

August 7, 2021

Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation

## Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection×Morimura Yasumasa **M's Gift of the Sea: Auto-Mythology**

October 2 (Sat.), 2021 – January 10 (Mon.), 2022

For our second Jam Session collaboration between the Ishibashi Foundation Collection and contemporary artists, the featured artist is Morimura Yasumasa. Morimura will present ten of his latest major works, created in response to Aoki Shigeru's *A Gift of the Sea*. In these original works, Morimura, acting alone, performs eighty-five individuals telling their stories. Those tales are from the Meiji(1868-1912), Taisho(1912-1926), and Showa(1926-1989) periods, the present, and the future, creating in effect a picture scroll that asks where we have been, where we are going, and what is the end of history?



MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Auto-Mythology*, 2021 (video) ★

The Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation (Director: Ishibashi Hiroshi) is delighted to announce its upcoming exhibition, *Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection×Morimura Yasumasa M's Gift of the Sea: Auto-Mythology*.

Jam Sessions are joint performances by the Ishibashi Foundation Collection and contemporary artists. For our second session, we welcome Morimura Yasumasa. Since 1985, when he produced a self-portrait photograph in which he had dressed himself to resemble van Gogh's self-portrait, Morimura has continued to create "self-portrait-ish works" in which he disguises himself as the person in a painting or photograph, choosing sources from diverse periods and cultures and recreates it, adding his own interpretations.

Morimura has long had a secret love of the works by Aoki Shigeru and has created works inspired by Aoki's *Self-Portrait* (1903) and *A Gift of the Sea* (1904) in the Ishibashi Foundation Collection. For this Jam Session, Morimura addresses *A Gift of the Sea* anew, head on. He gives shape to the history of the many changes in Japanese culture, politics, and thought since the Meiji period, when Aoki created that work, in his own Morimura-style *A Gift of the Sea-M's Gift of the Sea*. He has elevated his ardent feelings for Aoki into a new series of works.

This exhibition will consist of about ten works by Aoki from the collection and about sixty works by Morimura. Of them, more than fifty are new works Morimura created for this exhibition. This session will be a never-before occasion with Morimura and Aoki performing.

## Exhibition Highlights

### 1. Nearly all of the Morimura works on display are new works

This exhibition includes more than fifty new works – photographs and videos of Morimura dressing himself to resemble Aoki's self-portraits and depictions of characters from *A Gift of the Sea*, plus studies and dioramas, all created for this exhibition.

### 2. Morimura Yasumasa explores Aoki Shigeru

Through his own original art, Morimura interprets and comments on masterpieces by Aoki Shigeru from the museum's collection, including *A Gift of the Sea* and *Paradise Under the Sea* (1907). Morimura's *M's Gift of the Sea* is based on his careful research on Aoki.

### 3. Large-scale Installation

Morimura's *M's Gift of the Sea* comprises ten variations on Aoki's *A Gift of the Sea*, exploring variations in Japan's culture and history in periods ranging from Meiji, Taisho, and Showa to the present and the future. Eighty-five individual characters appear in them. The ten versions of *M's Gift of the Sea*, each 3 meters wide, are arranged in a circle in this large-scale installation.

## The Ishibashi Foundation Collection

The Ishibashi Foundation Collection began as the personal collection of Ishibashi Shojiro, its founder, and is now owned by the Ishibashi Foundation, which continues those collecting activities. Presently consisting of about 2,800 works, the collection spans Western paintings, modern Japanese-style paintings, sculpture and ceramics from East and West, and Chinese and Japanese calligraphy and paintings, as well twentieth century and contemporary art.

## Jam Sessions

The Jam Sessions embody "Experiencing Creativity," the concept guiding the Artizon Museum. For Jam Sessions, artists and curators working together organize exhibitions with new works inspired by specific works in the Ishibashi Foundation Collection and sessions in which the collection and the artist's works interact to create new points of view. Our goal is a project that will be a bridge past and present and lead on to the future. The museum plans to hold a Jam Session every year.



### MORIMURA Yasumasa

Born in Osaka in 1951. Since his debut in 1985 with a portrait photograph of himself disguised as van Gogh, Morimura has shown works in Japan and abroad. Served as artistic director for the 2014 Yokohama Triennale. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Self-Portraits of YASUMASA MORIMURA: My Art, My Story, My Art History* (National Museum of Art, Osaka, 2016), *Yasumasa Morimura: Ego Obscura, Tokyo 2020* (Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, 2020), and *Morimura Yasumasa: Want to change the world? Be seriously unserious* (Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, 2020). In 2018, opened Morimura @Museum in Kitakagaya, Osaka. His many publications include *Jigazō no yukue* (Whither the self-portrait; Kobunsha Shinsho).



### AOKI Shigeru

Born in Kurume, Fukuoka prefecture, in 1882 and died in 1911. One of the most significant Western-style painters of the Meiji period, he made his debut in 1903 with a group of works on mythological subjects while still a student at the Fine Arts School. The following summer, he, his friends Sakamoto Hanjiro and Morita Tsunetomo, and his lover Fukuda Tane stayed in a fishing village on the Boso Peninsula (currently Tateyama, Chiba prefecture). His imagination stirred by the story of the large catch of fish that his friends saw, Aoki created *A Gift of the Sea*, a major work. The superb conceptual power and bold style of that painting attracted great interest, evoking a strong response, including arguments over whether it was finished or not. This exhibit of Aoki's masterworks includes *Self-Portrait* from 1903, the year of Aoki's debut, and *Onamuchi-no-mikoto* (1905) and *Paradise Under the Sea*, both paintings inspired by Japanese myths.

Portrait photograph of Aoki Shigeru, 1907

# Composition of the Exhibition

## Introduction: Gazing at "Me."

Aoki Shigeru's self-portraits and portrait photograph go face-to-face with works by Morimura in which he is disguised as Aoki.

Left: Aoki Shigeru, *Self-Portrait*, 1903

Right: Morimura Yasumasa, *Self-Portrait/Youth (Aoki)*, 2016/2021 ★



## Part 1: Appreciating *A Gift of the Sea*

Aoki's *A Gift of the Sea* and works related to the sea and myths are displayed. Morimura introduces them with his own interpretations of the works and additional comments.

Left: AOKI Shigeru, *Seascape*, 1904

Center: AOKI Shigeru, *A Gift of the Sea*, 1904

Right: AOKI Shigeru, *Paradise under the Sea*, 1907



## Part 2: Researching *A Gift of the Sea*

This section introduces the process through which Morimura created a series of ten works on the theme of *A Gift of the Sea* through sketches, other materials, and a documentary film.



Left: MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Study for M's Gift of the Sea (Color Matching01: Creation of an Appearance)*, 2020

Right: MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Study for M's Gift of the Sea (Color Matching02: And Then)*, 2020

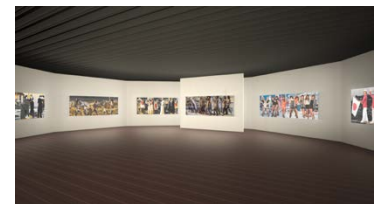


Left: MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Study for M's Gift of the Sea (Color Matching05: Virus: The Day of Resurrection, 1)*, 2021

Right: MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Study for M's Gift of the Sea (Color Matching06: In Our Time)*, 2021

## Part 3: Variations | *M's Gift of the Sea: Transforming*

A picture-scroll-like world reflecting life from the Meiji period to the twenty-first century expressed as a series of ten works—Variations | *M's Gift of the Sea: Transforming*.



CG image of the site, Hiroshi Yoshino Architects

## Part 4: Auto-Mythology

Screening of a video of the Auto-Mythology that Morimura disguised as Aoki.



MORIMURA Yasumasa, *Auto-Mythology*, 2021 (video)

\*All of the works by Aoki Shigeru and portrait photographs of him are from the Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation Collection. All the works by Morimura Yasumasa are property of the artist.

## Exhibition Overview

Exhibition title:	Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection×Morimura Yasumasa M's Gift of the Sea: Auto-Mythology
Organized by	Artizon Museum, Ishibashi Foundation
Cooperated by	Shashinkosha inc., Chishima Real Estate Co., Ltd., DNP Media Art Co., Ltd., Nikon Imaging Japan inc.
Venue:	Artizon Museum, 6F Gallery
Exhibition period:	October 2 [Sat], 2021—January 10 [Mon], 2022
Opening hours:	10:00 – 18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays) *Last entry 30 minutes before closing.
Closed:	Mondays (except Jan.10), Dec. 28 to Jan. 3
Admission (incl.tax):	Designated entry system by date and time Online ticket: 1,200 yen Same day ticket (on sale at museum): 1,500 yen Students Free entry (Advance online booking required.) *This admission fee gives the visitor access to the concurrent exhibition. *Same day tickets on sale at the museum are available only for time slots that have not reached full capacity. *Advance booking is not required children up to junior high school.
Curators:	TADOKORO Natsuko, ITO Eriko
Concurrent Exhibition:	Selections from the Ishibashi Foundation Collection The Impressionists: Tales of Painterly Friendships Special Section: France and Wine in the 20th Century, in Illustrated Books

\*The exhibition detail is subject to change without notice.

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Directions: 5 minutes on foot from JR Tokyo Station (Yaesu Central Exit); Tokyo Metro Ginza Line Kyobashi Station (No.6, 7 Exit); Tokyo Metro Ginza Line, Tozai Line, Toei Asakusa Line Nihombashi Station (B1 Exit)

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