



ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS  
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17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

AUDIO/VISUAL PROGRAM

Set No. 178,179

5 Japanese-Brazilian Painters

The Japanese population of Brazil, largely concentrated in the state of Sao Paulo, is second only to that of Japan itself. As in the case of immigrants of other nationalities, the Japanese have found in Brazil a milieu favorable to their cultural development. The warmth, generosity, and open-mindedness of the Brazilians have facilitated the introduction of foreign concepts and tastes, while at the same time the strength of their own long-established deeply-rooted cultural tradition has produced modifications in the extraneous elements, resulting in distinctly novel manifestations of creative talent. Thus a nation whose culture already represents a fusion of European, American, and African factors is now in the process of enriching itself through the assimilation of asiatic refinements.

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This group of Japanese-Brazilian artists came into being some thirty years ago. Known as SEIBI, from the Japanese abbreviation for Sao Paulo Plastic Arts Club, it held its first exhibition in 1938. Activities were interrupted during World War II and were not resumed until 1947. SEIBI does not represent any particular school, it brings together practitioners of both figurative and abstract trends.

If the work of Brazilian artists has acquired a certain Japanese sensitivity, the work of the Japanese has taken on characteristics of the Brazilian culture, which serve to enhance and strengthen it. This hybridation has enriched the quality of both and might even be said to have become a trend itself.





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A & B Manabu Mabe born in Kumamoto, Japan in 1924, immigrated to Brazil in 1934 where his artistic career has been rapid and brilliant and he is today considered one of the outstanding artists of Latin America. He has won, among many other prizes, the First Prize in V Sao Paulo Biennial, the First Prize in the Biennial of Venice, the First Prize in the First Inter-American Biennial of Art in Cordoba, Argentina and the First Prize in the First Biennial of Young Artists in Paris. He has exhibited throughout Latin America, Europe and the United States where he is also included in several museum collections. Mabe held a one-man show at the Pan American Union in 1962. He is a Brazilian citizen.

C & D Tomie Ohtake was born in Kyoto, Japan in 1913; she immigrated to Brazil thirty years ago. Since the beginning of her career in 1952 she has held four solo exhibits - two at the Museum of Modern Art in Sao Paulo (1957, 1961). She has participated in group exhibits in Argentina, Nicaragua, Colombia, Japan, England, Austria, and the U.S. and was represented in the last four Sao Paulo Biennials. Miss Ohtake's expression is direct. Using wide zones of almost pure color she creates overwhelmingly strong forms and there is a delightful sense of texture which enhances the brilliance of her palette.

E & F The most outstanding sculptor in the Sao Paulo Plastic Arts Club, or SEIBI, is Masumi Tsuchimoto. His work, like that of his Nipo-Brazilian colleagues, reflects his native culture, especially evident in his conception of form and technique - it is most closely related to ancient Japanese art. Tsuchimoto is also highly skilled craftsman who devotes much of his time to ceramics. He was born in Gifu-Kem, Japan in 1934 and studied there for three years in the school of Fine Arts. Later he went to Kyoto where he studied for six years with the sculptor Uno Sana. Before moving to Brazil in 1959, where he became a naturalized citizen, he participated in several group shows in Japan and held a one-man exhibition in Tokyo. Tsuchimoto has exhibited extensively in Brazil, including participation in three Sao Paulo Biennials.



Set No. 178

5 Japanese-Brazilian Painters

G & H Born in Yamagata, Japan in 1931, Toyota studied art at the University of Tokyo and later was professor of industrial design at the Institute of Small Industries in Shizuoka (1955-1957). He has lived in Brazil since 1959 and has represented the country in more than ten international exhibitions during the past decade. He has received a number of important awards, among them second prize in the Esso Salon for Young Artists, the grand prize at the II Biennial of Bahia and the Bank of Boston prize awarded at the Sao Paulo Biennial in 1969. His work is included in museum collections in Brazil, Italy, Colombia, Yugoslavia, Denmark, and Australia. Toyota is an example of an artist whose work has evolved gradually and conservatively from painting to experimentation with "objects" and the proposal of progressive ideas concerned with the reflection and multiplication of images.

I & J Born in Fukushima, Japan, in 1920 the artist moved to Brazil in 1940 and became a citizen of that country several years later. He studied painting in Rio de Janeiro from 1946 to 1949 with the Japanese artist Tadashi Kamina-gai. Fukushima has had eight one-man shows in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo and has participated in important group shows in Brazil, Japan, Venezuela, and the U.S. In 1965 he was represented in the OAS exhibition of Japanese Artists of Brazil and later that same year participated in a group show at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. He has been awarded numerous prizes, including the gold medal at the Salon of Modern Art in Sao Paulo (1959), first prize at the Salon of Minas Gerais (1961), and acquisition prize at the VIII Sao Paulo Biennial (1965). The artist is represented in the collections of the Museums of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Curitiba, and the Museum of Contemporary Art of the University of Sao Paulo.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERTO SICRE



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AUDIO/VISUAL PROGRAM

Set No. 178, 179

5 Japanese-Brazilian Painters

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AUDIO/VISUAL PROGRAM

SET # 179  
Brazil

5 JAPANESE-BRAZILIAN PAINTERS

179A WAKABAYASHI, was born in Kobe, Japan in 1931. He is of the first generation of Japanese-Brasilian painters. Wakabayashi studied at the Nikki School of Fine Arts from 1947-1950. He has participated in numerous group shows in Japan and Brazil and in 1965 exhibited in a group show of Brazilian art at New York City's Rockefeller Center. He has presented five one-man exhibits in Tokyo, Kobe, and Sao Paulo. In 1967 Wakabayashi was awarded an acquisition prize at the IX Sao Paulo Biennial. Currently his work is included in an extensive exhibition of Brazilian art which is being circulated throughout Latin America.

Wakabayashi's paintings are highly refined, with strong depths of color, unexpected variations in texture, and mysterious, cryptic forms. The oriental spirit is reflected in the harmonious structural strength of his work, which is directly related to Japanese calligraphy.

179B This painting by Wakabayashi is titled "Black & Blue" and is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art of Latin America, Washington, D.C..

179C TARO KANEKO, is the first Brazilian born painter of Japanese descent, an important step has been taken toward the establishment of a Nippo-Brazilian tradition in Latin American art. Kaneko first saw the light of day in Galia, in the state of Sao Paulo, in 1953. While still very young, he began the study of painting with the master Manabu Mabe (see set 178A). Later he enrolled at Sao Paulo University School of Architecture and City Planning from which he was graduated in 1978, having taken as his special field research into the application of color in cities.



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SET #179 (Continued)

5 JAPANESE-BRAZILIAN PAINTERS

- 179D TARO KANEKO - Landscape - Kaneko is able to blend shades of the same hue to achieve harmonies that create tranquility throughout the entire painting.
- 179E TAKASHI FUKUSHIMA, son of Takashi Fukushima (see Set 178), was also born in Brazil and an architect like Kaneko. He prefers the landscape as his subject matter. He has had several exhibits in Brazil as well as in Canada and New York.
- 179F TAKASHI FUKUSHIMA - Landscape - Fukushima uses strong painterly brush strokes to create an impression of dynamism in his landscapes. He applies also thick paint to the surfaces of his canvas.
- 179G YUGO MABE - is the son of the well known painter Manabu Mabe. However, Yugo Mabe prefers the figurative to the abstract.
- 179H YUGO MABE - Portrait - strong expressionistic style of creating the portrait. This type of painting is becoming very typical of the Japanese-Brazilian artists that are emerging today.
- 179I KEN MABE is also the son of Manabu Mabe. He too is an architect as well as a very talented painter. He prefers portraits and the figure for his subject matter.
- 179J KEN MABE - Portrait - His style shows a very powerful image of the figure through flat shapes and vacant backgrounds. The composition is stylized by using the least possible elements of painting.

Text: Dale Williams

Photographs: Roberto Sicre