

PAINTINGS BY THE GUTAI GROUP OF OSAKA JAPAN

For the first time the Japanese are breaking with tradition by the practice of non-objective art, an approach which is natural to them. With disarming simplicity and directness, they achieve works of extreme complication, individuality, and distinction.

For the month of October eighteen Japanese artists of the Gutai Group of Osaka were showing twenty-eight works of impressive size at the Martha Jackson Gallery. All paintings are executed in Japan during 1958. None of these artists had ever shown outside of Japan before.

The Gutai are a frankly experimental group. They have taken their cue from American painting, notably Jackson Pollock. Most of the work reveal the use of a "poured" technique and a philosophy of "anything goes." Materials vary. Canvas, oil cloth, and heavy paper mounted on wood are used. With unusual means striking textural effects are achieved. From photographs and descriptive captions it can be seen that individuals differ widely from each other.

Arrangements for the exhibitions were made by Michel Tapie, Paris art critic, through invitation of the Martha Jackson Gallery. The exhibition is an exchange with the Gutai Group under whose auspices Tapie selected twenty-five American artists to show works in the exhibition INTERNATIONAL ART OF A NEW ERA, now touring Japan. Paintings showing here were chosen by Jiro Yoshihara, leader of the Gutai Group. Mr. Yoshihara is sponsor of the exhibition as well as one of the exhibiting artists. Following the New York exhibition the Gutai paintings will travel to Bennington College, Bennington Vermont, and to Oakland California before returning to Japan.