

Japanese 1928

# Imai Toshimitsu

Acrylic Painters

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[Education & Background](#) | [Exhibitions](#)

## Education & Background

Toshimitsu Imai, born in Kyoto in 1928, pursued art after schooling, training at the Tokyo State Art Academy. Initially influenced by the Fauves, his career was defined by a keen sensitivity to color. He won prestigious awards in the early 1950s and later moved to Paris in 1952, studying at academic institutions and transitioning from representational to abstract art in 1955.

Imai played a crucial role in introducing European Abstract art to Japan through exhibitions and collaborations with international artists. His work gained recognition globally, particularly after showcases at significant biennales. Despite primarily being an abstract artist, he frequently experimented with figurative motifs.

From the 1970s, he incorporated words into his paintings and began infusing more Japanese elements into his art. Imai co-founded the Japanese Contemporary Artists' Association in 1984 and engaged in diverse artistic endeavors, such as designing labels for a champagne maker.

Throughout his life, Imai received numerous distinctions and honors in Europe, including being made an honorary citizen of Madrid and Lyon and receiving French accolades like the Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur and Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. In his final works, he explored themes related to war, reflecting on Japan's historical conflicts.

Sadly, Toshimitsu Imai passed away in 2002 after battling a long illness.

## Solo Exhibitions

**2021**  
There was an online art exhibition called "Artview Space" held at a penthouse apartment in New York by Gregg Baker Asian Art.

## Group Exhibitions

**2023**  
HARTUNG – IMAI – JENKINS at Dellupi Arte  
Capture the Glory: New Space Opening Group Exhibition at 樂藝居 ARTIN SPACE  
ART ON PAPER: 1920 to 2020 at Stern Pissarro Gallery  
In the Mood for Red at Stern Pissarro Gallery

**2022**  
Let the Christmas countdown begin! at 樂藝居 ARTIN SPACE  
Exploring Colour in the Gallery Collection at Stern Pissarro Gallery  
Whirlwind: Informel to Gutai" at Whitestone Gallery

**2021**  
Winter 2021 Exhibition at Gregg Baker Asian Art  
Linework at vK Contemporary

**2020**  
Post-War Masterpieces at Dellupi Arte

**2019**  
Estetica'. Omaggio a Michel Tapié at Dellupi Arte  
Ever-Evolving Worldwide Japanese Artists Right Now 3 at Karuizawa New Art Museum

**2017**  
Fleeting Lines at MAKI  
In Black & White: Japanese Postwar Abstraction 1964-1976 at W. Alexander  
Impasto: The Gestural and Sensuous in Japanese Abstract Paintings at MAKI

## Collection

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