

ITO Shinsui

“Yuge” (Steam)

1924 (Taisho 13)
 Kenpon-Chakushoku
 (Color on silk)
 103.0 x 93.5 cm
 Meito Art Museum
 (Nagakute-city)



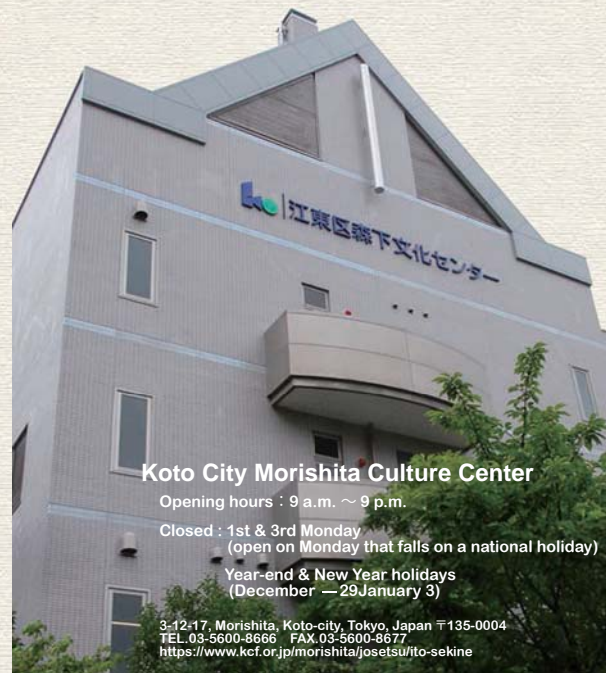
This painting was exhibited at the 9th Kyodokai Exhibition. Along with “Yubi” (Fingers), created two years earlier, it is one of his most famous works from the Taisho period. Its vague atmosphere shows the influence of the Moro-tai movement, which was characteristic of many works shown at the INTEN Exhibitions at that time.

SEKINE Shoji

“Shinko no Kanashimi” (Sorrow of Faith)

1918 (Taisho 7)
 Oil on canvas
 73 x 100 cm
 Ohara Museum of Art (Kurashiki-city)

This is one of Sekine Shoji’s most famous works, which was shown at the 5th Nika Exhibition and was awarded the Chogyu Prize. In the women’s clothing, the painter used the vermilion color that he had a taste for and creates a dream-like atmosphere.



Koto City Morishita Culture Center

Opening hours : 9 a.m. ~ 9 p.m.

Closed : 1st & 3rd Monday
 (open on Monday that falls on a national holiday)

Year-end & New Year holidays
 (December — 29 January 3)

3-12-17, Morishita, Koto-city, Tokyo, Japan 〒135-0004
 TEL.03-5600-8666 FAX.03-5600-8677
<https://www.kcf.or.jp/morishita/josetsu/ito-sekine>

Transportation Access

- Shinjuku Line / Oedo Line : [Morishita Sta.] Exit A6 🚶 8 min.
 Oedo Line / Hanzomon Line : [Kiyosumi-Shirakawa Sta.] Exit A2 🚶 8 min.
- (門33) Metropolitan Bus [Kameido Station]⇄[Toyomi Suisan Futou] [Takabashi] 🚶 3 min.
- [業10] Metropolitan Bus [Tokyo Sky Tree Station]⇄[Shimbashi Station] [Morishita-go-chome] 🚶 3 min.
- [東20] Metropolitan Bus [Kinshi-cho Station-mae]⇄[Tokyo Station North Exit] [Morishita-go-chome] 🚶 3 min.



Ito Shinsui
 1898-1972

深

伊東深水と関根正二

A master of the portrayal of beautiful women and a gifted painter of the Taisho period, both who grew up in the Fukagawa area

ITO Shinsui & SEKINE Shoji

関根



Sekine Shoji
 1899-1919

Joint Exhibition Area

Koto City Morishita Culture Center

One of the two painters exhibited here is ITO Shinsui. He drew *bijinga*, Japanese-style single copy brush paintings of beautiful women, originating from *ukiyo-e* style drawings of the Edo period (1603-1868), and he played a leading role as a Japanese-style painter during the Taisho (1912-1926) and Showa (1926-1989) periods.

The other painter, SEKINE Shoji, burst upon the scene in the Taisho period and was called a genius painter of that period, attracting attention before dying at the early age of 20.

Both were acquainted with each other in their childhoods, and grew up in the Fukagawa area of Tokyo and were bound by a close friendship.

Koto-ku Morishita Culture Center introduces these two artists through panels showing their contrasting lives and styles of works; that is to say, "Japanese-style vs Western-style", "tradition vs innovation", "chic vs passion", and "maturity vs premature death".



伊東深水

ITO Shinsui

● **Meiji 31 (1898)**
He is born on February 4th at the place now known as 1-chome Morishita, Koto-ku, Tokyo.

● **Meiji 37 (1904) age 6**
He enters Fukagawa Jinjo Elementary School (now Fukagawa Elementary School).

● **Meiji 44 (1911) age 13**
He studies under Kaburaki Kiyotaka, a Japanese-style painter, and is given the pseudonym "Shinsui" by his master.

● **Taisho 3 (1914) age 16**
He wins his first prize at the Saikou Nihon Bijutsu Inten Exhibition (Inten Exhibition).

July Meiji 43 (1910)

12-year-old Shinsui & 11-year-old Shoji meet each other whilst swimming in the Onagi-gawa River in Tokyo.

● **Taisho 5 (1916) age 18**
He draws a trial painting "Taikagami" (Looking in the Glass). He is affected by the movement named Shin hanga (literally "new woodblock prints") and takes part in it as an artist, drawing a series of Hanshita-e (original drawings for woodblock prints). He moves to the house where Takehisa Yumeji, a famous Japanese poet and painter, had lived, in what is now Ebisu, Shibuya Tokyo. *Sekine Shoji often visits him there.*

● **Showa 2 (1927) age 29**
He wins a special prize at the 8th Teiten Exhibition, now the Nitten Exhibition. Following this he can show his works at subsequent Teiten Exhibitions without having to present them to the exhibition judges.



The Onagi-gawa River where the two boys swam

The times when the two artists met together during their 9 years (1910 — 1919) in Tokyo

関根正一

SEKINE Shoji

● **Meiji 32 (1899)**
He is born on April 3rd at Karame, Shirakawa City, Fukushima Prefecture.

● **Meiji 41 (1908) age 9**
After moving to the current Sumiyoshi Koto-ku, Tokyo. He enters Tosen Jinjo Elementary School (now Tosen Elementary School).

● **Taisho 3 (1914) age 15**
He meets Ito Shinsui again, after losing touch for a while.

● **Taisho 4 (1915) age 16**
He sets out on a wandering journey and explores the central part of Japan. He becomes acquainted with Kono Michisei, a painter, in Nagano City. During the journey he comes to know Dürer and Michelangelo through his art books. One of his oil paintings "Shi O Omou Hi" (The Day He Thinks About Death), which he creates during his journey, brings him his first prize in the 2nd Nika Exhibition.

● **Taisho 5 (1916) age 17**
His work wins a prize in the 3rd Nika Exhibition. Around November he becomes acquainted with the painter Uenoyama Kiyotsugu who lives in the neighborhood of *Ito Shinsui's house in Shibuya.*

● **Taisho 6 (1917) age 18**
In July he meets Shiraki Shizu, a novelist and wife of Uenoyama Kiyotsugu, and talks about his travels two years before. This motivates her to write the novel "Tenki" (Turning Point). In September his work wins a prize in the 4th Nika Exhibition. In December he visits a friend of his, Muraoka Kokuei, a tanka poet, in Yamagata Prefecture.

● **Taisho 7 (1918) age 19**
In May he draws illustrations for a literary journal "Bunsho Sekai". He performs the role of one of the farmers in a play, "Jizokyo Yurai", written by Kume Masao, a popular Japanese playwright, novelist and haiku poet, at the Yuraku-za theater. He paints the background scenery for Ikuta Choukou's play "Enko" (Halo). At this time his idiosyncratic behavior is often seen. In September his works "Shinko no Kanashimi" (Sadness of Faith), "Sitei" (Elder Sister and her Brother), "Self-Portrait" win prizes. Moreover, he is awarded the Chogyu Prize which is given to promising painters. In December he catches Spanish Influenza, which leads to pneumonia.

● **Showa 11 (1936) age 38**
He displays his works at the 1st Fine Art Exhibition (Shin-bunten) held by the Ministry of Education. He is appointed as one of the judges of the Teiten Exhibition.

● **Showa 23 (1948) age 50**
He wins the 4th Japan Art Academy Award with his painting "Kagami" (Mirror), shown at the Nitten Exhibition in the previous year.

● **Showa 33 (1958) age 60**
He holds a Joint Exhibition "Ito Shinsui & Nakamura Takuji" at the Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama. This year he becomes a member of the Japan Art Academy, and a member of the board of directors of Nitten Foundation.

● **Showa 47 (1972) age 74**
His master Kaburaki Kiyotaka passes away on March 2nd at the age of 93. Ito Shinsui passes away at Keio Hospital on May 8th from cancer of the bladder.

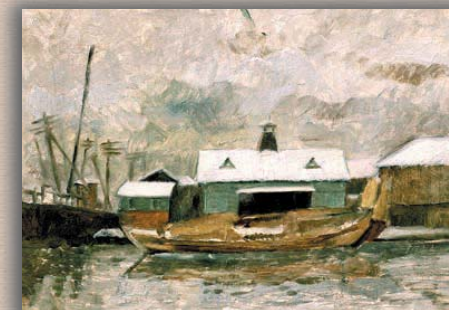


ITO Shinsui

"The Fukagawa Elementary School (14, Takabashi)"

Publication: Cover painting of the memorial publication celebrating the 80th anniversary of the founding of Fukagawa Elementary School

● **Taisho 8 (1919) age 20**
In January his condition worsens and he is laid up for a long time. In June at the age of only twenty years and two months his short life ends at his house in Azumacho, Fukagawa.



SEKINE Shoji

"Around the Kikukawa-bashi Bridge"

Taisho 4 (1915)

Oil on board

Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art, deposit