

## Biography of OSHIRO Seitoku

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1928: OSHIRO Seitoku was born as the eldest child (eldest son) of three children in Aza Medoruma, Ozato-son, Shimajiri-gun, Okinawa, as the son of Kamado (third son of the house of Ufuya).

1940 (Age 12): Entered the Okinawa Prefectural garicultural School.

April 3, 1945 (Age 17): After being assembled in the open space in front of the main shrine of the Kannon-dera (Kin), the vice principal of the command section, ASATO Genshu, announced the dissolution of the Norin (Special attack). After escaping from the Battle of Okinawa for three months, he was detained as a prisoner in a prisoner-of-war camp in Yaka for three months. In November, he reunited with his family at the refugee camp in Sedaka, Kushi-son. One of his neighbors was YAMADA Shinzan, the Okinawan sculpture and Japanese-style painter.

1947 (Age 19): He was recruited as an interpreter and driver for the QM Unit Headquarters of the United States Army located in Uruma (former Gushikawa).

1949 (Age 21): He resigned from the QM Unit to pursue higher education.

1949 (Age 21): In July, he began working at *Okinawa Mainichi* Shimbunsha.

1950 (Age 22): On July 4, he left Japan to study at the University of New Mexico in the United States.

1952 (Age 24): In April, he became a social studies teacher at Shuri High School. From around this time, he started to admire Okinawan painter Nadoyama Aijun and to study Western-style painting under him until 1957.

1954 (Age 26): Around this time, aside from his work, he began taking correspondence courses from Musashino Art University to study art professionally.

1955 (Age 27): He won an award for the first time with his work titled *Seibutsu* at the 7th OKITEN. He made his first appearance at the OKITEN in this year. In addition, TAKAE-ZU Seiichi won the Kubota Award. After this, Oshiro continued to win awards until 1959.

1956 (Age 28): He displayed *Shuri Fukei* at the 8th Okiten.

1956 (Age 28): He formed an art organization, Birokukai, with KEIDA Kiichi, NAKAZATO Isamu, Takaazu Seiichi, and NADOYAMA Aiko and held the first exhibition at the Naha Cultural Center where he continued to exhibit his works every year until 1959.

1956 (Age 28): He was awarded his first prize at the 41st Nika Art Exhibition with his work titled *Okinawa Fukei*. Oshiro continued to exhibit his works every year.

1957 (Age 29): He exhibited two of his works, *Fukei A* and *Fukei B*, at the ninth Okiten without exemption of examination.

1958 (Age 30): He formed the Nika Association, Okinawa Branch, with other painters, including OSHIRO Koya from Okinawa, and held the first exhibition. After this, he held the branch exhibition every year until 1960.

1958 (Age 30): He became a committee member of the Okiten Steering Committee. He exhibited *Fukei* at the tenth Okiten.

1959 (Age 31): He exhibited *Nogi*, *Gundo*, and *Yoru No Jokyoku* at the 11th Okiten.

1959 (Age 31): He was awarded a prize at the 44th Nika Art Exhibition (held at Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum) with his work titled *Haka No Aru Oka*. Oshiro exhibited his works at the Nika Art Exhibition until 1960.

1960 (Age 32): He resigned from the OKITEN Steering Committee and stopped exhibiting his works at the exhibition. NADOYAMA Aijun, who OSHIRO looked up to as a teacher, also stopped participating in the Okiten after this year.

1960 (Age 32): Birokukai was dissolved for development. He then formed the Ryukyu Bijutsukai with NADOYAMA Aijun, YAMAZATO Eikichi, and former members of Birokukai.

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1961 (Age 33): He exhibited his works at the first Ryukyu International Art 9th exhibition.

1961 (Age 33): He displayed his works at the Recent Works Self-Selection Exhibition from May 5 to 18 at Gallery Gima.

1966 (Age 38): He exhibited his works at the seventh Ryukyu Art Exhibition. (Naha City Nadoyama Hall. The last exhibition for the Ryukyu Bijutsukai.)

1967 (Age 39): He formed Sekidokai with painters, including Takaezu Seiichi and Nadoyama Aijun, where he exhibited his works until the sixth exhibition.

1968 (Age 40): He held the first personal exhibition at the USO (U.S. military facilities.)

1969 (Age 41): His second personal exhibition was held at the Seine Gallery.

1969 (Age 41): His third personal exhibition was held at Ryubo Department Store.

1970 (Age 42): In August, his former teacher Nadoyama Aijun past away.

1971 (Age 43): The Three-Painter Exhibition was held at Makishi Gallery with Nadoyama Aiko and Takaezu Seiichi. In June, at the Sekido Exhibition during summer (held at Okinawa Bussan Center Gallery), six members of the Sekidokai, including KEIDA Kiichi, Takaezu Seiichi, Nadoyama Aiko, MATSUSHIMA Tomokata, YARA Tomoharu, and Oshiro present their works. The exhibition featured 32 paintings on the subject of the powerful reddish soil in the mountains and fields. The paintings were sold on the spot at the exhibition from \$25 to \$100 for each piece and generally sold around \$30.

1978 (Age 50): The fourth personal exhibition was held at the Makishi Central Gallery.

1979 (Age 51): In July, he became a member of the committee for publishing the Nadoyama Aijun Collection (Ryukyu Shimpō) along with IKEMIYAGI Shui, ISHINO Choki, KUBA Toyo, Takaezu Seiichi, TAZUMI Yukichiro, Nadoyama Aiko, HIGA Yoshikatsu, MATAYOSHI Shinzo, MIYAGI Tokumasa, and YAMAMOTO Fumiko.

1980 (Age 52): His 5th personal exhibition was held at the Ryukyu Shimpo Hall.

1981 (Age 53): On December 16, he established the Shinsei Art Association and serves as the executive director (until the fourth issue of *Shinsei Art*).

1982 (Age 54): His sixth personal exhibition was held at the Kenmin Art Gallery.

1983 (Age 54): From April 26 to May 1, his seventh personal exhibition was held at the Kenmin Art Gallery, where a total of 25 works, including 13 oil paintings and 12 crayon paintings, gained popularity. The exhibition attracted nearly 550 beholders.

1983 (Age 55): He exhibited *Pansy (I)*, *Pansy (II)*, *Ishigaki noaru Fukei*, *Itokazu Joshi Enbo*, and *Yanbaruji* at the second Shinsei Art Exhibition.

1983 (Age 55): For two weeks from November 21 to December 5, he traveled to eight cities in China, including Shanghai, Suzhou, Zhenjiang, Yangzhou, Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Guangzhou, and Changsha, to study lion sculptures, other Chinese art, and crafts. Some of the research results were featured in four running stories in the Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper.

1984 (Age 56): For eight days from August 19 to the 26, he took part in the Journey of South-Eastern Asian History, organized by the International Exchange Foundation to explore the roots of Okinawan culture. According to Oshiro, "Bali had villages with each characteristic, such as the village only for pottery, the village for wood-working, and the village for painting. Their paintings in particular were very unique and reminiscent of the painting of the world-famous painter Rousseau, even though he was an amateur. The painters took good care of the unique climate without imitating Western-style painting. It was very useful for thinking about my theory for climat."

1984 (Age 56): In August, he exhibited his works at the third Shinsei Art Exhibition.

1987 (Age 59): From January to March, he helped prepare the holding of the Naha Modern and Contemporary Art Exhibition hosted by the city of Naha.

1988 (Age 60): He exhibited *Kudakajima Enbo*, *Koboku No Aru Fukei*, and *Amaryllis Saku* at his 8th personal exhibition (held at Naha Shimin Gallery).

# Climat and localism

## The works of OSHIRO Seitoku

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Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Art Museum, Collection gallery 2

OSHIRO Seitoku, also known as OSHIRO Seiho, (September 14, 1928 to December 17, 2007) is a painter from Okinawa. He was also a researcher of Okinawan culture known for publishing the magazine *Ryukyu Culture* (first issue, Ryukyu Bunka Sha, published in March 1972 to the fifth issue published in May 1974). At the age of 24 in 1952, Oshiro returned home after studying in the United States. In the same year, he studied Western-style painting under Okinawan painter Nadoyama Aijun until 1957. Oshiro's works have been exhibited at the OKITEN Exhibition, which was the largest comprehensive art exhibition in Okinawa since the end of World War II, the Nika Art Exhibition, and other exhibitions. His principal works include *Shuri Fukei* (1956).

While Oshiro was good at painting the landscape and plants of Okinawa, he also painted graves and the butterflies of Okinawa. Because he was acquainted with Okinawan culture, his artwork also shows iron wires set up throughout the land for U.S. military facilities to continuously render the character of the time in Okinawa of the post-World War II era. His motivation for production is the aggregation of climat (climate in French) and localism. According to Oshiro, climat is all the living organisms grown within the air and sun of the land, and localism is found in the history followed by the people of the land. This is the first retrospective exhibition that introduces the paintings and materials of Oshiro Seitoku.