

TADAAKI KUWAYAMA

Alison Bradley Projects March 10 - May 7, 2022 TADAAKI KUWAYAMA Alison Bradley Projects March 10 - May 7, 2022 Curated by Gabriela Rangel

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Table of Contents

Introduction
Press Release
Curatorial Statement
TK10173/8-60
TK7549-61
TK4612-3/4-64
TK7623-5/8-67
TK5610-1/2-82
TK28-2-1/4-02
TK37-7/8-16
TK161-22
Biography
Exhibitions

Introduction

Tadaaki Kuwayama (b. Nagoya, 1932) arrived in New York in 1958, shortly after his graduation from Tokyo University of the Arts where he trained in the Japanese traditional painting style of *nihonga*. Rejecting nihonga's strict aesthetic principles, Kuwayama came to eschew all modes of representation, instead dedicating his career in the United States, now in its seventh decade, to *the creation of pure art without history*.

Acclaimed as a pioneer of Minimalism in the 1960s, Kuwayama never thought of his work as such. Despite formal affinities with what later came to be critically constructed as post-painterly abstraction, Kuwayama's commitment to non-compositional works and investigation of color, material, and space have always been on his own terms. His work considers the experience of perception—the interaction between his works and the audience within space is central to his practice.

This exhibition gathers key historic works that attest to the artist's contribution to expanding the limits of *the art object as presence* through the reflective properties of color and the interplay of the art object in space. Kuwayama's paintings from the 1960s capture the artist's striking shift away from his nihonga training—the more gestural use of black pigment and incorporation of silver and gold leaf in these works made way for his continued experiments with more industrial materials such as acrylic, metallic oils, and aluminum. Serial works from the 1980s and early 2000s highlight the artist's *spatial turn*, in which Kuwayama has used a multitude of approaches to challenge the boundaries of aesthetics, collapsing the distinctions between painting and sculpture, art and architecture. His particular attention to placement, repetition, and the reflective properties of paint and metal are in constant dialogue with the spatial environment, an awareness that is experienced in the viewing space.

Curated by Gabriela Rangel

Press Release

Alison Bradley Projects is pleased to present TADAAKI KUWAYAMA, curated by Gabriela Rangel.

Tadaaki Kuwayama (b. Nagoya, 1932) arrived in New York in 1958, shortly after his graduation from Tokyo University of the Arts where he trained in the Japanese traditional painting style of *nihonga*. Rejecting nihonga's strict aesthetic principles, Kuwayama came to eschew all modes of representation, instead dedicating his career in the United States, now in its seventh decade, to the creation of pure art without history.

Acclaimed as a pioneer of Minimalism in the 1960s, Kuwayama never thought of his work as such. Despite formal affinities with what later came to be critically constructed as the "minimalist" mode of post-painterly abstraction, Kuwayama's commitment to non-compositional works and investigation of color, material, and space have always been on his own terms. The artist was interested in Color Field paintings, in particular the principle that paintings could be subjects in and of themselves. Kuwayama's work considers the experience of perception—the interaction between his works and the audience within space is central to his practice. His distinctive style deliberates materiality itself, typified by monochrome compositions devoid of excessive and expressive elements.

Gabriela Rangel's selection for **TADAAKI KUWAYAMA** gathers key historic works that attest to the artist's contribution to expanding the limits of *the art object as presence* through the reflective properties of color and the interplay of the art object in space. Kuwayama's paintings from the 1960s capture the artist's crucial shift away from his nihonga training—the more gestural use of black pigment and incorporation of silver and gold leaf in these works made way for his continued experiments with more industrial materials such as acrylic, metallic oils, and aluminum. Serial works from the 1980s and early 2000s highlight the artist's *spatial turn*, in which Kuwayama has used a multitude of approaches to challenge the boundaries of aesthetics, collapsing the distinctions between painting and sculpture, art and architecture. His particular attention to placement, repetition, and the reflective properties of paint and metal are in constant dialogue with the spatial environment, an awareness that is experienced in the viewing space.

Quickly establishing himself as an active member of the avant-garde in New York, Kuwayama was well acquainted with art world luminaries such as Kenzō Okada, Sam Francis, Donald Judd, Dan Flavin, and Frank Stella. His first solo show was held at Green Gallery in 1961, the prominent vanguard gallery run by eccentric art dealer Richard Bellamy, and his striking work was included in *Systemic Painting*, the emblematic exhibition organized by art critic Lawrence Alloway at the Guggenheim in 1966. Kuwayama has been the subject of countless solo and group exhibitions around the world, and his work is included in the collections of institutions such as the Guggenheim Museum and MoMA in New York, the Foundation for Constructivist, Concrete and Conceptual Art in Zürich, and the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo.

Tadaaki Kuwayama currently works and resides in New York City with his wife and fellow artist Rakuko Naito.

Curatorial Statement

Tadaaki Kuwayama was trained in Tokyo in a Japanese style of traditional painting known as *nihonga*, the aesthetic principles of which he incorporated and ultimately rejected in the years following his move to the United States. Kuwayama states: "I never thought I was a Minimalist artist. That came later. Maybe art critics gave it that name. I wanted to make pure art without history. That's what I wanted, and I still try to do it that way—my art has not changed much since those days." According to the literature on his early years in New York, Kuwayama was influenced by Color Field paintings' over-dimensional size and impersonal approach to chromatic tenets that declared painting as an object that transcends subjectivity and representation. Acquainted with Sam Francis, Donald Judd, and Frank Stella, it is not accidental that Kuwayama exhibited work at Green Gallery in 1961 and in emblematic group shows of the period such as the Guggenheim's *Systemic Painting* in 1966.

Emerging in the 1960s as a historical and critical construction, Minimalism is a synonym for a broader art tendency also called ABC art, Literalism, Object Art, and Specific Objects, among other rubrics. The movement is mostly defined by its adversaries—notably, Clement Greenberg and Michael Fried, who provided the theoretical tools to frame Minimalism as a depersonalized and reductive variant of geometric art produced in the postwar era through industrial means. A few artists embraced the new tendency and provided discursive clues for the understanding of this "new sensibility," as it was characterized by Barbara Rose, in which the presence of the spectator was crucial to complete a relational experience with the object within space.

This exhibition gathers an archipelago of key historic pieces that attest to Tadaaki Kuwayama's journey from a gestural to an objective mode of abstraction. This path prompted him to bring together a groundbreaking investigation into chromatic potential as a tool that helped redefine the perceptual role of the audience. In this sense, Kuwayama contributed to expanding the limits of the art object as presence through the properties of color. His early paintings, made on paper and wood with organic pigments and silver and gold leaf, blend Japanese traditional methodologies and materials with an infinite sense of freedom that the artist continues to explore today. Influenced by American jazz music, Kuwayama merged his practice of monochrome with chance during his first years in New York. This strategy later evolved in the mid-1960s into serial works made with industrial materials and experimentation with paint application, in which the artist's hand is removed, thus provoking an in-depth dialogue with space and architecture.

Gabriela Rangel



TK10173/8-60

1960 Signed & dated on verso Dry black pigment on paper on canvas with tarnished silver leaf 17 $3/8 \times 17 \ 3/8$ in 44.1 x 44.1 cm

PROVENANCE Artist The work *TK 10173/8-60* (1960) corresponds to what the artist defines as the Nihonga Period, a transitional passage during which Kuwayama moved to New York with his wife Rakuko Naito after completing their degrees in Japanese painting at Tokyo University of the Arts. Shortly after relocating to the United States, Kuwayama began to explore a mode of gestural abstraction using non-Western natural pigments, paper, and wood that he learned in his native country. He enrolled at the Art Students League where he met other artists and became aware of the aesthetic debates that had been triggered after the consolidation of Abstract Expressionism, and the beginning of Pop Art and other variants of post-painterly abstraction.

Referring to this coming-of-age period, the artist stated: "I know [nihonga's] materials: pigment and paper. Those materials I carried to this country [...]. I saw Barnett Newman's work, Sam Francis, Rothko—all these so impressed me. And I thought, these are great artists, but I won't follow them. This work is already passé. We should make another generation of art."

The groundbreaking early painting *TK 10173/8-60* was made through a spontaneous dripping method used by applying various layers of pigment-based black paint on paper that descended in a cascade. The falling drips at the bottom of the work traced random vertical lines, in contrast to the upper area of the composition which consists of a saturated black monochromatic square applied with a brush. In his aim to reject representation, the artist has spoken of his attraction to the non-narrative structure of jazz, a response that can be observed in this early work. The use of Japanese materials contrasts to the unplanned, delicate form in which two antagonistic elements are juxtaposed in the same painting: chance and deliberate flatness.



TK7549-61

1961

Signed & dated on verso

Black dry pigment with aluminum on paper mounted on board with aluminum strip 49×33 in

124.5 x 84 cm

PROVENANCE

Artist

Kuwayama created *TK7549-61* (1961) only two years after he began his career in New York. This work encapsulates the transitional period of the young artist as he began to turn away from nihonga and commit his practice fully to exploring the new avant-garde sensibility emerging in the artist circles that he was active amongst. Layering strips of paper horizontally across the board, Kuwayama created subtle breaks in the vertical composition that diffuse the viewer's eye from the stark contrast of the aluminum strip that seems to almost split the piece in two. Following the recommendations of close artist friends such as Sam Francis, Kuwayama had begun to turn to acrylics at this time— for this piece, he combined acrylic paint with dry pigment. This combination created an emanative, velvety effect with the paint, resulting in a very distinctive surface quality.

The early aesthetic decisions that can be observed in *TK7549-61* highlight Kuwayama's interest in experimenting with materials and painting outside of history. Viewers must consider the various shifts in the painting's surface and texture when viewing it in the exhibition space—in this way, the piece reckons with materiality itself. This is the first time *TK7549-61* has been exhibited.

"Ideas, thoughts, philosophy, reasons, meanings, even the humanity of the artist, do not enter into my work at all. There is only the art itself. That is all."

Kuwayama's statement for Art in America New Talent USA (1964)



TK4612-3/4-64 1964 Signed & dated on verso Gold leaf on paper on panel 12 x 12 in 30.5 x 30.5 cm

PROVENANCE Artist Kuwayama's series of boxy golden and silver monochromatic paintings from the beginning of the 1960s were created during a transitional period in which the artist was getting acquainted to Western modes of post-painterly abstraction using materials that he brought from his native Japan.

TK4612-3/4-64 (1964) is one such piece, composed of gold leaf applied to paper on wood in a way that emphasizes the reflective quality of color. This emphasis is a sign of what became a central feature of Kuwayama's work towards the end of the 1960s, in which he applied layers of colors with brush or spray that produced an iridescent patina on the surface, as well as outsourced the industrial application of color on metallic media such as aluminum or anodized titanium.

The delicacy of this work made through artisanal methods may deceive an audience that is eager to perceive only an exoticized approach to the medium. However, Kuwayama's chromatic exploration places this early work as an important marker for the artist's rigorous industrial methodology that matured in New York, allowing him to create iridescent metallic hues of pink, brown, silver, gold-yellow, green, and beige, among other unique blends of color. In short, TK4612-3/4-64 points to the beginning of Kuwayama's search for a spatial immanence using color.

Later in his career, Kuwayama's consistent tonal research would become fully developed using unclassifiable hues that for art historian Michio Hayashi are located outside language. Created in tandem with his aim to produce art outside history, this early piece articulates his tactical intent to develop a chromatic singularity for his objects.



TK7623-5/8-67

1967

Signed & dated on verso Acrylic on canvas stretched over board in polished aluminum frame $23\ 3/4\ x\ 12\ 3/4$ in $60.3\ x\ 32.4\ cm$

PROVENANCE

Artist

The two pieces *TK7623-5/8-67* (1967) and TK161-22 (2022), made more than 50 years apart, manifest Kuwayama's outstanding knowledge of color, which is materialized in the extremely saturated palette of some of his monochromatic paintings (yellow, blue, red, black, green, white.) Trained at the art university that claimed to have reinvented Japanese-style painting, Kuwayama's expertise on nihonga painting's techniques—the use of organic and mineral pigments fixed through a glue made of animal gelatin—allowed him to conduct in-depth research into color over the years. As a result, the artist adapted the use of water-based industrial pigment by mixing different colors and applying different layers to the canvas to produce an overflow in hue that projects the object in space.

At the beginning of the 1960s, Kuwayama learned to use acrylic paint from American artist Sam Francis, one of the few Western figures along with French Michel Tapié who were close to Japanese artists at the time. When asked by curator Russell Storer about the system of aluminum dividing strips used in his monochrome paintings, Kuwayama stated: "First I did two panels, multiple panels joined together. If the panels are made in the same color, then this is a joint line, right—not a drawn line, which means *you cannot deny it.* If you paint a line, this is already to me a composition."

If Minimalism is considered quintessentially three-dimensional, Kuwayama's chromatic mark adopts this principle by interrogating the status of the work as an object, its definition, and its aesthetic properties beyond the psychological realm that lures subjectivity. His works, located in the interstice between painting and sculpture, *become set forms* installed at a gallery.



TK5610-1/2-82

1982

Signed & dated on verso

Metallic oil painted with palette knife on canvas mounted on masonite board Each triangle is $10\,1/2$ in / 26.7 cm on each side

PROVENANCE

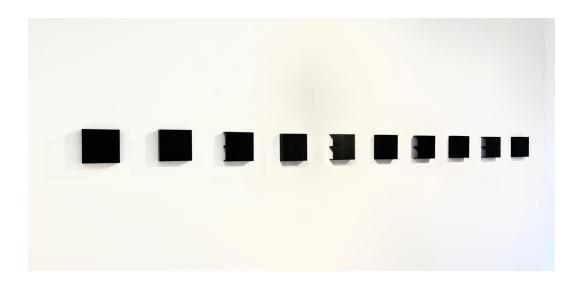
Artist

EXHIBITIONS

Similar works exhibited in Mies Van Der Rohe Haus, Berlin July, 2021

According to Donald Judd, who met Kuwayama in the 1960s when both artists crossed paths at Green Gallery in New York: "The main thing wrong with painting is that it is a rectangular plane placed flat against the wall. A rectangle is a shape itself; it is obviously the whole shape; it determines and limits the arrangement of whatever is on or inside of it." Judd's blatant critique required new spatial configurations and definitions for painting, beyond such a confined and limited language encapsulated in different media for an incommensurable broader space surrounded by a wider context. In short it required a *spatial turn*.

Kuwayama's "Spatial Turn," a shift towards the gallery space as part of the work beyond the wall, as it was defined by Mishio Hayashi, is the central point explored in the outstanding *TK5610-1/2-82* (1982) installation. Here a serial work includes both the spatial conditions and the environment where the work is contained and presented. The six triangles in different hues of metallic oil paint applied with a palette knife are playfully installed by the artist as an interpretation of the architecture around it. The artist inverts the triangles' directions in sequences—as a sort of aleatory rhythmic subversion of the serial order—eventually occupying the walls and corners of the white cube. Kuwayama's poetic expansion of space collapses the distinctions between painting and sculpture, and art and architecture.



TK28-2-1/4-02

2002

Signed & dated on verso Anodized aluminum, 10 of 26 brackets exhibited at gallery $8 \times 8 \times 2 \frac{1}{4}$ in $20.3 \times 20.3 \times 5.7$ cm

PROVENANCE

Artist

EXHIBITIONS

8 brackets of same series exhibited at Mies Van Der Rohe Haus, Berlin 2021

Seriality was a logical step that Kuwayama undertook after moving forward with his larger-than-life endeavor to produce "pure art without history." Repetition prevented a work from becoming unique and compositional. Systemically produced art was part of the "new sensibility" that arose by the end of the 1950s, taking over the following decade through the principles of repetition and seriality, which constituted the most elementary systems to resist conventional art practice.

The piece *TK28-2-1/4-02* (2002) consists of anodized aluminum brackets that entail the viewers' scrutiny of color through her or his movement in space. The experience of this piece within the space and in relation to the body is what has been often identified as the theatrical feature attributed to Minimalism. The installation is part of a larger series of anodized aluminum and titanium works Kuwayama made in blue, red, yellow, green, silver, and gold. *TK28-2-1/4-02* manifests Kuwayama's entrance into a circuit of production that involved the loss of manual control of his work, contradicting an art principle that states that the quality of the work depends on the manual skill of the maker. Pairing with Donald Judd's Specific Objects, Kuwayama's anodized aluminum brackets avoid any metaphysical intention and become objects that compel the viewers to look at the object and color within space—and monochrome, in particular— in an increasingly alienating world of banal objects and digital screens.

Kuwayama stated: "In 1961 or 62 I made the first monochrome. I think it was red, with a silver wooden ready-made frame. I didn't want to make a composition. Sometimes when artists need red, they need a little yellow here or maybe a blue there to make a composition. I didn't want that, so I used just one color; this means no composition."



TK37-7/8-16

2016

Signed & dated on verso Anodized titanium, 4 of 30 brackets exhibited at gallery $7.8 \times 7.8 \times 2$ in $20 \times 20 \times 5$ cm

PROVENANCE

Artist

EXHIBITIONS

 $30\,brackets$ of same series exhibited at Gallery Yamaguchi, 2016

The piece *TK37-7/8-16* (2016) consists of anodized titanium brackets that entail the viewers' scrutiny of color through her or his movement in space. This installation is part of a larger series of anodized aluminum and titanium works Kuwayama made in pink, blue, red, yellow, green, silver, and gold. *TK37-7/8-16* manifests Kuwayama's entrance into a circuit of production that involved the loss of manual control of his work, contradicting an art principle that states that the quality of the work depends on the manual skill of the maker. Pairing with Donald Judd's Specific Objects, Kuwayama's anodized brackets avoid any metaphysical intention and become objects that compel the viewers to look at the object and color within space—and monochrome, in particular— in an increasingly alienating world of banal objects and digital screens.



TK161-22 2022 Signed & dated on verso Acrylic on canvas with aluminum 61 x 15 in 154.9 x 38.1 cm

PROVENANCE Artist

Biography

Born in 1932 in Nagoya, Japan, Tadaaki Kuwayama graduated from the Japanese Painting course at Tokyo University of the Arts where he found himself uninterested in both the rigid traditional nihonga apprentice system as well as the contemporary Japanese art scene in Japan of the time. He moved to New York in 1958, along with his young wife, the painter Rakuko Naito, where they have been living and working ever since. After his 1961 solo exhibition at Green Gallery, the prominent vanguard gallery run by eccentric art dealer Richard Bellamy, Kuwayama began making monochromatic acrylic paintings in geometric forms, becoming a pioneer of what became known as the American Minimalist movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The artist turned his back on the abstract, and gesture based painting style of the era, beginning to pursue another style of "pure abstract" painting alongside other young artists of his generation. Donald Judd, then an art critic, was an early advocate of Kuwayama and followed his career noting his contribution to the emerging form of what would later be termed Minimalism.

Kuwayama's oeuvre can be understood as spanning several periods, marked in part by his use of different materials. Until 1962, when he had his second solo exhibition in the United States, he produced paintings using Japanese mineral pigments and acrylic solvent on boards wrapped in Japanese paper. After that, the artist used acrylic paint until around 1969; then he turned to metallic paints through the 1970s; and oil in the 1980s. But since the 1990s, Kuwayama has made space itself his work. His globally acclaimed works display no subjective expression—they are intended as pure art and provide an immersive experience in the viewing space.

Kuwayama's artistic journey has extended over half a century. His relentlessly experimental spirit and ferocity of art-making continues to today.

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019	Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles, CA, USA
2018	Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
2017	Tadaaki Kuwayama: Radical Neutrality, The Mayor Gallery, London, UK
	Recent works, Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2016	Tadaaki Kuwayama: From the 60s Till Today, Galerie Grand Ciecle, Taipei
	Tadaaki Kuwayama: titanium 4 colors, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
	Not Primary Color, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA
2015	Gallery, Shilla, Daegu, Korea
	Tadaaki Kuwayama: Early Work, 1962-1975, Barbara Mathes Gallery, New York, NY, USA
2014	Tadaaki Kuwayama: Pure Painting, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA
2013	Tadaaki Kuwayama, Gallery Shilla, Daegu, Korea
	Titanium 2 Lines, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
	60-70s, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
	Tadaaki Kuwayama Titanium-Art as Space, Space as Art, Nagoya University of Art, Art & Designed
	Center, Aichi, Japan
	Titanium, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
2012	TADAAKI KUWAYAMA:HAYAMA, The Museum Modern Art, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan [Cat.]
	Six Elements or More, Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Jackson Hole, WY, USA
	Gary Snyder Gallery, New York, NY, USA
2011	White Tadaaki Kuwayama Osaka Project, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan [Cat.]
	Untitled, Tadaaki Kuwayama, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa
	Japan [Cat.]
	Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
2010	Out of Silence: Kuwayama Tadaaki, Nagoya City Art Museum, Aichi, Japan [Cat.]
2008	Gold & Silver Recent works, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Tokyo, Japan
	Bjorn Ressle Gallery, New York, NY, USA
	PAINTINGS FROM THE 1970s, Gary Snyder Project Space, New York, NY, USA
	Large Paintings from 60s & 70s, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
2006	One Room Project 2006, Nagoya City Art Museum, Aichi, Japan; Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art
	Aichi, Japan
	One room Project 2006 in Osaka, Gallery Yamaguchi kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
	Galerie König, Hanau/Frankfurt, Germany
2005	<i>'90 [part 1-2]</i> , Gallery Yamaguchi kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
2003	Selected Works 1992-2003, Tamada Project, Tokyo, Japan
	Space as art-art as space, Gallery Yamaguchi kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
2002	Galerie Renate Bender, Munich, Germany
	Tadaaki Kuwayama: Repetition & Continuity II, Riva Gallery, New York, NY, USA
2001	Folin/Riva Gallery, New York, NY, USA
	Project' 01, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan; Contemporary Art Space Osaka, Osaka, Japan
2000	Contemporary Art Space Osaka, Osaka, Japan
-	TADAAKI KUWAYAMA: Positionenreihe 17, Rupertinum Museum, Salzburg, Austria

1998	The Zürich Intervention, Stiftung fur Konstruktive und Konkrete Kunst, Zürich, Switzerland
1997	A Retrospective for Works, Galerie Renate Bender, Munich, Germany
	PROJECT FOR INGOLSTADT, Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany; Städtische Galerie im Teather Ingolstadt, Ingolstadt, Germany
	recent works, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
1996	Recent Drawings, Satani Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
	PROJECT '96, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan,
	Kawamura Memorial Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan
1995	Project for Stiftung für Konkrete Kunst Reutlingen, Stiftung für Konkrete Kunst Reutlingen,
	Reutlingen, Germany
1994	Past through Present Eye, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Pencil and Wax on Paper, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Drawing on Mylar, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
1993	recent works, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	60s-90s, Shugado Gallery, Osaka, Japan
1992	5 metallic colors, Satani Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
	The Snow Country Suite, Ibaraki Municipal Kawabata Literature Memorial Hall, Osaka, Japan
	Metallic green, Sakura Gallery, Aichi, Japan
1991	NEW PRINTS, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Recent Works, Gallery Yamaguchi Warehouse, Osaka, Japan
	Gilbert Brownstone et Cie, Paris, France
1990	RECENT WORKS 1989-90, Satani Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
	The Snow Country Suite, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan; Gallery Yonetsu, Tokyo, Japan; Gallery
	Sumi, Okayama, Japan
	Drawings, Gallery Sumi, Okayama, Japan
1989	Nagoya City Art Museum, Aichi, Japan
	Sakura Gallery, Aichi, Japan
	Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Bilder 1988-1989, Galerie Reckermann, Cologne, Germany
	Michael Walls Gallery, New York, NY, USA
	O.K.Harris Works of Art, New York, NY, USA
1988	Part V: Chrome Age 1968-69, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Part IV: Cross Chrome Age 1966, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Part III: Pigment Age – Canvas 1962-65, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Part II: Pigment Age – Paper 1960-61, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Part I: New Paintings – White Series 1986-78, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	New Paintings, Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1005	Sakura Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
1985	A Retrospective 1960-1985, Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Fukuoka, Japan
	Two recent works, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
	Gallery Kasahara, Osaka, Japan
1984	Laboratory, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan <i>Early Paintings</i> , Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1704	New Paintings, Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1983	
1703	Sakura Gallery, Aichi, Japan

	NEW PAINTING, Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1982	Ölbilder 1980 bis 1982, Gimpel-Hanover + André Emmerich Galerie, Zürich, Switzerland
	Ölbilder 1980 bis 1982 [Oil paintings 1980-1982], Galerie Reckermann, Cologne, Galerie Linie, Moers,
	Germany
	Galerie Linie, Moers, Germany
1981	KUWAYAMA WALLS, Akira Ikeda Gallery, Aichi, Japan
1980	Drawings, Akira Ikeda Gallery, Aichi, Japan
	Paintings 1980, Galerie Reckermann + Galerie Valeur (Akira Ikeda Gallery), Basel 11th International
	Art Fair 1980, Basel, Switzerland
1979	Protech-McIntosh Gallery, Washington D.C., USA
	Sakura Gallery, Aichi, Japan
1978	Koh Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1977	Galerie Denise René, New York, NY, USA
1976	Drawings Show, Contemporary Art Laboratory-T, Tokyo, Japan
	7 Paintings 1976, Galerie Reckermann, International Kunstmarkt, Düsseldorf, Germany
1975	Galerie Denise Rene, New York, NY, USA
	Bilder und Zeichnungen [Paintings and drawings], Galerie Müller, Stuttgart, Germany
1974	Einraum Ausstellungen '74 [One room exhibitions '74], Museum Folkwang, Essen, West Germany
	Kaneko Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1973	Kaneko Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
	Galerie Kowallek, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
	Bilder [Paintings] 1966-1973, Galerie Reckermann, Cologne, Germany
1972	New Paintings, Henri 2, Washington D.C., USA
1969	Galerie Reckermann, Cologne, Germany
	Henri Gallery, Washington D.C.
1968	Galerie d'Aujourd'hui, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium
	Galerie Bischofberger, Zürich, Switzerland
	Galleria del Leone, Venice, Italy
1967	New Paintings, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
	Franklin Siden Gallery, Detroit, MI, USA
	Galerie Mutzenbach, Dortmund, Germany
	Galerie Bischofberger, Zürich, Switzerland
	Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1966	The Systemic Paintings of Kuwayama, The Red Carpet Gallery, Minneapolis, MN, USA
1965	Daniels Gallery, New York, NY, USA
1964	Kornblee Gallery, New York, NY, USA
1962	Swetzoff Gallery, Boston, MA, USA
	Green Gallery, New York, NY, USA
1961	PAINTINGS, Green Gallery, New York, NY, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 White, Sokyo Annex, Kyoto, Japan
 - Forms in Space: from Alberto Giacometti to Tadaaki Kuwayama, Hayama, The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan
 - "Colours of the imagination" Collection Exhibitions curated by Ryan Gander, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 - Three Colours, Red-White-Blue, The Mayor Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 Gallery Collection, Ginza New Gallery, Whitestone Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 Tadaaki Kuwayama and Rakuko Naito, Adrian Rosenfeld Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA Survived!, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan [Cat.]
 Beautiful Nothing, Whitestone Gallery Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
 Group Exhibition, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2018 First Choice 2018, Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 - MINIMALISM: SPACE. LIGHT. OBJECT., Singtel Special Exhibition Gallery, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore

Inventing The New: Tadaaki Kuwayama & Rakuko Naito, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA Taka Ishii Gallery New York, New York, NY, USA

Giant Steps: Artists and the 1960s, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA

The Essential Perspective. Minimalisms in the Helga de Alvear Collection, Centro de Artes Visuales Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres, Spain

MOMAT Collection, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan

FIRST CHOICE 2018. A selection of post-war highlights, Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam, Netherlands

NAITO & KUWAYAMA, Borzo Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Being Alive, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA

- 2017 Gallery Selections: Assorted Artists, Barbara Mathes Gallery, New York, NY, USA
 - light of darkness abysm -, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan

First choice 2018: A selection of post-war highlights, Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam, Netherlands Tadaaki Kuwayama and Rakuko Naito, Barbara Mathes Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Interaction of color, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan

Inventing Downtown: Artist-Run Galleries in New York City, 1952–1965, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY, USA

- 2016 NEW SPACE with THE ARTISTS and ART, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
- 2015 Printer's Proof: Thirty Years at Wingate Studio, Wingate Studio, Boston, MA, USA
 Op Infinitum: 'The Responsive Eye' Fifty Years After (Part II) American Op Art In The 60s, David
 Richard Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, USA
 Charactaristic sense of the Rectangle, Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
- 2013 LINE [Tadaaki Kuwayama / Akiko Horio / Simon Fitzgelard], Gallery Yamaguchi Kunst-bau, Osaka, Japan
- 2011 Surface, Support, Process: The 1960s Monochrome in the Guggenheim Collection, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA

 Painting in Parts, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD, USA

- 2010 grid: Minimal Art and Kimono, grid I, Tottori, Japan Aichi, Contemporary Art, Nagakute Bunka-no-Ie, Aichi, Japan
- 2009 The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860-1989, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA
- 2008 Eureka!: art as traces and/or lines, Osaka City Museum of Modern Art, Shinsaibashi Temporary Exhibition Space, Osaka, Japan Choosing, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Humburg, Germany New American Abstraction 1950-70, Gary Snyder Project Space, New York, NY, USA
- 2007 Margin of Painting: Minimal Art, Cohju Contemporary Art, Kyoto, Japan
- 2005 Placements, Galerie König, Hanau/Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- 2004 Lodz Biennale, Lodz, Poland Monocromos: de Malevich al presente [Monochromes: from Malevich to the present], Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain
- 2002 The Unfinished Century: Legacies of 20th Century Art, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan Samadhi, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY, USA.
 Austere Geometry, Gary Snyder Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.
- 2000 Towards Utopia, Contemporary Art Space, Osaka, Japan Summer Group Show, Folin/Riva Gallery, New York, NY, USA Photograph / Painting / Plane: Collection of Osaka City Museum of Modern Art, ATC Museum, Osaka, Japan
- 1999 Sth Kitakyushu Biennale Aesthetics of Repetition and Continuity, Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1998 Collection of Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan
- 1997 Ad Reinhardt, Tadaaki Kuwayama, Donald Judd, an Flavin, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan Tadaaki Kuwayama / Andreas Karl Schulze, Japaniches Kulturinstitut Köln, Cologne, Germany
- 1996 Creativity of Abstract Paintings, Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art, Fukushima, Japan
 The Structure of Painting: One Color, One Form, Bumpodo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 Yo Akiyama, Tadaaki Kuwayama, Frank Stella, Julian Schnabel, Gallery Emon, Aichi, Japan
- 1995 Structure and Void: Matti Kujassalo and Tadaaki Kuwayama, Galerie Renate Bender, Munich, Germany
- 1994 Japanese Art After 1945: Scream Against the Sky, Yokohama Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan; Traveled to: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Soho, New York, NY, USA; San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA, USA (-'95)
- 1993 Rudolf Mumprecht, Hernández Pijuan, Tadaaki Kuwayama: DREI POSITIONEN, Galerie Mielich-Bender, Munich, Germany
 - Works on Paper: TADAAKI KUWAYAMA, TOEKO TATSUNO, MASAAKI YAMADA, Satani Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 - Metallic Work, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
 - prints show: Donald Judd, Tadaaki Kuwayama, Brice Barden, Joel Shapiro, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan
 - Judd & Kuwayama: 60's works and prints, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka, Japan Michael Walls Gallery, New York, NY, USA

- 1992 Michael Walls Gallery, New York, NY, USA
 - Espace 446, Osaka, Japan
 - TADAAKI KUWAYAMA, RAKUKO NAITO, Sakura Gallery, Aichi, Japan
- 1991 After Reinhardt: The Ecstasy of Denial, Tomoko Oguri Gallery, New York, NY, USA THE PAINTINGS: POST 50'S Vol.II, Gallery Yonetsu, Tokyo, Japan
 - Contemporary Art of America and Japan: Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Saitama, Japan
 - Abstract Art in Japan, Art Museum Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
- 1990 Minimal and ..., Gallery Yamaguchi, Warehouse, Osaka, Japan
 - Minimal Art, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Osaka, Japan
 - TADAAKI KUWAYAMA, MASAAKI YAMADA: two man show, Gallery Yamaguchi, Warehouse, Osaka, Japan
 - An exhibition to commemorate the publication of Gazing at Hokusai's Constellation, Sakura Gallery, Aichi, Japan
 - Carl Andre, Tadaaki Kurayama, Donald Judd, Gallery Yamaguchi, Warehouse, Osaka, Japan THE PAINTINGS: POST 50'S, Gallery Yonetsu, Tokyo, Japan
 - Tadaaki Kuwayama, Masaaki Yamada, Gallery Yamaguchi, Warehouse, Osaka, Japan
 - Gegenwart Ewigkeit [Present Eternity], Berlinische Galerie [Martin-Gropius-Bau], Berlin, Germany
- 1989 TECHNO-METAPHYSICS: Five Japanese Artists, Grace Borgenicht Gallery, New York, NY, USA Blank in Modern Painting: from Cézanne to Conceptual Art: an Approach to Modern Art, Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Shizuoka, Japan
- 1988 Art Kite, The Miyagi Museum of Art, Miyagi, Japan; Mie Prefectural Museum of Art, Mie, Japan; The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga, Shiga, Japan; The Himeji Castle Sannomaru Park, Hyogo, Japan; Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Shizuoka, Japan; Nagoya City Art Museum, Aichi, Japan; Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan; thereafter traveled to: Munich, Germany; Paris, France; Düsseldorf, Germany; Moscow, Russia; Vienna, Austria; Lonon, UK; and New York, NY, USA
- 1987 Paintings in Japanese Contemporary Art, Kumamoto Prefectural Museum of Art, Kumamoto, Japan
 - The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition: Panting 1977-1987, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Osaka, Japan
 - The 18th Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan 1987, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Traveled to: Kyoto Municipal Museum, Kyoto, Japan; Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Fukuoka, Japan; The Miyagi Museum of Art, Miyagi, Japan
- 1986 Black and White in Art Today, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Saitama, Japan Gallery Biitker, Detroit, MI, USA

 The Message: Japanese Contemporary Paintings, Sogo Museum of Art, Kanagawa, Japan
- 1985 Contemporary Japanese Paintings, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India
- 1984 Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA; Traveled to: Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, NY, USA; The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan; Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Hokkaido, Japan

- Japanese Contemporary Paintings, 1960-1980, Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, Gunma, Japan
- 1983 Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition, San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX, USA; The New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA, USA; The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, USA
 - Small Works, Bonnier Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1982 Geometric Art at Vassar, Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, USA Kunst wird Material [Art becomes Material], Nationalgalerie Berlin, Berlin, Germany The 1960's: A decade of Change in Contemporary Japanese Art, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan Group Show, Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1981 *The 1960's: A decade of Change in Contemporary Japanese Art*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
 - Konsekvens en Konstnärs Hyllning till Olle Baertling, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden Contemporary Japanese Art: Trends of Japanese Art in 70's, Fine Art Center Gallery of Korean Culture and Art Foundation, Seoul, Korea
 - Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition, William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Art, Kansas City, MO, USA; Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, MI, USA; Milwaukee Art Center, Milwaukee, WI, USA
- 1980 *variations on planar paintings: Tadaaki Kuwayama, Kishio Suga, Masaaki Yamada*, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
 - Japanese Art Now: Tadaaki Kuwayama & Rikuro Okamoto, Japan House Gallery, New York, NY, USA
 - F. STELLA + TADAAKI KUWAYAMA, Koh Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 - Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition, Dallas Museum of Fine Art, Dallas, TX, USA; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, USA; La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla, CA, USA; Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, USA; Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- 1979 Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA
- 1978 Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition, Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel Henri Gallery, Washington, D.C., USA
- 1977 The Sacred Image in Traditional and Contemporary Art, East & West, The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, NY, USA
 - Less is More: an Exhibition of American Minimal Painting, Koh Gallery, Tokyo, Japan Line, Weight, Color, Galerie Denise René, New York, NY, USA
 - Contemporary Art '77-1, Contemporary Art Laboratory T, Tokyo, Japan
 - Aspecte konstrukiver Kunst [Constructivism and the Geometric Tradition], Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland
 - Contemporary Art Laboratory T, Tokyo, Japan
- 1976 Contemporary Art Laboratory T, Tokyo, Japan
- 1975 International Exhibition of Small Sizes, Galerie Lydia Megert, Bern, Switzerland View of Japanese Contemporary Art, The Seibu Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan

Japan I bild: konst från fyra århundraden [Japan in the picture: art from four centuries], Henie Onstad kunstsenter, Høvikodden, Norway

1974 Japan I bild: konst från fyra århundraden [Japan in the picture: art from four centuries], Götborgs konstmusum, med konsthallen, Gothenburg, Sweden

The Modern Paintings of Tadaaki Kuwayama Plus the Primitive Sculpture of the New Hebrides, Inter River Trading Company, New York, NY, USA

Japan på Louisiana: Moderne Japansk Kunst [Japan on Louisiana: Modern Japanese Art], Louisiana Museum of Art, Humblebaek, Denmark

Painting - Kuwayama Sculpture - Kipp, Galerie Denise René, New York, NY, USA

JAPAN: Tradition und Gegenwart [Japan: radiation and Present], Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

The 1960s: Color Painting in the United States from the Michener Collection, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Kaneko Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Japanese Artists in the Americas, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

1973 Art and Things: Paintings in the Sixties, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA Japanese Artists in the Americas, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan Kaneko Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

The Art of Surface: A Survey of Contemporary Japanese Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

1972 *The Michener Collection: American Paintings of the Twentieth Century*, The Michener Galleries, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

50 Jahre Museum Folkwang in Essen III: Kunst seit 1960 [50 years Museum Folkwang in Essen III: Art since 1960], Folkwang Museum, Essen, Germany

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Kaneko Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

The '60s Revisited, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT, USA

1971 The Sixties from the Michener Collection, The University of Texas at Austin, Springfield Art Museum, Springfield, MO, USA

Contemporary American Drawings, French & Company, New York, NY, USA Saikodo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

The Exhibition of Tokyo Gallery 1971, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

20th Century American Masters, William Zierler Gallery, New York, NY, USA American Paintings of the Sixties from the Michener Collection, The University of Texas at Austin, Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, TX, USA; Herron Art Museum, Indianapolis, IN, USA; University of Illinois, IL, USA

1969 Noah Goldowsky Gallery, New York, NY, USA

1968 Selections from the Michener Foundation Collection, Freedman Art Gallery, Albright College, Reading, PA, USA

Plus by Minus: Today's Half-Century, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA The 1st Trienniale-India, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India

Cool Art 1967, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT, USA

1967 Normal Art, The Lannis Museum of Normal Art, New York, NY, USA

The 1967 Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture, Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Domestic Exhibition of 1st Indian Triennial of Contemporary World Art, Tokyo Central Museum, Tokyo, Japan

Henri Gallery, Washington, D.C., USA

Noah Goldowsky Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Neue Formen der Farbe [New Forms of Color], Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany; Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland

1966 Black & White, Wordsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT, USA

Four Directions: Burns, Breder, Brass, Kuwayama, A.M.Sax Gallery, New York, NY, USA Vormen van de Kleur [Forms of Color], Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands Systemic Painting, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA White on White, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA, USA Cross Section of Contemporary Art, Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY, USA; State University of New York, College at Oswego, Oswego, NY, USA; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, USA; Bemidji State College Bemidji, MN, USA; Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, Canada; University of California Riverside, CA, USA; Madison Art Center, Madison, WI, USA; Ithaca College Ithaca, NY, USA; Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA

1965 FIVE PAINTERS, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Exhibition of Japanese Artists Abroad: Europe and America, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan

White on White, De Cordova and Dana Museum and Park, Lincoln, MA, USA

Cross Section of Contemporary Art, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA, USA; Davenport Municipal Art Gallery, Davenport, IA, USA; Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS, USA; Fort Wayne Art Museum, Fort Wayne, IN, USA; Oak Ridge Community Art Center, Oak Ridge, TN, USA; Huntington Galleries, Huntington, WV, USA; Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, USA; Paterson State College, Wayne, NJ, USA; Bacardi Imports Inc., Miami, Fl, USA

New Eyes, Chrysler Museum, Provincetown, MA, USA

Contemporary Japanese Painting, Laura Knott Gallery, Bradford Junior College, Bradford, MA, USA

1964 Daniels Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Cross Section of Contemporary Art, Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis, TN, USA Motion and Movement, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH, USA June Exhibition, Green Gallery, New York, NY, USA Classic and Poetic Box Forms in Art, Southampton Art Gallery East, NY, USA Box Show, Dwan Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

- 1963 Formalists, Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, D.C., USA Green Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1962 Geometric Paintings classic & Romantic, Jerrold Morris International Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1961 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA; Colorado College Museum, Colorado Springs, CO, USA

 The 1961 Pittsburgh International: Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture,
 Department of Fine Arts, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA. Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, USA. Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany. Foundation for Constructivist, Concrete and Conceptual Art, Zürich, Switzerland. National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan. National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan. Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humblebaek, Denmark.

AWARDS

1986	Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant
1969	National Endowment for the Arts Grant
1964	Art in America New Talent USA — Recommended by Kenzō Okada

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