



# Masakazu Horiuti

Art as action—The abstract according to Masakazu Horiuti



"Plane N-A" 1963, iron, 5x77.5x33cm ©Masakazu Horiuti, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates.

**Friday, May 12 - Thursday, June 8, 2023**

**Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates**

ROPPONGI HILLS Hollywood Beauty Plaza 3rd Floor, 6-4-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032, Japan  
Gallery Hours: 12:00 - 19:00 (Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays)

---

Yumiko Chiba Associates is delighted to present a new exhibition devoted to the work of Masakazu Horiuti (1911–2001), a significant artist who helped to establish the concept of abstract sculpture in Japan, and whose long career serves as a link between modern and contemporary sculptural history.

Debuting as a sculptor in the 1920s, after the war Horiuti took his cue from concrete art's view of art as a tool directly shaping the spirit, and devoted himself entirely to the abstract, exploring geometric morphology amid an interrogation of the principles of form. Known as the sculptor without a studio, he once declared that his own art really lay in the making of the maquettes used to trial different forms, a stance underpinned by his belief that art is not a thing but an action of the consciousness. This was in turn grounded in the abstract art and linguistic studies he pursued to a deepening degree during wartime. Horiuti gathered into himself the paradox of sculpture—the way it tries to turn the idea of beauty into unshakeable reality—and located sculpture within an intellectual flirtation with form that embraced literature and philosophy. The trajectory of these form-based meditations earned Horiuti a unique place in postwar Japanese art history.

Alongside precious archive material offering insight into the practicalities of Horiuti's art-making, and the thinking behind it, this exhibition will present sculptures and drawings from the artist's figurative pieces of the 1940s, to the 1950s when he turned toward the abstract, and the years from the 1970s to the 1990s when he explored the use of geometric forms to hypostatize ideas of pellucid simplicity.

In closing, allow us to express our deepest gratitude to Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama curator Aki Kikugawa for her generous cooperation in organizing this exhibition. Thank you.

## ■Related Information

### [Publication]

A catalog will be published.

Art as action—The abstract according to Masakazu Horiuti

Written by Aki Kikugawa, Curator, The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama

Publication Date: July, 2023 (scheduled)

Published by: Yumiko Chiba Associates

**■Artist Profile****Masakazu Horiuti**

- 1911 Born in Kyoto, Japan.
- 1926 Moved to Zoshigaya, Tokyo.
- 1927 Influenced by the writings of Tomoyoshi Murayama, creates Constructivist-style works using wood, wire and white paint.
- 1928 Entered Tokyo College of Industrial Arts (now Faculty of Engineering, Chiba University), Department of Industrial Arts / Sculpture.
- 1936 Exhibited abstract sculpture for the first time in the 23rd Nika Exhibition.
- 1940 Stopped exhibiting works until 1945. From 1941 until around 1946, studied philosophy, art, and religion with Keiichi Koyama.
- 1946 Exhibited *Atsuko's Head* in the 10th Shinseisaku Art Society exhibition.
- 1953 Exhibited in *Abstraction and Fantasy: How to Understand Non-figurative (Non-realistic) Painting*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.
- 1954 Began working on welded sculptures composed of geometric forms.
- 1957 Exhibited in the 4th São Paulo Biennale, Brazil.
- 1963 Solo exhibition, Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama.
- 1967 Exhibited in the Guggenheim International Art Exhibition, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.
- 1968 Exhibited in *Fluorescent Chrysanthemum – Contemporary Art of Japan*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Vancouver Art Gallery.
- 1971 Exhibited in the 2nd Triennale–India, New Delhi.
- 1978 Solo Exhibition, Kanagawa Kenmin Hall Gallery.
- 1980 *Yamaguchi Takeo and Horiuti Masakazu*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.
- 1985 Solo Exhibition, Hekinan Cultural Hall, Aichi.
- 1986 Solo exhibition, Shoto Museum of Art, Tokyo.
- 1989 *The Yamamura Collection Complete Works*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art.
- 2001 Died of pneumonia on April 13.
- 2002 *Sculptors Churyo Sato / Masakazu Horiuti*, Fuchu Art Museum Civic Gallery, Tokyo.  
*The Unfinished Century: Legacies of 20th Century Art*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.
- 2003 *Horiuti Masakazu*, Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama (traveled to: The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; The Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki; and Sapporo Art Park Museum)
- 2018 *Horiuti Masakazu: Curious Minds, Joyful Forms*, Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama.
- 2023 *Art as action—The abstract according to Masakazu Horiuti*, Yumiko Chiba Associates, Tokyo.