

40 Years Memorial

Kyuzaburo Ito—Fantasy and Poetry; A Retrospective



Silk Tree, 1939,

Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art

Ito Kyusaburo (1906-1977) was born in Kyoto, and after moving to Tokyo, he embraced Surrealism, a contemporary movement that tended toward the avant-garde, and exhibited works at the Nikaten exhibition. After the war, he returned to Kyoto where, as a member of the Kōdō Bijutsu Kyōkai (Action Art Association), he constantly and fearlessly experimented with new styles of painting. As we review the whole of his oeuvre, we find compositions of a rich sensitivity brimming with lyricism and rhythm.

Yokosuka Museum of Art has the collection which covers his entire career and comprises many important and fascinating works including early still lifes, paintings from the artist's surrealist period, postwar abstract paintings, drawings, and sketchbooks. Presenting nearly 150 works, the exhibition traces the sources of the artist's creativity in these early drawings, but we also introduce carefully selected oils and other materials from the museum's collection. The first Ito retrospective in 22 years, this exhibition validates the unique imprint that Ito left on the history of Japanese modern art.



Ocarina,
1930, private



Pendulum, 1937,
Itabashi Art Museum



Cat Electricity A, 1951,
Okawa Museum of Art