Hyogo
- 1970 Graduated from the faculty of art, OSAKA University of Arts
- 1976 The 5th British International Print Biennial (Bradford / England)
- 1977 The 12th International Biennial of Graphic Art (Ljubljana / Yugoslavia)
- 1993 Jiro SUGAWARA & Masahiko TSUBOTA Joint Exhibition (Gallery Vromans Amsterdam / Netherlands)
- 1994 The International Print Triennial'94 Kraków / Poland
- 1999 The Axis of 21 Printers in Kansai (The National Museum of Art Osaka / Osaka)
- 2004 Current of the Contemporary Print (Machida City Museum of Graphic Art / Machida, Tokyo)
- 2005 Seoul International Print, Photo Edition Works Art Fair (Korea)
- 2008 Poetic Sentiment in point and respect - Uemae • Yamanaka • Tsubota (The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama)
- 2010 Masahiko TSUBOTA • Koichi UCHIDA • Masayuki TSUBOTA Joint Exhibition (Nakano Residence Museum / Niigata)
- 2017 Contemporary Japanese Print Exhibition (USA)
- 2018 Solo Exhibition (H-art Beat Gallery / Tokyo), NON STOP GENERATION (Spain), many solo exhibitions & group exhibitions

Collections :

National Museum of Art, Osaka, Boston Fine arts Museum, Cincinnati Art Museum (USA)

Kraków Museum of Fine Art (Poland), Erasmus Craftier Collectie Erasmus University of Rotterdam (Netherlands)

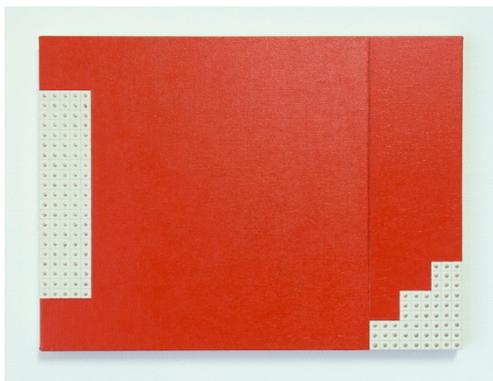
Cremona Civic Museum (Italy), Harvard Art Museum (USA), National Taiwan University of Arts (Taiwan)

Osaka Prefecture Contemporary Art Center (Osaka), Waseda University Library (Tokyo), Niigata City Library (Japan)

The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama (Japan), Machida City Museum of Graphic Art (Tokyo)

Hilton Nagoya (Japan), and many others

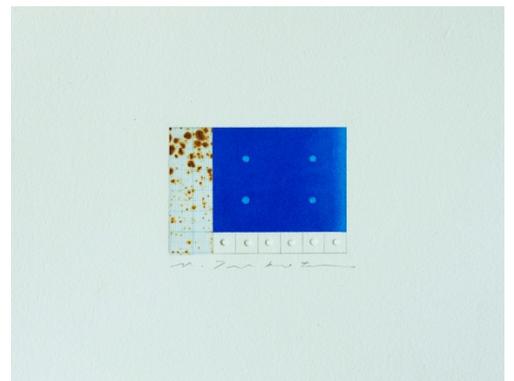
Exhibiting Artworks :



Colour • Dot • Colour - F / H31.8×41cm /
oil on canvas / 2020



Relationship - Stroking • Dot - V
/ H45.5×38cm / oil on canvas /
2021



Blue • Dot - G / H20×24cm / drawing / 2021

H-art Beat Gallery

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