

Ansei Uchima (1921–2000)

Biography

- 1921 Born on May 1 in Stockton, California. Lived in Los Angeles with family.
- 1940 Graduated from Manual Arts High School and went to Japan to study architecture at Waseda University in Tokyo.
- 1943 Left the University, then concentrated on drawing and oil painting.
- 1950 Met Isamu Noguchi and formed a lifelong friendship.
- 1952 Began printmaking with self-taught techniques.
- 1954 Served as interpreter for Japanese cultural scholar Oliver Statler for Statler's book, *Modern Japanese Prints: An Art Reborn* (Tuttle, 1956), interviewing many noted Japanese printmakers, including Kōshirō Onchi, Un'ichi Hiratsuka and Shikō Munakata. Began studying ukiyo-e techniques. Married Toshiko Aohara. Received award at the 18th Jiyū Bijutsuka Kyōkai Exhibition (Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum).
- 1956 Became member of Japan Print Association. Received the Shell Art Award 3rd Prize (The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura, Kanagawa). Joined the Graphic Art Club.
- 1958 Son Anju born.
- 1959 Moved to United States with family, staying temporarily in Los Angeles.
- 1960 Moved permanently to New York with family.
- 1962 Joined visual arts faculty at Sarah Lawrence College, New York, as professor of printmaking (~1982). Received John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, Creative Arts Category (also in 1970).
- 1971 From 1971 to 1975, taught printmaking for a six-week period at Sarah Lawrence College Summer Session in Lacoste, France, and traveled extensively throughout Europe with family.
- 1979 Purchased house in Shrub Oak, New York to use as weekend home and studio.
- 1982 In December, suffered stroke that ended career.
- 1994 Named professor emeritus at Sarah Lawrence College.
- 1995 Named emeritus member of Japan Print Association.
- 2000 Died in New York on May 7 (age 79).

Selected Exhibitions

- 1950 Yomiuri Independent Exhibition (Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum) [also in 1951, 1955, 1956].
- 1953 *Abstraction and Surrealism: How to understand them?* (National Museum of

- Modern Art, Tokyo).
- 1955 First solo exhibition (Yōseidō Gallery, Tokyo) [also in 1961, 1967, 1976, 1981].
- 1957 Two-person show, *Ansei Uchima and Masayuki Nagare: Wood Prints and Stone Sculptures* (Yōseidō Gallery, Tokyo). 1st International Biennial Exhibition of Prints in Tokyo (Yomiuri Hall, Tokyo).
- 1958 Ansei Uchima, Shigeru Izumi and Masaji Yoshida three-person show (Yōseidō Gallery, Tokyo). Ansei and Toshiko Uchima two-person show (Shinjuku Fūgetsudō Gallery, Tokyo). Grenchen International Print Triennale (Grenchen, Switzerland) [also in 1961].
- 1959 5th International São Paulo Biennial (Brazil).
- 1960 *Japanese Modern Prints—Sōsaku Hanga* (Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois). 2nd International Biennale of Prints in Tokyo (The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo).
- 1961 First solo exhibition in United States (Mi Chou Gallery, New York).
- 1970 35th Venice Biennale (Venice, Italy).
- 1972 2nd International Triennale of Contemporary Prints (Carpi, Italy).
- 1974 2nd Norwegian International Print Biennale Exhibition (Fredrikstad, Norway).
- 1980 Ansei Uchima, Toshiko Uchima and Isamu Noguchi three-person show, *Reflections, Images* (Hunterdon Art Cerner, New Jersey).
- 1985 Solo exhibition (Sarah Lawrence College Gallery, New York).
- 1997 Traveling exhibition, *Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions: Asian American Artists and Abstraction, 1945-1970* (New Jersey, Taipei, Japan and other venues) (~1999).
- 2004 Solo Exhibition (Susan Teller Gallery, New York).
- 2014 *Symphony of Color and Winds: The World of Ansei Uchima* (Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum).
- 2023 *Mid-Century to MANGA* (Michener Art Museum, Pennsylvania). *Imprinting in Their Time: Japanese Printmakers, 1912-2022* (Carnegie Museum of Art, Pennsylvania). *A Model Workshop* (Print Center, New York).
- 2024 *Japanese Artists of Postwar New York, Featuring Kimura Risaburo's "Metropolis"* (Aizu Museum, Waseda University). *Creative Connections: Sōsaku Hanga Artists & New York* (Scholten Japanese Art Gallery, New York).
- 2025 *Ansei Uchima: Selections* (Sarah Lawrence College Gallery, New York).

Toshiko Uchima (1918–2000, née Aohara)

Biography

- 1918 Born on October 26 in Andong Province, China (present-day Liaoning Province) where her father worked.
- 1928 Studied fundamental drawing and oil painting at Dalian Oil Painting Studio.
- 1935 Graduated from Yayoi Girls' School in Dalian. Moved to Japan with family.
- 1938 Graduated from Kōbe College (B.A.) in Kōbe. Studied under Ryōhei Koiso.
- 1953 Became member of Democrat Artists Association (Demokrato) (~1957).
- 1954 Created woodblock print for *Illustrated book "Sphinx" Poems by Shūzo Takiguchi*.
Married Ansei Uchima.
- 1956 Formed Japan Women's Print Association with eight artists (~1966).
- 1957 Joined the Graphic Art Club.
- 1958 Son Anju born.
- 1959 Moved to United States with family, staying temporarily in Los Angeles.
- 1960 Moved permanently to New York with family.
- 1979 Purchased house in Shrub Oak, New York to use as weekend home and studio.
- 2000 Died in New York on December 18 (age 82).

Selected Exhibitions

- 1953 Yomiuri Independent Exhibition (Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum) [also in 1955].
2nd Demokrato Exhibition (Maruzen Gallery, Tokyo) [also in 1954].
- 1954 4th Demokrato Exhibition (Mimatsu shobō Gallery, Tokyo) [also in 1955].
- 1955 5th Demokrato Exhibition (Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo).
- 1956 1st Women's Print Association Exhibition (Yōseidō Gallery, Tokyo) [also in 1957].
- 1957 4th Graphic Art Club Exhibition (Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo). Solo exhibition of prints, drawings, and watercolors (Osaka Sharumu Gallery).
- 1958 Ansei and Toshiko Uchima Two-Person Show (Fūgetsudō Gallery, Tokyo).
Grenchen International Print Triennial (Switzerland).
- 1959 4th Women's Print Association Exhibition (Tōyoko Old Building 7th Floor Gallery, Tokyo).
- 1960 *Japan's Modern Prints—Sosaku Hanga* (Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois).
- 1961 6th Women's Print Association Exhibition (Shirokiya 5th Floor Gallery, Tokyo) [also in 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965].
- 1964 Four-Person Show (Nihonbashi Gallery, New York).
- 1966 Japanese Women's Print Show (Pratt Graphic Art Center, New York).
- 1975 Solo exhibition (Cordy Gallery, New York).

- 1976 40 Years of American Collage Show (Harpsichord Gallery, New York). Solo exhibition (Shirota Gallery, Tokyo).
- 1977 Solo exhibition (Suzuki Gallery, New York) [also in 1979, 1982 and 1990].
- 1980 Ansei Uchima, Toshiko Uchima and Isamu Noguchi Three-person show, *Reflections, Images* (Hunterdon Art Center, New Jersey).
- 1981 Solo exhibition (Ginza Sanbangai Gallery, Tokyo).
- 1982 Toshiko Uchima and Tazuko Fujii Two-Person Show, *Collage Requiem* (Striped House Museum, Tokyo).
- 1985 Solo exhibition (Sarah Lawrence Library Gallery, New York).
- 1986 Ansei and Toshiko Uchima Two-Person Show (Striped House Museum, Tokyo) [also in 1989, 1999].
- 1990 *BOX ART of 90* (Heineken Village, Tokyo).
- 1997 Traveling exhibition, *Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions: Asian American Artists and Abstraction, 1945-1970* (New Jersey, Taipei, Japan and other venues) (~1999).
- 1999 Traveling exhibition, *Demokrato 1951 –1957: The Liberation of Art in Postwar Japan* (The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama and other venues). 2005 *Japanese Women Artists in Avant-garde Movements, 1950-1975* (Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts).
- 2014 *Ei-Q and the Avant-Garde Artists* (Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts).
- 2018 Ansei and Toshiko Uchima Two-Person Show (TOKI-NO-WASUREMONO, Tokyo).
- 2020 *Joryū Hanga Kyōkai, 1956-1965: Japan's Women Printmakers* (Portland Art Museum).
- 2024 *Defying Boundaries: Women in Japanese Art* (RISD Museum). *Creative Connections: Sosaku Hanga Artists & New York* (Scholten Japanese Art Gallery, New York).