



The studio is now on display in this Museum.

Ryohei Koiso is known to many for his pure and innocent portrait of nude and clothed women, paintings which are characterized by their refined and elegant color tones, tranquil lighting, and accurate sketching. In addition to still-life paintings and works of stylish rooms some with a lute or harpsichord, he also left behind numerous sketches and lithographs. As a painter he pursued his studies until his death, striving to make the techniques which from the foundation of Western painting the basis of the art of his own country.

From 1953 he spent 18 years as a professor at his alma mater, the Tokyo University of the Arts and his murals entitled "Kaiga" (Painting) and "Ongaku" (Music) which he painted on the walls of the former reception hall of the Akasaka palace in 1974 are his largest and greatest works.

Ryohei Koiso passed away in 1988 at the age of eighty-five. About 2,000 works in his studio, including oil paintings, sketches and prints were donated to Kobe City. These from the core collection and are displayed at this Museum along with some of his other works.

Directions to Kobe City Koiso Memorial Museum of Art

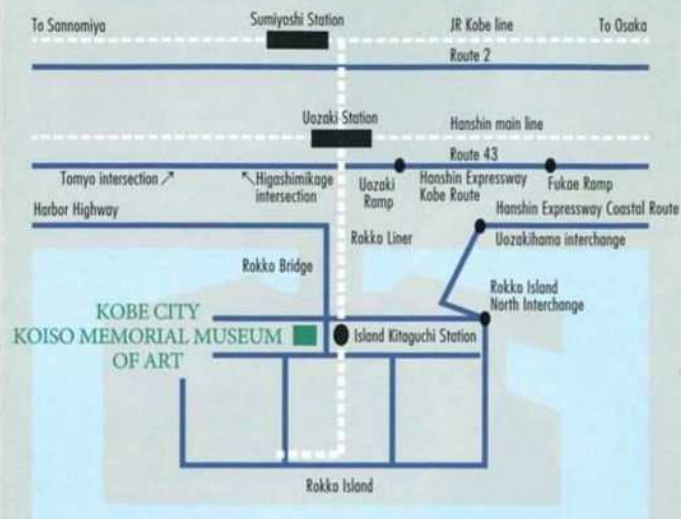
Transport: From JR Sumiyoshi Station or Hanshin Uozaki Station transfer to Rokko Liner. Get off at Island Kitaguchi Station and walk west to Rokko Island Park. The Museum is located in the Park (about 8 minutes from Sumiyoshi Station and 5 minutes from Uozaki Station). Paid parking is available underground in the Park.

Hours: 10:00am - 5:00pm (Visitors may not enter after 4:30pm)

Holidays: Every Monday (or the following day when Monday is a National holiday) and from Dec.29 to Jan.3. (Holidays may change without notice.)

Fee: Entrance fees for special exhibits vary. Regular entrance fees are as follows:

Division	Individual	Group rate (over 30 people)
Adults	¥ 200	¥ 160
University Students	¥ 100	¥ 50



KOBE CITY
KOISO MEMORIAL MUSEUM
OF ART

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KOBE CITY KOISO MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF ART



Museum
+
Guide

❖ Profile of Ryohei Koiso

When Japan's isolation policy finally ended after a period of over two hundred years, it was the port cities such as Kobe, Yokohama and Hakodate which were first opened to the outside world. These ports became Japan's windows on the world and through them came a flood of Western culture including Western art which was introduced in earnest from about the end of the 19th century.

Ryohei Koiso was born and raised in Kobe. His father was a trader and his mother a devout Christian. From his childhood, he loved to paint and living in Kobe's westernized environment, gradually resolved to become a Western style painter.

In 1922 he entered Tokyo School of Fine Arts (the present Tokyo University of the Arts) and his work "T-jo no zo" (Portrait of Miss T) which he painted during his summer holidays in Kobe was specially selected for the Seventh Imperial Academy of Fine Art Exhibition. Such a selection was unusual even in those days. His work "Kare no Kyusoku" (His rest) for which the poet Iku Takenaka, a friend from junior High School, was the model, was awarded top marks at his graduation.

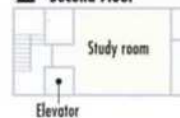
In 1928 Koiso went to Europe for two years and his work was selected for exhibition at the Paris *Salon d'Automne*. During this period he eagerly visited art galleries in many European cities, and was deeply impressed by such European classics as *Ingres*, *Degas*, *Vermeer* and *Chardin*.

Upon his return to Japan he opened a studio in Yamamoto street near Kitano-cho in Kobe where he concentrated on his work. This studio however, was burned to the ground in the air raids of 1945. Following this he moved to several different places until 1949 when he opened a new studio in Sumiyoshi, Higashinada-ku at the southern foot of Mount Rokko.



Floor plan of Kobe City Koiso Memorial Museum of Art

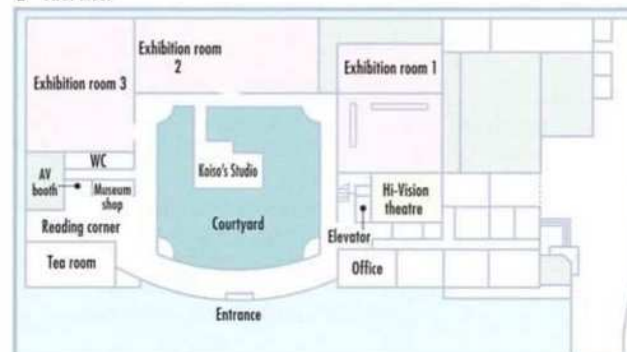
2 Second Floor



Architectural Specifications

Total floor area: 3,971.1㎡
 Exhibition area: 1,117.9㎡
 Extension area: 168.4㎡
 Preservation area: 660.0㎡
 Research area: 144.1㎡
 Maintenance area: 1,880.7㎡

1 First Floor



In 1988, Ryohei Koiso passed away. In the following year, his family donated about 2,000 of his works including oil paintings, sketches, prints, and illustrations, to Kobe City along with his personal library and his studio. Using these as the core collection, the City decided to establish a memorial museum to collect, preserve, and display his works, and to undertake continued research.

Construction began in 1990 and was completed in March 1992. The Museum was opened in November of the same year.

In addition to displaying the artist's works, special exhibitions are held on specific themes.

The lobby and passageway are designed as relaxing spaces from which to view the courtyard and Koiso's studio or to browse through books on art from Japan and other countries. The Museum shop sells books of Koiso's works, prints, postcards, picture plates, and other items which are very popular. And after touring the Museum, visitors can enjoy refreshments in the tea room.



In 1949, Ryohei Koiso built a new studio in Sumiyoshi, Higashinada-ku. This studio replaced his former studio in Chuo-ku which was destroyed during an air raid in 1945. Most of his works, including his great mural "Hataraku hitobito" (Working People) were produced at the Sumiyoshi studio. After his death in 1989, this studio was dismantled and reconstructed in the courtyard of Kobe City Koiso Memorial Museum of Art. Interior and exterior details reproduce conditions during the artist's lifetime, from the furniture and musical instruments which were used as motifs in his works, to the grape arbor outside the window. The french window on the south side also frequently appeared in his pictures. The building was carefully reconstructed to facilitate natural lighting, capturing the morning light from the north which was so highly valued by the artist.

Major works of the artist are presented on a "Hi-Vision 110" screen in a theatre style viewing room which comfortably seats 41 people. Various programs on the artist and his works are shown continuously on weekends and (national) holidays for the convenience of our visitors.



RYOHEI KOISO

1903

Ryohei Koiso was born in 1903 in Kobe City. In 1917 he entered Hyogo Prefectural Kobe Secondary School (now Hyogo High School) where he met his lifelong friend, Iku Takenaka, who later became a famous poet. Upon graduating in 1922, he entered Tokyo School of Fine Arts (now Tokyo University of the Arts) and the following year he studied under Takeji Fujishima. Although still a student his work was highly appraised and in 1926 his work, "T-jo no zo" (Portrait of Miss T) was specially selected for the Seventh Imperial Academy of Fine Arts Exhibition (Teiten).



1959 Working People

1958



Family

1926



Self-portrait

He drew further attention with his graduation piece "Kare no kiyosoku" (His rest) which was modelled by his friend, Iku Takenaka. He graduated at the top of his class in 1927. The following year he and Takenaka travelled to Europe to study. There they visited major art museums in each country and Koiso's work was selected for display in the Paris Salon d'Automne. In 1930, Koiso returned to Japan. There he married Sadae Hagiwara in 1932.

1966



Still Life with a Lute

In 1961 he illustrated the newspaper serial novel "Koto" by the Nobel Prize winning author Yasunari Kawabata.



Koiso himself passed away in Kobe in 1988 at the age of 85.

1955



Nude Woman sitting Sideways

1933



Woman in Kimono and Woman in Western Clothes

1936

In 1936, he established an artists' association called "Shinseisakuha Kyokai" (Association for Creators of New Artistic Works) with Genichiro Inokuma, Toshio Nakanishi, and others.



Woman in Kimono

1940



Ballerina

World War II intervened and in 1945 his Kobe studio was destroyed during an air raid.

1984



Portrait of Woman (Miss Estella)

1986



Mikage Landscape

1949



Two Nude Women

1946



Two Girls

Undaunted, he built a new studio in 1949 in Sumiyoshi, Higashinada-ku, where he produced many of his finest works. It was here that he made the wall mural "Hataraku hitobito" (Working People) for the main Kansai branch of Kobe Bank (now Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation) in 1953. In the same year, he also became a professor at his alma mater.

Kobe City



In 1180 Kiyomori Taira, the leader of the Heike clan, established the emperor's court in the port of Kobe. Subsequent developments, including the design of the foreigners' quarters by the Englishman J.W. Hart after the port was opened in 1868 and the pioneering efforts of

A.H.Groom in the development of Mount Rokko, shaped Kobe into the city we know today. It is now one of the world's international port cities with a population of 1.5 million and an area of 550 km².

The Rokko mountain range which forms the backdrop of the city boasts a nationally renowned hot spring, Arima, and a recreation park, both of which are very popular with Kobe residents.

Rokko Island



Kobe is surrounded by mountains and in order to secure land for port and urban facilities, earth from the Rokko mountain range was used to reclaim land along the shore. The second land reclamation project begun in 1966 created an artificial island in front of Kobe port, expanding both the port and city facilities. Port Island (430 ha) was completed in 1980. In 1972, construction of Rokko Island (580 ha) was begun and the island was completed in 1992. Construction is proceeding on a container pier on the outside of the island and a business section including the fashion industry in the center of the island. A large residential area and a beautiful park area lined with zelkova has already been built and it is within this area that Kobe City Koiso Memorial Museum of Art is located.

Kobe City Museum



Kobe City Museum, which was opened in 1982, is in the heart of Kobe City facing onto Kyomachisuji in Sannomiya. This also used to be the Center of the former foreigners' residential area. The Museum building was built in 1935 as an extension to the Kobe branch of the Tokyo Bank (formerly the Yokohama Specie Bank).

In the 16th and 17th centuries several Japanese painters studied Western style painting under the tutelage of European missionaries and painted Western style pictures. In the 1920s Hajime Ikenaga, a wealthy Kobe resident, was attracted to these works and privately collected many of the best. These were subsequently donated to the City of Kobe in 1951 and are now part of the Museum's collection.

The Museum also contains a Dotaku (bronze bell) which is a national treasure excavated from Sakuragaoka in Nada-ku, precious old maps of Japan and the world, and numerous works of art and historical cultural artifacts that are on permanent display in the museum for the enjoyment of the citizens.