

## Shigeru Onishi: A Chronology

Research was carried out by Katsuya Ishida, Mizuho Takahashi, and Yasumasa Kawata.

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| 1928  | Nov. 2             | Shigeru Onishi is born in Takahashi, Okayama Prefecture.   |
| 1945  |                    | Graduates from the Sixth High School where he studied mathematics and the sciences, with English as a second language.<br>Pursues his study of <i>I Ching</i> divination and psychic phenomena, immersing himself in the fields and mountains.   |
| 1953– |                    | Graduates from the School of Science at Hokkaido University, where he majored in mathematics, then goes on to earn a master's degree at the same. Enrolls for a year in the School's doctoral program before continuing his research at its Laboratory of Mathematics, where he devotes himself to studying the meta-infinite and producing works related to the field.  |
| 1955  | Mar. 15–24         | <i>The First Shigeru Onishi Photography Exhibition</i> at Nabis Gallery (Tokyo). Shuzo Takiguchi and Shigene Kanamaru contribute texts to the exhibition's invitation.   |
| 1956  | Dec. 11–16         | Presents <i>Work</i> at <i>The First International Subjective Photography Exhibition</i> (organized by Sankei Camera) at the Nihonbashi Takashimaya Department Store (Tokyo). Originally a touring exhibition titled <i>Subjektive Fotografie 2</i> , put together by German photographer Otto Steinert, it showed in Saarbrücken and Paris (in 1954 and 1955 respectively) before showing in Japan with the new inclusion of works by Japanese photographers. |
| 1957  | Mar. 21–31         | Shuzo Takiguchi hosts <i>The Second Shigeru Onishi Photography Exhibition</i> at Takemiya Gallery (Tokyo).   |
|       | May                | Three of Onishi's works are printed in a feature on the subjective photography movement in <i>A Special Number Atelier: New Photography</i> (pub. Atelier Shuppansha).   |
|       | July               | Six of Onishi's works are printed in <i>Photo 35</i> (pub. New Japan Photography Society) in an article titled "From Shigeru Onishi's Photography Show."<br>Becomes acquainted with Michel Tapié. Around this time, Onishi's practice shifts from photography to <i>bokusho</i> (abstract ink painting).   |
|       | Oct. 11 – Nov. 10; | Participates in <i>Contemporary World Art</i> , an international exhibition of Informalist works curated by Michel Tapié, held first at the  |
|       | Dec. 16–22         | Bridgestone Museum of Art (Tokyo) then at the Daimaru Department Store (Osaka).  |

- 1958 Apr. 12–20 Participates in the *Osaka International Festival—The International Art of a New Era: Informel and Gutai* exhibition at the Namba Takashimaya Department Store (Osaka); the exhibition later toured to Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Tokyo, and Kyoto.
- Mar. 14–20 Participates in the *Japanese Subjective Photography* exhibition at the Fuji Photo Salon (Tokyo), organized by the Japan Subjective Photography League, which had formed two years before.
- Mar. 31 Formally leaves Hokkaido University.
- 1959 May 5 – June 15 Presents work at the exhibition *Arte Nuova: Esposizione Internazionale di Pittura e Scultura* (“New Art: International Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture”) at the Palazzo Graneri (Turin).
- Sept. 21–30 Included in the exhibition *Fifteen Japanese Contemporary Artists Recommended by Tapié* at Gendai Gallery (Tokyo).
- Nov. 12 – Dec. 2 Onishi’s work is included in the *MÉTAMORPHISMES* exhibition at Galerie Stadler (Paris).  
A club to support Onishi’s artistic activities is set up in Tokyo, led by his brother Yoshiyuki.
- 1960 Apr. 6–16 Solo exhibition at Gendai Gallery (Tokyo). Yusuke Nakahara’s review, titled “Intelligent compositions: Shigeru Onishi’s explorations of the possibilities of ink,” appears in the *Yomiuri Shimbun*’s evening newspaper.
- Apr. 19–24 Participates in *International Sky Festival*, an exhibition conceived by Michel Tapié and organized by the Gutai group, at the Namba Takashimaya Department Store (Osaka).
- 1961 Mar. Participates in the exhibition *Continuité et avant-garde au Japon* (“Continuity and the avant-garde in Japan”) at the International Center of Aesthetic Research (Turin).  
*Onishi (Baroques Ensemblistes 5)*, a large-format catalogue of Onishi’s artworks, is published by Edizioni d’Arte Fratelli Pozzo (Turin).
- 1962 June 18 – Aug. 5 Onishi is among the artists selected for the exhibition *Strutture e Stile. Pitture e sculture di 42 artisti d’Europa, America e Giappone* (“Structures and Style: Paintings and Sculptures by 42 Artists from Europe, America, and Japan”) at the Galleria Civica d’Arte Moderna (Turin).
- 1964 Aug. 14 – Sept. 4 Onishi’s work is included in the exhibition *Intuiciones y realizaciones formales* (“Intuitions and Formalizations”) at Centro de Artes Visuales, Instituto Torcuato Di Tella (Buenos Aires).

- Nov. 13 –  
unknown  
date  
1965 Mar. 8 –  
unknown  
date  
1969
- Work included in the exhibition *Esposizione dei Pittori* (“The Painters’ Exhibition”) at the International Center of Aesthetic Research (Turin).
- Work included in the exhibition *Le baroque généralisé* at the International Center of Aesthetic Research (Turin).
- A Study of Meta-Infinite: Logic of Continuum (1)*, which compiled Onishi’s *bokusho* work and his essay on mathematics, is published by the International Center of Aesthetic Research (Turin), with a foreword by Michel Tapié.
- Feb. 21 – Mar.  
21  
1970
- Onishi’s work is included in the exhibition *Isologie–Homologie–Analogie : D’un esprit exact, d’un espace lyrique. D’un espace exact, d’un esprit lyrique. Serpan–Filhos–Onishi* at Galerie Stadler (Paris).
- Onishi’s essay collection *Super Function Theory* is published by Orangerie Multiples (Cologne), with a foreword by Michel Tapié.
- 1973 Dec. 14 – Jan.  
23 [1974]
- Work included in exhibition *Maîtres du Japon : Insho, Onishi, Suzuki, Teshigahara* (“Masters of Japan: Insho, Onishi, Suzuki, Teshigahara”) at Galerie Albert Verbeke (Paris).
- 1977 Feb. 16 – Mar.  
6
- Onishi’s work is included in the exhibition *Nihon no chūshō kaiga: Anforumeru o chūshin to shite* (“Abstract Painting in Japan: With a Focus on Informalism”) at the Okayama Cultural Center (Okayama).
- 1981 June 6 – July  
11
- Nara Prefectural Museum of Art holds the exhibition *Ōhashi Kaichi korekushon kara: Gendai bijutsu no sekai* (“From the Kaichi Ohashi Collection: The World of Contemporary Art”), which includes three of Onishi’s works from the titular collection.
- 1985 Sept. 27 –  
Nov. 26
- Four of Onishi’s works are shown at the exhibition *Action et emotion, peintures des années 50: Informel, Gutai, Cobra* (“Action and emotion, paintings of the ’50s: Informalism, Gutai, Cobra”) at the National Museum of Art, Osaka.
- 1987 July 23 – Sept.  
23
- The National Museum of Art, Osaka holds the exhibition *Recent Acquisitions 1985–6*, presenting Onishi’s *bokusho* piece *In Search of Meta-Infinite*.
- 1989 Jan. 5 – Feb.  
19
- Onishi’s work is included in the exhibition *Kaiga to moji: Kakareta moji/kakareta e* (“Painting and writing: lettering to be painted/painting to be written”) at the Hakodate Museum of Art, Hokkaido.
- Jan. 13 – Feb.  
5  
1992 Jan. 25 – Feb.  
26
- Work included in *Sumi no sekai ten* (“The World of Ink Exhibition”) in the Seibu Hall at the Otsu Seibu Department Store (Shiga).
- Work included in the exhibition *Calligraphy and Painting: The Passionate Age: 1945–1969* at O Art Museum (Tokyo).

1994	Dec. 2	Onishi dies in Takahashi, Okayama Prefecture.
1998	June 4 – July 28	The National Museum of Art, Osaka holds the exhibition <i>Aspects of Line</i> , showing Onishi's <i>In Search of Meta-Infinite</i> from its collections.
2000	July 19 – Aug. 27	The Okayama Prefectural Museum of Art holds <i>Mirukoto no saihakken—Motto bijutsu o tanoshimu tameni</i> ("Rediscovering the Act of Seeing—Getting More Enjoyment Out of Art"), exhibiting <i>In Search of Meta-Infinite</i> , a work consigned to the museum.
2002	Feb. 13 – Mar. 24	Onishi's work included in exhibition <i>Sengo Okayama no bijutsu: Zen'ei tachi no sugata</i> ("Art in Postwar Okayama: The Pioneering Figures") at the Okayama Prefectural Museum of Art.
2014	May 26 – June 7	Exhibition <i>Shigeru Onishi: Elusive Avant-Garde Photographer</i> at Galerie Omotesando (Tokyo), curated by Ryuichi Kaneko.
2016	July 29 – Sept. 11	Onishi's <i>In Search of Meta-Infinite</i> is included in the exhibition <i>A Feverish Era: Art Informel and the Expansion of Japanese Artistic Expression in the 1950s and '60s</i> at The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto.
2017	Nov. 9–12	19 of Onishi's photographs are shown in <i>Shigeru Onishi: In Search of Meta-Infinite</i> at the MEM booth in Paris Photo, held at the Grand Palais (Paris).
2019	Mar. 15 – Sept. 8	Onishi's work is included in the <i>Japanese Nudes</i> exhibition at Japanmuseum SieboldHuis (Leiden).
	Oct. 21 – TBD	The Museum of Modern Art, New York opens "Collection 1940s–1970s," featuring two of Onishi's works from the museum's collections in its "Abstract Lens" gallery.
2020	June 19 – Aug. 16	Retrospective of Onishi's work scheduled at Foam (Amsterdam). The exhibition is planned to open at Bombas Gens Centre d'Art (Valencia) at a later date, with the addition of Onishi's <i>bokusho</i> work.

### Selected Public Collections

The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto (Kyoto)

The National Museum of Art, Osaka (Osaka)

Ohara Museum of Art (Kurashiki)

Nara Prefectural Museum of Art (Nara)

The Museum of Modern Art (New York)

The New York Public Library (New York)

Bombas Gens Centre d'Art (Valencia)