

Rantoukaku Art Museum

◆Exhibition Title

Artists of Aomori

◆Exhibition Overview

Aomori Prefecture has produced many artists whose diverse talents have pioneered new areas of expression.

This exhibition will display works by artists with ties to Aomori, along with works from our museum collection.

◆View point

This special exhibition brings together masterpieces from the collection of the Aomori Museum of Art, which houses many works by artists from Aomori Prefecture, including the world-renowned woodblock artist Shiko Munakata and globally acclaimed contemporary artist Yoshitomo Nara. Enjoy the many strong personalities that have been nurtured in the midst of rich nature.

◆Profile

Kon Junzo (1893 – 1944)

Kon Junzo was born in Hirosaki, Aomori Prefecture in 1893. He moved to Tokyo in 1906 and mainly painted oil paintings, but was affected by the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 and returned to his hometown of Aomori. He then devoted himself to the study of copperplate and lithography in Aomori City. At that time, the techniques of copperplate printing and lithography had not yet been established in Japan, and each artist worked on them through trial and error. Kon Junzo became a teacher and started teaching art at Aomori Normal School. He then set up a home and studio near Gappo Park. Many young people who aspired to be artists, including Munakata Shiko and Sekino Junichiro, visited the studio. Many young people influenced by Kon Junzo would later grow to become artists representing Aomori Prefecture and Japan.

◆Recommended works

Junzo Kon “Landscape (Snowscape)”

This small copperplate print was produced using the dual techniques of etching and aquatint.

His overwhelming descriptive ability is apparent in the way he portrays the faintly white night sky illuminated by the snowlight and the texture of the melting snow as its surface begins to loosen slightly.

