

# GUTAI

JAPANESE ACTION PAINTERS  
THE NEW GALLERY

OCT. 29 - NOV. 15  
BENNINGTON COLLEGE

1958

The GUTAI group lives and works in the area of Japan known as the "kansai", near the cities of Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto. The art it has produced in the last four or five years appears to be an effort to break out of the Japanese tradition. Under the leadership of the painter and teacher, Jiro Yoshihara, the GUTAI group has accepted the general notions behind such western art as that called "l'art autre" or "l'art informel" in France and the "action painting" of recent years in the United States. Perhaps the strongest influence on the group is that suggested by the work and attitudes of the late Jackson Pollock.

Yoshihara selected the paintings and Michel Tapie, the French critic, made the arrangements more or less in exchange for approximately the same number of works by American painters now in a show touring Japan, an exhibition entitled INTERNATIONAL ART OF A NEW ERA. The GUTAI exhibition is being shown here through the courtesy of the Martha Jackson Gallery and will have been seen only in New York, Bennington and San Francisco before it returns to the Orient.

The sixteen painters listed below are mostly young men and women, none of whom has previously exhibited outside of Japan. Despite some of the unconventional techniques used in producing their pictures (Shiraga paints his with his feet in order to evade an arm trained in the oriental tradition), the results are hardly accidental or in the negative spirit of World War I Dada. On the contrary, one feels that the tradition of art in the largest sense has broken through the efforts to subvert or surmount it. GUTAI has also pursued its vision of freer expression in the fields of the dance and the theater, experiments which seem to have surpassed the "surrealist" as well as traditional types of symbolism.

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| 1 - KANAYAMA, Akira     | 9 - SHIRAGA, Kazuo       |
| 2 - KINOSHITA, Toshike  | 10 - SUMI, Yasuo         |
| 3 - MASANOBU, Masatoshi | 11 - TANAKA, Atsuko      |
| 4 - MONTONAGA, Sadamasa | 12 - YAMASAKI, Tsuruko   |
| 5 - MARUKAMI, Saburo    | 13 - YOSHIDA, Toshio     |
| 6 - OHARA, Kimiko       | 14 - YOSHIHARA, Jiro     |
| 7 - SHIMAMOTO, Syozo    | 15 - YOSHIHARA, Michio   |
| 8 - SHIRAGA, Fukiko     | 16 - TSUBOUCHI, Teruyuki |