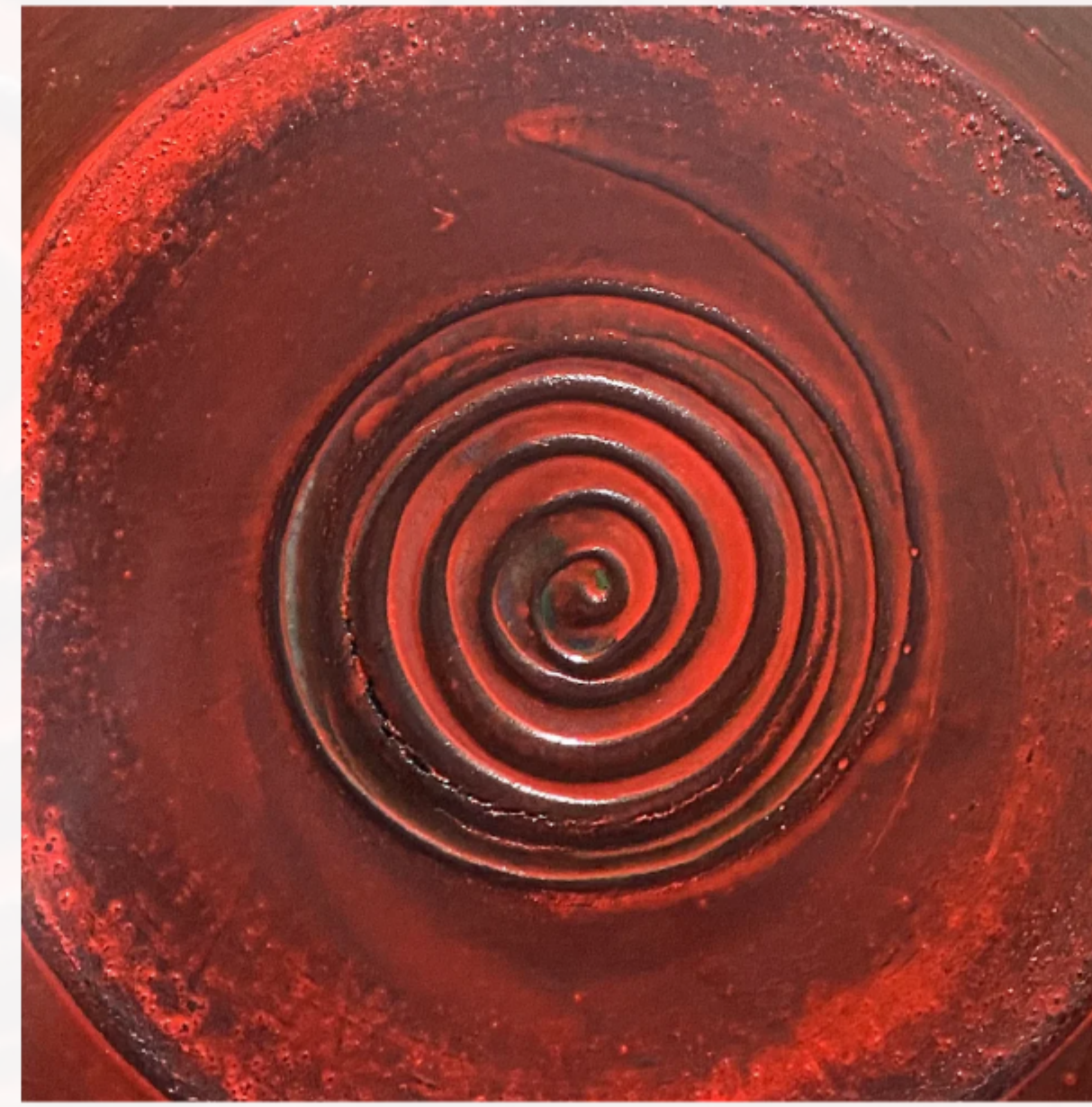


Japanese 1938

Yuko Nasaka

Board Lacquer Painters Resin

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Education & Background

Born in Osaka in 1938, Yuko Nasaka's artistic aspirations began with oil painting in junior high school and developed further in the Osaka Prefectural Ichioka High School art club. Her early ground-breaking works, after graduating from university and getting married, involved drilling many holes into large, monochromatic, grey surfaces.

One of the few female figures of the influential Gutai Art Association, Yuko Nasaka is a leading Japanese avant-garde artist. She is known for her minimalist, concentric circular compositions that are luminous and rich in texture.

In 1962 Nasaka was inspired by Kazuo Shiraga—a classmate of her husband, Senkichi Nasaka, at Kyoto City Specialist School of Painting—to submit her work to the 15th Ashiya City Exhibition. As well as winning the Mayor's Prize, her work attracted the attention of Gutai co-founder Jiro Yoshihara, who admired 'the rigorous spirit' with which she worked.

In 1963 Yuko Nasaka was invited to join the Gutai Artist Association, becoming a key figure of the group's second generation. The second generation was defined by a shift from gestural abstraction to minimalist inclinations. Her art from this period kept with the Gutai hallmarks of experimenting inventively, using modern industrial materials, and offering infinite possible meanings.

As part of Gutai, Yuko Nasaka made a modular series of square wooden panels that she had coated in a thin layer of plaster, glue, and clay, and spun on a mechanical turntable. As they rotated, she carved concentric circular patterns into the material with a palette knife, later finishing the panels with a layer of car lacquer, sprayed by an auto-factory air compressor.

For her first solo exhibition—seen by prominent artists like John Cage, Merce Cunningham, and Robert Rauschenberg—at Gutai Pinacotheca in 1964, Nasaka displayed these paintings in a large grid to create a mural. This composition of multiple panels has remained a constant in the artist's work.

The main point of difference between Yuko Nasaka's works from the 20th century and her more recent output from the 21st century is a slight shift in colour palette: from bold synthetic colours, such as the sharp blue of *Untitled* (1964), to somewhat more earthy, natural tones like the deep greens across the 12 panels of *Untitled* (2015).

Over the decades, Yuko Nasaka's art has been exhibited widely in Japan and across the globe. Her works can be found in the collections of major public institutions such as Tate, London; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Osaka City Museum of Modern Art.

Solo Exhibitions

2018
"Flash Flash" Ann Niu Solo Exhibition, Shanghai, China

2017
Ann Niu & Qiu Sheng Xian Contemporary Chinese Art Duo Solo Exhibition, Art Futures Group, Hong Kong

2016
Microcosm – Ann Niu Solo Exhibition, ArtCN Gallery, Shanghai, China

2012
Niu Ann's recent work at SH Contemporary, Shanghai Exhibition Centre, Shanghai, China

2011
Niu Ann's painting, The Opposite House, Beijing, China

2010
2000-2010, Shanghai Art Museum, China

DRAMA, Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong

2009
Independent Series, Natelier, Shanghai, China

2003
Femme Peintures de Niu An, La Maison de La Chine, Paris, France
For a Good Reason, Hong Merchant of Australia, Sydney, Australia 45 x 40 Ink work of Niu An, Hong Merchant Gallery, Shanghai, China

2002
Breathe, OmniQ Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2001
Unfitted Place, Hong M Gallery, Shanghai, China

2000
Entering, Liu Haisu Art Museum, Shanghai, China

Group Exhibitions

2016
Art Fair Tokyo, Tokyo International Forum Art Stage Singapore, Singapore

2015
Asia Contemporary Art Show, Hong Kong

2014
Art Beijing Contemporary Art Fair, Zendai Art, Beijing, China
Portrait Series Joined Winter Group Exhibition, IBU Gallery, Paris, France
Ceramic Work Participate Design Shanghai with Kaolin Gallery, Shanghai, China

2011
Fine Art Asia, Waterhouse & Dodd, Hong Kong

2010
Head On, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China

2009
30 Degree, Island 6 Art Centre / Studio Rouge Gallery, Shanghai, China
Reach the Heart – Art in Hospital, Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong 50-80 Group Exhibition, J Gallery, Shanghai, China

Collection

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