

2. Before and after the formation of Kyushu-Ha

According to the catalogue of the Kyushu-Ha exhibition, the exhibition of Yasuyuki Ishibashi and Takami Sakurai was held at the Iwataya Social Hall from April 9 to 14, 1957.

I remember seeing the two-person exhibition, but I did not attend the meeting on the 14th. The reason why I went to see the exhibition was because Mr. Masato Hara (cartoonist), the head of the painting department of the Nishinippon Shimbun, told me that a young painter at the newspaper was holding a two-person exhibition. I went with Hara's nephew.

I think it was at the first meeting at the coffee shop Fusaya in early May that Mr. Sakurai and others called for the expansion of the "Gathering of Young Painters" and the formation of a group. I don't remember how I found out about the meeting. I think there were about 20 people in attendance at that time, but I am not sure. It was agreed that each of us would bring our own recent works to the next meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Sakurai, and the momentum for the formation of the group was strong.

The second meeting took the form of a critique session of the works brought by each participant. I brought my F6 size work, "White Nude Woman," which I painted in January of that year. I don't remember what the painters said about it. I don't remember what the painters said about it, but I still remember that the poet Tokuaki Shiroo, who was in attendance, said that it had an oriental landscape feel to it.

I think it was decided at that meeting that all the artists would participate in the 8th West Japan Art Exhibition, which was coming up the following month. I painted the "White Nude Woman" at that time, enlarged to size F30. I painted another work in size F50 and called it "Searching Woman" A and B. When I exhibited it, it was Mr. Sakurai who called it "Rusty" on the naked woman.

At that time, Mr. Sakurai and I were fortunate enough to win the Encouragement Award. The following year, in 1958, "Rusty Woman A" won the first prize at the first Western Japan Western-style Painting Newcomer's Exhibition sponsored by the Ishibashi Museum of Art, and was awarded the Gold Prize.

It is not possible to specify the dates of the two meetings in Fusaya that I mentioned earlier.

The author considers this to be the time of the formation of Kyushu-Ha. Some believe that the full-fledged formation of Kyushu-Ha took place at the "Group Q 18 Artists Exhibition" (Q is another name for Kyushu-Ha) held on the sixth floor of Iwataya Department Store from August 14 to 18, 1957.