



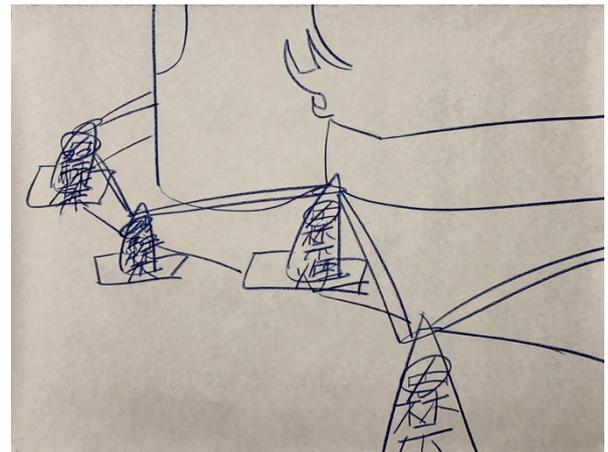
BRAILLE CODE - 枕草子(第一段) Makura no Soshi (Dai Ichi Dan)(The Pillow Book, Section 1), 2020 ©Gen Miyamura



C.H4, 2019 ©Ayako Someya

## The World of Contemporary Calligraphic Art 2 -“Symbols and the Times”

**Ayako Someya**  
**Mayuka Kobayashi**  
**Haru Yamaguchi**  
**Kimihiko Hino**  
**Gen Miyamura**  
**Doukan Yano**  
**Hisashi Yamamoto**



Cones - No Parking - No Smoking - in the morning, 2019 ©Kimihiko Hino, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

**Saturday, February 8, - Saturday, March 7, 2020**  
**Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku**  
**Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg. #206, 4-32-6 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023**  
**Gallery Hours: 12:00 - 19:00**  
**\*Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, February 8, 18:00-20:00**

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is delighted to present *the World of Contemporary Calligraphic Art 2 – “Symbols and the Times”*, a group show by Ayako Someya, Mayuka Kobayashi, Haru Yamaguchi, Kimihiko Hino, Gen Miyamura, Doukan Yano, and Hisashi Yamamoto from February 8, 2020.

Three years have passed already since the 2017 group exhibition “The World of Contemporary Calligraphic Art,” and during that time there has been steady but growing interest in us calligraphers, with over a dozen successfully making the leap to commercial galleries in Japan.

Amid this, the question arising time and time again is, exactly why do we contemporary calligraphic artists write text?

The history of modern Western art includes a number of artists who have incorporated written text in their creations. One example would be Jean Michel Basquiat, whose work was presented in Japan last year in a major retrospective. Those clusters of text penned in 1980s New York, amid persistent discrimination against African-Americans, represented a roar of defiance on the artist’s part.



Such use of text to express soul-stirring emotions that demand release has of course been going on for centuries in the world of calligraphy as well. In his Draft of a Requiem to My Nephew, eighth-century Chinese calligrapher Yan Zhenqing, for example, expressed in the unrestrained style of his brushwork deep sorrow at the loss of a close family member in the An Lushan rebellion.

Silent suffering voices confronting discrimination and the chaos of war: both had reasons to write text, reasons that flowed, untrammelled, through their arms and hands to find expression.

Reflecting on those of us in the present, one wonders if we really have serious reasons comparable to these. Yet each of the contemporary calligraphers here is dealing with something in their life; each has come to represent their individual challenges in characters this way, this being what we think of as "calligraphy."

Gen Miyamura for example takes Braille as his subject matter, focusing on the beauty that dwells within these letterforms and the building of Braille culture, while Ayako Someya visualizes the elemental symbols of all things in creation, and likening their structures to text, throws them into relief in the bleeding peculiar to calligraphy. Mayuka Kobayashi employs thick, luxurious brush strokes to reconstruct Zen thought as art, as if to translate it into modern language, while Kimihiko Hino has used a lighter touch to present a humorous side of the world witnessed from the narrow confines of his daily commute. Doukan Yano mocks the chronic imbalance of hierarchical relationships in the world through misshapen characters, and characters of different sizes, while Haru Yamaguchi thinks of drops of ink as the puniness of humans unable to defy gravity. I, Hisashi Yamamoto, continue my attempts to reinterpret the relationship between objects and text since Saussure linguistics by "writing the names of things on things."

Thus our individual "symbols and now" are definitely here, albeit modestly, unmistakably living and breathing as shodo, the art of calligraphy unique to Japan.

Hisashi Yamamoto

(*The World of Contemporary Calligraphic Art 2 "Symbols and the Times"* participating artist and curator of the exhibition)

## ■Artists' Profile

### **SOMEYA, Ayako**

1981 Born in Tokyo, Japan

#### **Major exhibitions**

- 2019 *FIND YOUR ART FOR CHRISTMAS 2019*, MARUEIDO JAPAN, Tokyo  
*ART SHODO NEXT17*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
*ART SHODO FESTA*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
*ART SHODO AWARD*, O Art Museum, Tokyo, awarded  
*ARTSHODO*, Gallery NAO MASAKI, Aichi
- 2018 *ART SHODO NOW*, Gallery NOW, Toyama  
*ART SHODO TOKYO AUTUMN 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
*ART SHODO TOKYO SPRING 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
a work used for an official advertisement (poster) of the exhibition
- 2015 *ZERO ART Japanese Contemporary Art Exhibition* hpgrp GALLERY NEW YORK, New York/USA
- 2014 *ZERO ART Japanese Artist Group Exhibition*, hpgrp GALLERY NEW YORK, New York/USA
- 2013 *the wall*, solo show, GARDEN Tokyo, Tokyo
- 2012 *Group show*, hpgrp GALLERY NEW YORK, New York/USA

### **KOBAYASHI, Mayuka**

1975 Born in Ehime, Japan

#### **Major exhibitions**

- 2019 Group Exhibition *the 9th HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
*OSAKA SHODO SHOW*, ORGANIC SPACE, Osaka  
*ART SHODO FESTA*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo
- 2018 *Nichi Taiwan Shoho Koryu Ten 2018 (Japan-Taiwan Calligraphy Exchange Show)*, Matsumiya Shohokan Gallery, Shiga  
*ART SHODO TOKYO AUTUMN 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
*ART SHODO TOKYO SPRING 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo
- 2014 *Looking for the little bird -Yoko-*, Gallery Kitanozaka, Hyogo
- 2008-present Noriko Kaya Seminar Exhibition BEER, Nara Bunka Kaikan (Nara Prefecture Cultural Hall), Nara/ Irorimura, Osaka
- 2005 *Hibi no Kakeru (fragments of days)*, Gallery Dondobi, Ehime,
- 1997 *Rashin (naked heart)*, two persons show, Hidetsugu Obata, Mayuka Kobayashi, Gallery Hakucho, Osaka



## **YAMAGUCHI, Haru**

- 1996 At university, studied under Koho Nishihashi, joined Shodan, the calligraphy society  
2015 Leaves Shodan as Koho Nishihashi passed away

### **Major exhibitions**

- 2019 ART SHODO FESTA, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
OSAKA SHODO SHOW, ORGANIC SPACE, Osaka  
2018 ART SHODO TOKYO AUTUMN 2018, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
OSAKA SHODO SHOW, ORGANIC SPACE, Osaka  
ART SHODO TOKYO SPRING 2018, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo

## **HINO, Kimihiko**

- 1975 Born in Hokkaido, Japan

### **Major exhibitions**

- 2019 Two Persons Exhibition, *Kimihiko Hino & Hisashi Yamamoto, New Friends*, Gallery G, Hiroshima  
2019 ART SHODO FESTA 2019, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
2018 Solo Exhibition, *Ru*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
Solo Exhibition, *Feel It (Don't Fight It)*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
ART SHODO TOKYO AUTUMN 2018, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
Two Persons Exhibition, *Ayako Someya & Kimihiko Hino works*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
ART SHODO TOKYO SPRING 2018, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
2017 Solo Exhibition, *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
*Ten Ten 2017 in 3331 Art CYD*, Art CYD · 3331, Tokyo  
*The 8th HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
*Future of Calligraphy*, ITOCHU AOYAMA ART SQUARE, Tokyo  
2016 *Ten Ten 2016 in Yokohama Akarenga Soko, -Sen- 55 no sutairu (-Line- 55 styles)*, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, Kanagawa  
2015 *Ten Ten 2015 in Kamakura – Moji no Muko e (Beyond the letters)*, Kamakura Performing Arts Center, Kanagawa  
2015 *The 7th HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
2013 *The 6th HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
2013 *-Sho is it ! 2013 in Yokohama Akarenga Soko*, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, Kanagawa  
2012 *Yokohama Akarenga Soko 40 -The Sho Ashita wo Kaku (Writing tomorrow)*, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, Kanagawa  
2011 *The 5th HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
2011 *Calligraphy Crossroads Exhibition 2011*, Gallery Yasashii Yokan, Tokyo  
2009 *Mojiku 2009*, Tokyo Metropolitan Theater, Tokyo  
2009 *The 4th HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
2007 *Mojiku 2007*, Tokyo Metropolitan Theater, Tokyo  
2006 *The 3rd HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
2005 *The 2nd HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo  
2004 *The 1st HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*, Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo  
1997 Solo Exhibition, *Irusu de Junin Fuzai (Pretending to be out as no one at home)*, Livlan Museum of Art, Mecene, Tokyo  
1996 Solo Exhibition, *Memo*, Livlan Museum of Art, Mecene, Tokyo

## **MIYAMURA, Gen**

- 1980 Born in Shizuoka, Japan

### **Major exhibitions**

- 2018 *The 71st exhibition, 'Gen Miyamura – Morse Code- Atarashii Kotoba no Katachi (A form of a new word)*, Shimada City Museum, Shizuoka  
2017 TOKYO "SHO"2017:Japanese Calligraphy Today, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo  
*Sho no Mirai ten (An exhibition of the future of Japanese Calligraphy)*, Itochu Aoyama Art Square  
*Gendai Art shodo no sekai (The World of Contemporary Calligraphic Art)*, Takashimaya Shinjuku, Tokyo  
2014 Solo Exhibition, *'Gen Miyamura →'14'*, ema Gallery, Shizuoka  
2013 *'Sho no Yocho, -Bokusho no Genjidaï' (Signification of Calligraphy, -Writing in sumi ink in a present era-)*, Group Show of Contemporary Artists 2013, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, Tokyo  
2012 *Ato ni Miru Mimu –Sho, Hanga, Nihonga ni miru Dento, Gijutsu, Gendaisei no Tankyu (Memos seen in the Art (field), Search for Traditions, Techniques, Artistic Quality Calligraphy, Printmaking and Japanese painting)*, Shibuya Hikarie, Tokyo  
2012 Solo Exhibition, *'IMAGE LANGUE: linear code'*, ICN Gallery, London, UK  
2011 *Fanatic Monochrome*, Osaka Seikei University, space B, Kyoto  
2011 *The first anniversary exhibition, +81 Gallery + Lab, Tokyo*  
*Yokohama Akarenga Soko 20 –Jigen wo Koete-(Exceeding the dimension)*, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, Kanagawa  
2010 *The 7th Shoku to Art no kai (Eating and Art gatherings)*, +art club, Restaurant I, Tokyo  
Solo Exhibition, *'Gen Miyamura, Image langue –Mikaimoji no Kowaku'(Gen Miyamura, Image langue, -fascination of un-decoded words)*, the Center for Creative Communication, Shizuoka, Shizuoka  
*Two Persons Exhibition, Shun Kawakami + Gen Miyamura, +81 Gallery + Lab, Tokyo*  
Solo Exhibition, *'GEN MIYAMURA NEW WORKS 2010'*, SferaExhibition Kyoto & SferaShop, Tokyo

**YANO, Doukan**

1968 Born in Akita, Japan

2010 Apprenticed to a calligrapher, Souun Takeda, affiliated to Futaba Syodoukai (school of calligraphy)

**Major Exhibitions**

- 2019 ART SHODO FESTA, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
ART SHODO AWARD, O Museum, Tokyo
- 2018 ART SHODO NOW, Gallery NOW, Toyama  
ART SHOTO TOKYO AUTUMN 2018, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo
- 2017 Solo Exhibition, *Doukan's Bar*, Akebonobashi NONFINITO, Tokyo
- 2016 Group Exhibition, *CHAOS*, Yokohama, Kanagawa
- 2015 Group Exhibition, *CHAOS*, Ginza, Tokyo

**YAMAMOTO, Hisashi**

1969 Born in Hiroshima, Japan

**Major Exhibitions**

- 2018 Solo Exhibition *Window*, PLACE by method, Tokyo  
Group Exhibition *ART SHODO TOKYO AUTUMN 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo  
Solo Exhibition *Triple Tower*, TMMT, Tokyo  
Group Exhibition *ART SHODO TOKYO SPRING 2018*, Mitaka City Arts Center, Tokyo
- 2017 Solo Exhibition *Door, Light, Sound, Glass, and Water*, gallery feel art zero, Nagoya  
Solo Exhibition *Badge, Towel, and Cardboard*, B GALLERY, Tokyo  
Solo Exhibition *Speech balloon*, GALLERY NOW, Toyama  
Group Exhibition *The World of Contemporary Calligraphic Art*, Takashimaya Shinjuku Art Gallery, Tokyo  
Group Exhibition *Future of Calligraphy*, ITOCHU AOYAMA ART SQUARE, Tokyo  
Exhibition of Two Artists *poison and small huts*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
- 2016 Solo Exhibition *flying saucer*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
- 2015 Solo Exhibition *Machine*, La Galerie Métanoïa, Paris, UNAC SALON, Tokyo
- 2014 Solo Exhibition *Tower*, Shimokita Art Space, Tokyo, Art Forum JARFO, Kyoto
- 2013 Group Exhibition *Japan/China Modern Elite Calligraphers Exhibition, Sho to Hisho no Kiwa (Edge of Calligraphy and Non Calligraphy)*, The Museum of Kyoto
- 2011 - Participating in a calligraphers' blog, '*Daily Shodo*'
- 2010 Group Exhibition *Art of Power Born of Pleasure*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art
- 2009 - Group Exhibition *Mojiku*, Tokyo Metropolitan Theater, etc.
- 2008 Group Exhibition *SEOUL CALLIGRAPHY BIENNALE*, Seoul, Korea
- 2006 Group Exhibition *World Calligraphy Festival*, Seoul, Korea
- 2004 - Group Exhibition *HOMAGE to YU-ICHI by the TEN-SAKU-KAI*
- 1991 Engaged in reorganizing Yuichi Inoue's works for his catalogue raisonné at UNAC TOKYO

**■Related Exhibitions****Contemporary Art SHODO**

Thursday, February 27 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Venue: Fukuya Hatchobori Main Store, Art Gallery (7F)

6-26, Ebisucho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima 730-8548

TEL:082-246-6111

<http://www.fukuya-dept.co.jp.e.vf.hp.transer.com/honten/garo/>**What's SHODO?**

Tuesday, March 10 - Thursday, March 26, 2020

Venue: MARUEIDO JAPAN / Gallery

Ark Hills Front Tower 1F, 2-23-1, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-0052

TEL: 03-5797-7040

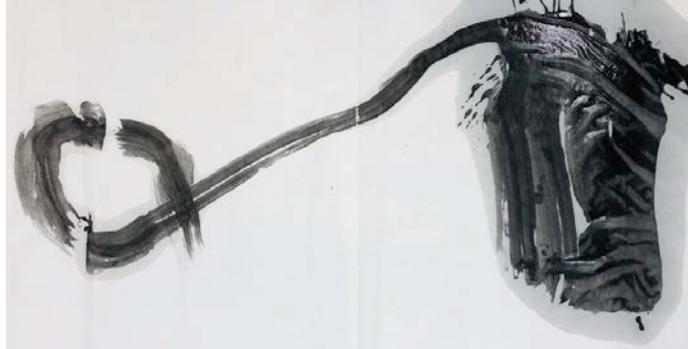
<http://www.marueidojapan.com/en/>



Gender~quota system~, 2020 ©Haru Yamaguchi, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates



プリンすくい *Purin sukui*, (pudding scooping), 2019 ©Hisashi Yamamoto, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates



ta-RU, 2019 ©Mayuka Kobayashi, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates



強大な5つの上とその他の上と下, *Kyodai na Itsutsu no Ue to Sonota no Ue to Shita*, (powerful five of tops and other tops and bottoms), 2020 ©Doukan Yano

■For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

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Gallery Hours: 12:00-19:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays and national holidays)