

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 84

FOR RELEASE:

Tuesday, August 10, 1965

PRESS PREVIEW:

Monday, August 9, 1965

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

An exhibition of prints by the Japanese artist, MASUO IKEDA, will open at The Museum of Modern Art on August 10 and will remain on view in the Museum's first floor galleries through September 19. Selected by William S. Lieberman, Curator of the Department of Drawings and Prints, the exhibition consists of 24 prints executed in Tokyo from 1961 through 1965.

In his introduction, Mr. Lieberman says that Ikeda, "like many artists in Europe and the United States who came of age after the war of the forties, is interested in the absurd. Bright humor and satirical comment illuminate his world, but in his fantasies there is also pathos, tenderness and, unexpectedly, violence. His style blends romanticism with expressionism, naiveté with sophistication."

This spirit of fantasy and satire, as well as his choice of graphic media - drypoint - clearly distinguishes his prints from the school of woodcuts which has dominated printmaking in Japan since the war. Ikeda is a master of a highly personal technique which differs from that of any other artist working in itaglio today. He is fundamentally a draughtsman, a printmaker who draws on metal. The rich textures of line are characteristic of drypoint, but the combination of etching and roulette allows velvet fields of color, impossible to achieve in drypoint alone. Ikeda also prints all his work himself, a complete break with the older, collaborative fashion of woodblock printing in Japan.

Of the 24 works in the exhibition, 23 are in color. Most of his work is anecdotal, telling stories which are often autobiographical. The artist believes that "real things can be strange, and so-called common things unfamiliar. What happened yesterday is often much more real than what occurs today."

Twenty-one of the prints were recently acquired by the Museum, gifts of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.

(more)

Masuo Ikeda was born in Mukden, Manchuria, in 1934 of Japanese parents. He was repatriated to Japan in 1945 and Ikeda attended high school in the Nagano prefecture in central Japan. In 1952 he moved to Tokyo, where he now lives with his wife who is a poet. The Ikedas are currently in New York City, where Mr. Ikeda hopes to work for the next six months before making a short trip to Europe.

The artist has exhibited at the four international print biennials held in Tokyo since 1957, and in 1963 he was included among the Japanese artists whose work was sent to the seventh Biennial of São Paulo. His work was also included in the exhibition of Contemporary Painters and Sculptors as Printmakers held at The Museum of Modern Art last summer. In 1965 he was awarded a prize at the sixth International Biennial in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

Photographs, checklist and additional information available from Lynn Traiger,
Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art,
11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

CHECKLIST

MASUO IKEDA

August 10 - September 19, 1965

1. WOMAN. (1961). Drypoint, roulette and etching, printed in four colors (artist's proof), 8 1/4 x 6 3/8". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
2. ADAM AND EVE. (1962). Drypoint and etching, printed in two colors (imp. 12/20), 11 3/8 x 9 3/16". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
3. PERSON STARING AND PERSONS LYING DOWN. (1962). Drypoint, printed in two colors (artist's proof), 11 15/16 x 7 13/16". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
4. ANIMAL'S WEDDING. 1962. Drypoint and etching, printed in four colors (artist's proof), 14 5/16 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
5. FESTIVAL IN THE WOODS. 1962. Drypoint and roulette, printed in two colors (imp. 7/20), 14 3/8 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
6. INSECTS CROSSING THE GARDEN. (1962). Etching and drypoint, printed in three colors (imp. 5/20), 14 1/4 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
7. LARGE SWAMP AND OTHER SWAMPS. (1963). Drypoint, printed in black (imp. 2/20), 14 3/8 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
8. MY OWN THINGS. (1963). Drypoint and roulette, printed in four colors (imp. 3/20), 15 5/8 x 13 11/16". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.

more...

9. A DAY WITHOUT A DATE. 1963. Drypoint, roulette and etching, printed in three colors (imp. 4/20), 14 1/4 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
10. MY GLOOMY DAY. 1963. Etching, roulette and drypoint printed in three colors (artist's proof), 14 3/8 x 13 5/16". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
11. A LOVER COMES OVER. 1963. Drypoint and roulette, printed in three colors (imp. 5/20), 14 7/16 x 9 3/8". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
12. THE PUPIL'S NAME IS EVE. (1963). Drypoint and roulette, printed in five colors (imp. 2/20), 14 1/4 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
13. A SHOP WINDOW. (1963). Drypoint and roulette, printed in four colors (artist's proof), 15 9/16 x 13 5/16". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
14. MYSELF STARING AT ME. 1964. Etching, drypoint and roulette, printed in five colors (imp. 11/20), 7 7/8 x 7". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
15. ANNUNCIATION. 1964. Etching, roulette and drypoint, printed in four colors (imp. 2/20), 15 11/16 x 14 5/16". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
16. A LADY MAKING UP. 1964. Etching, drypoint and roulette, printed in five colors (imp. 1/20), 14 1/4 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
17. SUMMER I. 1964. Etching and roulette, printed in three colors (imp. 6/20), 15 3/4 x 14 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.

more...

- 3 -

18. SUMMER II. 1964. Drypoint, etching and roulette, printed in four colors (imp. 2/20), 14 7/16 x 14 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
19. SACRED HAND. 1965. Drypoint and roulette, printed in three colors (imp. 1/20), 14 3/8 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
20. BLUE COSTUME. 1965. Drypoint, roulette and etching, printed in three colors (imp. 1/20), 15 3/4 x 14 5/16". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
21. ROMANTIC SCENE. 1965. Drypoint, roulette and etching, printed in five colors (imp. 1/20), 14 5/16 x 13 1/4". Collection The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of the Felix and Helen Juda Foundation.
22. DEATH IN PARADISE. 1965. Roulette, etching and drypoint, printed in five colors (imp. 1/30), 15 3/4 x 14 1/4". Lent by the Nihonbashi Gallery, Tokyo.
23. FLOWER GARDENS. 1965. Roulette, etching and drypoint, printed in four colors (imp. 1/30), 14 3/8 x 13 3/8". Lent by the Nihonbashi Gallery, Tokyo.
24. SISTERS. (1965). Drypoint, etching and roulette, printed in four colors (imp. 1/30), 14 3/8 x 13 1/2". Lent by the Nihonbashi Gallery, Tokyo.