

Nojo Masayoshi

Born in 1989 in Kanagawa, Japan, Masayoshi Nojo completed his MA in Japanese Paintings in 2015 from the Kyoto University of Art and Design. With his unique and complex techniques, he combines contemporary visual languages with Japanese aesthetics, exploring the themes of memory and the passage of time.



Rooted in Japanese art history, Nojo's use of silver, ethereal and shimmering, is particularly reminiscent of Ogata Kōrin's celebrated work during the Edo Period in seventeenth-century Japan. Kōrin's marbled silver rivers, often painted upon byōbu folding screens, were symbolic of the flow of time due to the changing colour of the metal oxidising. This depiction of time has since been adopted as a motif by artists worldwide such as Gustav Klimt and has become a cornerstone of a form of Japanese art known today as *Rinpa* (literally meaning "school of Kōrin"). With his most recent series, entitled *Mirage*, Nojo uses this sense of time to conjure a sense of *dèjà-vu* in the viewer, evoking a memory tantalisingly close, yet just out of reach.

This exploration of time and memory is achieved using an innovative variety of mixed media and techniques, with each stage meticulously executed. Firstly, Nojo prepares the foundation of his canvas with a marbled layer of acrylic paint, reminiscent of the river in Kōrin's seminal work *Red and White Plum Blossoms*. Nojo then photographs, selects, and carefully adjusts each image before transferring the image to the canvas via silk screening, allowing the marbled layer beneath to shine through and to create an abstracted, contemporary twist to the work. Finally, layers of aluminium and silver foil are applied to the canvas that are highly symbolic and recreate a sense of intangible distant memories.

Selected Artworks



Masayoshi Nojo

Mirage #43, 2019

Cotton on panel, acrylic,

silver foil,

aluminium foil

120 x 150 cm



Masayoshi Nojo

Mirage#44, 2019

Cotton on panel, acrylic,

silver foil,

aluminium foil

150 x 220 cm

Nojo Masayoshi CV

b. 1989- in Kanagawa, Japan.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2023 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Immerse yourself in the transitory nature, Open Creation of Art Project*, What Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2023 *Masayoshi Nojo Exhibition*, Mitsukoshi Contemporary Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2022 *ACTIVATE KOGEI + ART GINZA2022*, Matsuya Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
- 2022 *Group Exhibition*, Hotel Metropolitan KAWASAKI, Kawasaki, Japan
- 2022 *Foreshadowing*, Eslite Gallery, Taipei
- 2022 *Kuriwada Eichi special award 10th Anniversary Exhibition*, Sagawa Art Museum, Shiga, Japan
- 2021 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2021 *Stillness*, YUKIKO MIZUTANI, Tokyo, Japan
- 2020 *Abstraction & The Natural World*, group exhibition, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *The Contemporary Human Condition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Under the Moonlight*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 *Summer Exhibition 2019*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2017 *Mirage*, Tokyo Arts Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 *Mirage*, Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 *Stars Popped out of Chaos - Next generation of artists - Kyoto University of Art and Design*, SPIRAL, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 *Brilliant Corners*, Tokyo Arts Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

- 2015 *Kuriwada Eichi Special Award Ceremony*, Sagawa Art Museum, Shiga, Japan
- 2015 *Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2015*, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 *Postgraduate Exhibition*, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto, Japan
- 2014 *When the Attitude Becomes a Form*, ARTZONE, Kyoto, Japan
- 2014 *Stories Reconsidered by Materials*, T-Art Complex, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 *Gashinten*, The Sato Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 *This Is Where I Learnt Nihonga*, Galerie Aube, Kyoto, Japan
- 2013 *TOKYO WONDER SEED 2013*, Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 *2013 Kyoto University of Art and Design Graduation Exhibition*, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto, Japan
- 2012 *Gen the 3rd*, ex Rissei Elementary School, Kyoto, Japan
- 2012 *Art Festival, Iwami the Blue 2012*, Shimane, Japan
- 2012 *The 8th World Painting Grand Prize Exhibition*, Sekaido Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *Mebae 2012*, Galerie Aube, Kyoto, Japan
- 2012 *INNOVATE, 3 Japanese Painters*, Gallery Kato, Kyoto, Japan
- 2012 *Gashinten*, Muromachi Art Court, Kyoto, Japan
- 2011 *Art Auction – STORY vol. 3*, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan
- 2011 *Gashinten*, Muromachi Art Court, Kyoto, Japan

Art Fairs

- 2022 *MEET YOUR ART FESTIVAL 2022 New Soil*, Yebisu Garden Place, Tokyo, Japan
- 2021 *ART FAIR TOKYO 2021*, Tokyo International forum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2020 *Contemporary Istanbul*, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2019 *ZONA MACO*, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico

- 2019 *Contemporary Istanbul*, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2018 *Art Fair Tokyo*, Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2018 *VOLTA NY*, Gallery Art Composition Tokyo, PIER 90 NY, USA
- 2017 *Art Fair Tokyo*, Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2017 *Art Jakarta*, Gallery Art Composition Tokyo, The Ritz – Carlton Pacific Place, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2016 *Art Fair Tokyo*, Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 *Art Osaka*, Gallery Art Composition, Tokyo, Hotel Granvia, Osaka, Japan

Awards

- 2014 Kyoto University of Art and Design Graduate Diploma Exhibition
- 2014 Sagawa Art Museum Eiichi Kuriwada Special Award
- 2013 Academic Prize, Kyoto University of Art and Design Graduation Exhibition
- 2013 Grand Prize, Art Bar
- 2013 Creation of Kyoto Albion Award
- 2013 Grand Prize Turner Award
- 2013 Tokyo Wonder Seed
- 2012 The 6th Seison Maeda Prize
- 2012 The 8th World Painting Grand Prize
- 2009 Grand Prize, Tadasu no Mori Dessin Contest

Public Collections

HOTEL MYSTAYS PREMIER Group, Japan

Sagawa Art Museum, Shiga

Universal Music LLC Japan, Tokyo

OCA TOKYO, Tokyo

UESHIMA COLLECTION