

Ryuji Tanaka

November 29, 1927

Born on November as the son of Shokichi Tanaka and Toyono in Higashi Futami, Futami-cho, Kako-gun, Hyogo Prefecture (now part of Akashi City). His real given name was Susumu.

April 7, 1940

Enters Konohana Commercial Junior High School (now Osaka Kaisei Gakuen High School) in Osaka.

April 1944

Enters Kyoto Municipal School of Painting (now Kyoto City University of Arts) and majors in *nihon-ga* (Japanese-style painting).

March 1948

Establishes Pan-real with Takashi Yamazaki, Makoto Mikami, Masakichi Aoyama, Kazuo Yagi, Osamu Suzuki, Shingo Hoshino, Shigeya Fudo.
Graduates from Kyoto Municipal School of Painting.

May 1949

The Pan-real group announces "Pan-real Manifesto" and forms Pan-real Bijutsu Kyokai (Pan-real Art Association).
Becomes a member of Hyogo Prefecture Japanese-style Painters' Association.

January 1951

Leaves Pan-real Art Association.

March 1952

Completes the post-graduate course in Kyoto Municipal School of Painting, and begins to work as an art teacher at the art faculty in a junior high school, and then finds a position at Motoyama Junior High School in Kobe.

1955

Marries Shoko Saito, who also works as a music teacher at Motoyama Junior High School. Soon after that, the couple moves into the public housing in Fukae, Honjo-cho, Higashinada-ku, Kobe.

1956

Around this time, changes his name to Ryuji.

1958

Is dispatched as a researcher to the Department of Art within the Faculty of Education at Kobe University for one year.

1959

Tanaka's first daughter, Maki, is born.

1960

Becomes an associate member of the Shin Bijutu Kyokai (New Art Association).

1961

Tanaka's second daughter, Toki, is born.

1962

Becomes a member of the Shin-Bijutu Kyokai (New Art Association).

1963

Transferred to Konan Boys' High School in Ashiya. Around this time, he makes frequent visits to Gutai exhibitions.

1965

He becomes a member of the Ashiya City Art Association.

From October, he becomes a member of the Gutai Bijutsu Kyokai (Gutai Art Association) until 1967.

1966

Completes the wall painting "MOSAICO" in showroom of the Osaka Mitsubishi Motor Sales in Osaka.

1967

Completes the ceramic plates wall painting "MOSAICO" in Shinji Agricultural Cooperative Hall in Matsue.

1968

Completes the ceramic plates wall painting in showroom of Osaka Mitsubishi Motor Sales Senba office in Osaka.

1969

Moves to Matsugaoka, Akashi.

1972

Death of Jiro Yoshihara and Gutai Art Association dissolves.

1986

Goes to Paris and learns contemporary printmaking technique at Stanley William Hayter's printmaking studio "Atelier 17" for 8 months.

1993

Retires from teaching at Konan Boys' High School in Ashiya.

July 6, 2014

Dies at the age of 87.

Exhibition history – selected solo exhibitions

2019

Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong, 21 October-1February.

2018

Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Kanaal, Wijnegem, 1 September-17 November.

2017

Simon Lee Gallery, London, 23 June-25 August.

Simon Lee Gallery, New York City, 13 September-28 October.

2016

Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, 10 March-30 April.

Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong, 24 August-4 November.

2002

Painting/Passion and Sharpness, Ryuji Tanaka Exhibition, JR Osaka Service Gallery, Osaka, 25 July-14 August.

2001

Ryuji Tanaka Exhibition Two Expressions, Sunpal 5F Kobe Citizens Gallery, Kobe, 1-6 June.

1991

Ryuji Tanaka Exhibition, Hyogo Prefectural Citizens Hall 1F Special Gallery, Kobe, 5-7 May.

1987

TANAKA RYU peinture - suibokuga, ESPACE JAPON, Paris, France, 31 January-7 February.

Ryuji -8 months in Paris Exhibition, Gallery Avenue Kobe, Kobe, 23-28 July.

1985

Drawing Exhibition, Hyogo Prefectural Citizens Hall 2F Medium Hall, Kobe, unknown specific date.

1982

Small Work Exhibition, Space Adesso, Ashiya, unknown specific date. *Impression of Europe Exhibition*, *Kaneko Pearl*, Kobe, 18-26 December.

1979

Lithograph Exhibition - Impression of Mongolia, Gallery Ashiya Mate, Ashiya, unknown specific date.

1977

Ryuji Tanaka Solo Exhibition, Miyako Gallery, Osaka, 21-26 March.

1971

Ryuji Small Work Exhibition, Ikuta Shrine Hall Gallery, Kobe, 1-5 April.

1967

Impression of Europe; Ryuji Tanaka Japanese-Style Painting Exhibition, SOGO Department Store Kobe Annex 8F Gallery, Kobe, 17-22 March.

1966

A Commemorative of the visiting Europe Exhibition, Kobe International House 5F, Kobe, 10-11 May.

1965

Ryuji Tanaka Solo Exhibition, Kobe International House 5F, Kobe, 25-27 October.

1963

Ryuji Tanaka Solo Exhibition, Takekawa Art Gallery, Tokyo, 1-7 April.

1960

Ryuji Tanaka Solo Exhibition, Kobe Hankyu Department Store Gallery, Kobe, 12-17 January.

Exhibition history – selected group exhibitions

2018

Jean Degottex, Liz Deschenes, Ryuji Tanaka, Campoli Presti, Paris, France, 18 October–1 December.

Gutai, Hauser & Wirth – New York, 69th Street, New York City, USA, 1 November–22 December.

2017

INTUITION, Axel & May Vervoordt Foundation, Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, 13 May–26 November.

2016

Made in Japan, CC Strombeek, Strombeek, 7 October–8 November.

2014

12th Japanese-style Painting Exhibition, Himeji Citizen Gallery, Himeji, 16 –20 April.

2003

Ryuji Tanaka and Yoshiko Kamei: Two Person Exhibition "art as an interior", Kansai Electric Power Kobe Branch Elle Galley Noppo, Kobe.

1998

The New Year's Celebration Japanese-style Small Paintings Exhibition, Gallery Ajisai, Kobe, 13–25 January.

1997

23rd Kobe Literature and Art Exhibition, Kobe Hankyu Museum, Kobe, 2–7 July.

1994

The New Year's Celebration Japanese-style Small Paintings Exhibition, Gallery Ajisai, Kobe, 18–29 January.

Hyogo Prefecture Japanese-style Paintings Exhibition, PICA, Perth, Australia.

1993

1st Akashi Contemporary Artists Exhibition, Akashi City Museum of Culture, Akashi (Tanaka continues to participate in the exhibition until 2014).

Gutai III: 1965-1972, Ashiya City Museum of Art & History, Ashiya, 19 June-18 July.

1992

Japanese Avant-Garde Gutai, The Miyagi Museum of Art, Sendai, 1 February-29 March.

1990

Japanese-style Painting after World War Two in Kobe -PART I-, Kobe city hall citizen gallery, Kobe, 2 November-10 December.

1989

The Japan Spanish Society of Kobe: 3rd Sol y Sombra Exhibition, Gallery Santica, Kobe, 2-7 March.

1986

12th Kobe Literature and Art Exhibition, Gallery Santica, Kobe, 10-15 July.

1985

Hyogo Prefecture Contemporary Art Exhibition -Music, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe, 1-23 June.

1982

Hyogo Prefecture Art Association Local Tour Exhibition (Awaji exhibit tour), Hyogo Prefectural Awaji Cultural Hall, Awaji.

Hyogo Prefecture Japanese-style painters' Association Shikishi Painting Exhibition, Gallery Kan, Kobe.

Hyogo Prefecture Japanese-style painters' Association the spring time Exhibition, Hyogo Prefecture Hall Art Gallery, Kobe.

1981

Portopia '81: The Amicable Exhibition between Artists from Kobe city and Tianjin city, Gallery Portico, Kobe.

Portopia '81: Hyogo Contemporary Art Exhibition -The Sea, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe, 11 July-9 August.

Local Artists' Painting (Japanese and Western-style) Exhibition, Daimaru Kobe.

Hyogo Kobe Japanese-style Painting Exhibition, Gallery Portico, Kobe.

4th Local Artists' Japanese-style "Shikishi (signature board)" Painting Exhibition, KCC Art Gallery, Kobe.

1979

Jiro Yoshihara and Today's Aspects of the Gutai, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe, 5-28 January.

Local Artists' Comprehensive Art Exhibition: 7th Hyogo Prefecture Art Festival, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe.

1st Danton Exhibition, Gallery Santica, Kobe.

1978

7th Coloring Your Life with Small Works Exhibition, KCC Art Gallery, Kobe.

1977

Local Japanese-style Painters' New works Exhibition, Yamatoyashiki Art Gallery, Himeji.

1976

The "Bunka" 5 Artists Exhibition, Ikuta Shrine Hall Gallery, Kobe.

18 Years of Gutai Art, Osaka Prefectural Gallery, Osaka, 2-14 November.

1975

5th Hyogo Prefecture Art Festival, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe, 5-17 January.

1974

Local 10 Artists' Exhibition, Gallery Santica, Kobe, unknown. -The selected Japanese-style Painters in Hyogo Prefecture Exhibition, Gallery Kobe, Kobe.

1973

3rd Hyogo Prefecture Art Festival, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe, unknown.

1971

1st Hyogo Prefecture Art Festival, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe, 5-17 January.

1969

The recommended Artists' Exhibition of Hyogo Prefecture, Daimaru Kobe, Kobe.

1967

19th Gutai Art Exhibition, Tokyo Central Museum, Tokyo, 1-14 October.
Exhibition travels to Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka, 1-15 November.

1966

Ichiro Hariu presents "This is Japanese-Style Painting!" Exhibition, gallery nippon, Tokyo, unknown.

1965

The selected Japanese-style Painters' Exhibition, Nishi Ginza Art Gallery, Tokyo, 27 October-1 November.
Exhibition travels to TSUBAKI-KINDAI Gallery, Tokyo, 28 October-2 November.
15th Gutai Art Exhibition, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka, 1-20 July.
16th Gutai Art Exhibition, Keio Department Store, Tokyo, 8-13 October.

1963

Japanese-style painters' Exhibition in Hyogo Prefecture, Toyota Shoundo, Kobe, 19-22 July.
The selected 50 Artists from Hyogo Prefecture, Daimaru Kobe, Kobe, 19-25 August.
The First Annual Exhibition of the Sumi-e Society of America, The Nippon Club, New York, 21 November-4 December.

1951

Hyogo Prefecture Japanese-style painters' Association Exhibition (Tanaka continues to participate in the exhibition until 2003).

1950

4th Pan-real Exhibition, Fujii Daimaru, Kyoto, 18-22 June.
5th Pan-real Exhibition, Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts, Osaka, 8-13 November (exhibition travels to Fujii Daimaru, Kyoto, 25-30 November).

1949

1st Pan-real Exhibition, Fujii Daimaru, Kyoto, 14-19 May.
2nd Pan-real Exhibition, Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts, Osaka, 23-29 November.
3rd Pan-real Exhibition, Fujii Daimaru, Kyoto, 10-15 December.

Public collections

Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Ashiya
Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kobe
Hyogo Prefectural Private School Hall, Kobe
Kobe Municipal Motoyama Junior High School, Kobe
KONAN Gakuen, Ashiya
Ninomiya Shrine, Kobe
Nofukuji Temple, Kobe
Osaka City Museum of Modern Art, Osaka
Sugimoto Nursery and Kindergarten, Kishiwada
Tate Modern, London
The Miyagi Museum of Art, Sendai
The Rachofsky House, Dallas