

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

## Atsuko TANAKA Biography

1932

born in Osaka, February 10

1950

around February

Tanaka enters the Art Institute of Osaka Municipal Museum of Art(Osaka Shiritsu Bijyutsukan Fusetsu Bijyutsu Kenkyu\*jo), in preparation for art-school entrance exams.

Her fellow students include Akira Kanayama and Kazuo Shiraga, who precede her at the institute.

1951

April

Tanaka enters the Department of Western Painting at Kyoto Municipal College of Art (Kyoto Shiritsu Bijyutsu Daigaku), which is presently known as Kyoto City University of Arts(Kyoto Shiritsu Geijyutsu Daigaku).

Around Fall

Tanaka leaves the school and goes back to the Art Institute of Osaka Municipal Museum. Although she has worked primarily in a figurative mode, she begins to explore a new direction upon Kanayama's advice.

1953-54

Through Kanayama, she comes to know Zero Society(Zero-kai), which was founded in the fall of 1952 by young, innovative artists, including Kanayama, Shiraga, and Saburo\* Murakami. She attends the group's regular meetings held at Kanayama's house at the temple Myo\*ho\*ji, Osaka.

1954

around October

*Zero Society Exhibition, Sogo\* Department Store, Osaka*

1955

around Spring

Tanaka joins Gutai, together with Kanayama, Shiraga and Murakami.

June 8-12

*8th Ashiya City Exhibition, auditorium of Seido\* Elementary school*

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

July 25-August 6

*Experimental Outdoor Exhibition of Modern Art to Challenge the Midsummer Sun*,  
Ashiya Park, Ashiya

October 19-28

*1st Gutai Art Exhibition*, Ohara Kaikan hall, Tokyo

November 24-28

*3rd Genbi Exhibition*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art

Travels to: Asahi Building Hall, Ko\*be(December 1-5) and Osaka Municipal  
Museum of Art(December 13-19).

1956

April 6

For the *Life* magazine's article, a correspondent Jean Launois of Pana News  
Service and a reporter William Payne of *Life*'s Singapore Bureau come to Osaka.  
They photograph Tanaka's costume-changing work at Yoshihara's vegetable oil  
factory in the Imazu section of Nishinomiya.

April 9

*One-Day Outdoor Exhibition*, ruins near the mouth of Muko River, Amagasaki.  
The exhibition is orgaznied as part of *Life*'s research.

July 27-August 5

*Outdoor Gutai Art Exhibition*, Ashiya Park, Ashiya

October 11-17

*2<sup>nd</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition* , Ohara Kaikan hall, Tokyo

1957

April 3-10

*3<sup>rd</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art

May 29, 11 a.m.-

*Gutai Art on Stage*, Sankei Kaikan hall, Osaka  
Travels to: Sankei Hall, Tokyo(May 17, 1p.m.-)

September 13

Michel Tapié, who arrived in Tokyo on his first trip to Japan on September 5,  
sees the works by the Gutai members, including Tanaka's at Jiro\* Yoshihara's  
residence in Ashiya.

October 8-10

*4<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Ohara Kaikan hall, Tokyo

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

December 16-22

*Un Art Autre*, Daimaru Department Store, Osaka

1958

April 4, 6:30p.m.-

*2<sup>nd</sup> Gutai Art on Stage*, Asahi Kaikan hall, Osaka

April 12-20

*International Art of a New Era- Art Informel and Gutai*, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka

April 30-May 2

*5<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Ohara Kaikan hall, Tokyo

September 25- October 25

*6<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Martha Jackson Gallery, New York

Travels to: Bennington, Vermont, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Oakland, California and Houston, Texas.

1959

May 5-June 15

*Arte Nuova*, Circolo degli Artisti, Palazzo Generi, Turin

June

*7<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Galleria Arti Figerativi, Turin

August 25-30

*8<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art

Travels to: Ohara Kaikan hall, Tokyo (September 11-13)

September 21-30

*15 Contemporary Artists Selected by Tapié*, Gendai Gallery, Tokyo

1960

April 19-24

*9<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka

The exhibition is a special design presentation in conjunction with the *International Sky Festival*.

April 19-24

*International Sky Festival*, rooftop of Takashimaya Department Store

This year, Anthony Denney, a friend of Tapié's and collector of contemporary art, purchases three works by Tanaka.

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1961

March

*Continuité et Avant-Garde au Japon*, International Center of Aesthetic Research,  
Turin

April 11-16

*10<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka

Travels to: Takashimaya Department Store, Tokyo(May 2-7)

April 12-30

*Experiment in Contemporary Art*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo  
Fall

*XII Premio Lissone: Internazionale per la Pittura*, Palazzo del Centro del Mobile,  
Lissone, Italy

1962

April 17-22

*11<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka

April 25-May 21

*Structures de Répétition*, Galerie Stadler, Paris

June 18- August 5

*Structure et Stile*, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna, Turin

November 6, 6:30p.m.-

*Don't worry! The Moon Won't Fall!: Morita Modern Dance and Gutai*, Sankei Hall,  
Osaka

1963

January 29-February 3

*12<sup>th</sup> Gutai Art Exhibition*, Takashimaya Department Store, Tokyo

February 1-10

*Atsuko tanaka Exhibition*, Gutai Pinacoteca, Osaka

May 10-30

*6<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum

Travels to: Osaka, Takamatsu, Kitakyu\*shu\*, and Sasebo. Tanaka receives an  
excellence award.

August 14-September 4

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

*Intuiciones y Realizaciones Formales*, Centro de Artes Visuales Instituto Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires

November 29

William S. Lieberman, then a curator of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, visits Gutai Pinacoteca and sees Tanaka's work in his research for *The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture*, scheduled for the following year.

December 1-27

*Nagaoka Contemporary Art Museum Award Exhibition*, Nagaoka Contemporary Art Museum, Nagaoka

1965

February 27-April 4

*Moderne Malerei aus Japan*, Kunsthaus Zurich

April 29-June 13

*The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture*, San Francisco Museum of Art  
Travels to: Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado (October 2-November 14); Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois (December 12-January 30, 1966); Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska (February 26-March 20, 1966); The Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Columbus, Ohio (April 7-May 6, 1966); Museum of Modern Art, New York (October 17-December 26, 1967); Milwaukee Art Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (April 13-May 14, 1967). One of the exhibited two works, which won an excellence award at the 6<sup>th</sup> *Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan* in the previous year, is subsequently purchased by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, from this exhibition.

May 10-30

8<sup>th</sup> *International Art Exhibition, Japan*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum  
Travels to: Kyoto, Takamatsu, Nagoya, Kitakyu\*shu\*, Saga, Sasebo, Iwate, and Sendai.

July 1-20

15<sup>th</sup> *Gutai Art Exhibition*, Gutai Pinacoteca, Osaka

around August

Tanaka, together with Kanayama, leaves Gutai. She subsequently marries Kanayama and moves in with him at a detached house at the temple Myo\*ho\*ji in Osaka. She produces her works at home as well as the second floor of her parents' house, approximately ten minutes' train ride from her home.

1967

October 9-15

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*Atsuko tanaka Exhibition*, Hakusuisha Gallery, Osaka

1968

August 26-31

*Atsuko Tanaka Exhibition*, Akao gallery, Osaka

Around October

*Round on Sand*, Awaji Island, Hyo\*go Prefecture

A performance to draw on the beach with a pickle handle. Photographer Hiroshi Fukazawa documents the process in 16mm film.

1969

May 10-30

*9<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum

Travels to: Kyoto, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Okayama, Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Kitakyu\*shu\* and Sasebo.

1972

April 11-22

*Atsuko Tanaka*, Minami Gallery, Tokyo

July 17-22

*Atsuko Tanaka Exhibition*, Fujimi Gallery, Osaka

September

Tanaka and Kanayama move from Osaka to Nara.

1973

June 12-July 29

*The development of Postwar Japanese Art: The Diversification of Abstraction*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

1975

April 7-26

*Atsuko tanaka Ehxhibition*, Kasahara Gallery, Osaka

1976

November 2-14

*18 Years of Gutai Art*, Osaka Fumin Center, Osaka

1978

February 21-27

*10<sup>th</sup> Solo Exhibition of Atsuko Tanaka*, Asahi Gallery, Kyoto

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1979

January 5-28

*Jiro\*Yoshihara and Today's Aspects of the Futai*, The Hyo\*go Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Ko\*be

1980

March 21-29

*Atsuko Tanaka Exhibition*, Ban Gallery, Osaka

1981

September 12-November 8

*Trends of Contemporary Japanese Art 1, the 1950s: Gloom and Shafts of Light*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum

December 4-January 31, 1982

*The 1960s: A Decade of Change in Contemporary Japanese Art*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

Travels to: The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto(February 10-March 14)

1982

January 11-23

*New Year's Exhibition: Atsuko Tanaka*, 81 Museum, Tokyo

1983

October 11-29

*Atsuko Tanaka Exhibition*, Gallery takagi, Nagoya

December 10-February 5, 1984

*Electra*, Musée d'Art Modern de la Ville de Paris

1985

April 19-May 15

*Points and Lines in Spiral: Tanaka Atsuko 1960*, The Contemporary Art Gallery, Seibu Department Store, Tokyo

September 1-16

*Jiro\*Yoshihara and Gutai 1954-1972*, Ashiya Civic Center

September 27-November 26

*Action et Émotion, Peintures des Années 50: Informel, Gutai, COBARA*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka

November 15-December 14

*Atsuko Tanaka: Drawings 1956-1985*, Gallery Takagi, Nagoya

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

December 8-February 9, 1986

*Reconstructions: Avant-Garde Art in Japan 1945-64*, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford

Travels to: Fruitmarket Gallery Edinburgh(February 22-April 5, 1986)

December 21-January 26, 1986

*Grupo Gutai: Pintura y Acción*, Museo Espanol de Arte Contemporáneo, Madrid

Travels to: Musej Savremene Umetnosti, Beograd(March 27-May 4, 1986) and the Hyo\*go Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Ko\*be(August 30- September 28)

1986

September 6-20

*Atsuko Tanaka Exhibition*, Gallery takagi, Nagoya

The reconstruction of *Electric Dress*, produced for *Japon des avant garde 1910-1970*, is previewed.

December 1-March 2, 1987

*Japon de Avant Garde 1910-1970*, Musée National d'Art Modern, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

1987

January 30-March 7

*Atsuko Tanaka: Peintures*,Galerie Stadler, Paris

1988

January 16-29

*Atsuko tanaka Exhibition*, Gallery Temporary T & I, Kyoto

1990

February 27-April 15

*Atsuko Tanaka Exhibition*, Kita Art Museum, Nara

April 10-May 27

*Gutai: The Unfinished Avant-Garde Group*, The Sho\*to\* Museum, Tokyo

October 20-November 22

*Atsuko tanaka Exhibition*, Gallery Takagi, Nagoya

December 6- February 28, 1991

*Giappone all'Avanguardia: Il Gruppo Gutai negli Anni Cinquanta*, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome

1991

March 24-May 5



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*Gutai: Japanische Avangarde 1954-1965*, Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt, Germany

November 27-December 14

*Atsuko Tanaka*, Gallery Kuranuki, Osaka

1992

June 20-August 2

*Gutai I 1954-1958*, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History

1993

January 5-February 14

*Gutai II 1959-1965*, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History

June 13-October 10

*La Biennale di Venezia: XLV Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte*, Passagio a Oriente, Venice

October 15-December 19

*Gutai 1955/56: A restarting Point for Japanese Contemporary Art*, Penrose Institute of Contemporary Arts, Tokyo

Travels to: Kirin Plaza Osaka (February 22- March 31, 1994)

1994

February 5- March 30

*Japanese Art After 1945: Scream Against the Sky*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama

Travels to: Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York (September 14- January 8, 1995)

And San Francisco Museum of Modern Art with the Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco (May 31- August 27)

March 23- April 22

*Atsuko Tanaka Exhibition*, Lads Gallery, Osaka

October 7 – November 30

*Atsuko tanaka Exhibition*, Gallery takagi, Nagoya

1995

April 19- June 4

*The Trajectory of Postwar Culture*, Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo

Travels to: Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Hyo\*go Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Ko\*be, and Fukuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Fukuoka

1996

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

June 8 – July 21

*Shedding Light on Art in Japan 1953*, Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo

1997

March 13-June 1

*Torino Parigi New York Osaka, Tapié. Un Art Autre*, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin

Travels to: Espace d'Art modern et Contemporain de Toulouse et Midi Pyrénées(September 22- November 23)

1998

February 8 – May 10

*Out of Actions: Between Performance and the Object. 1949-1979*, The museum of Contemporary Art at The Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles

Travels to: MAK-Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna(June 17-September 6), Museu d'Art Contemporani, Barcelona(October 15-January 6, 1999), and Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo(February 11-April 11, 1999).

February 21- March 28

*Atsuko Tanaka: The Bell Rings-Early Objects and Drawings*, Gallery HAM, Nagoya

Summer

*Atsuko tanaka:Another Gutai*

Documentary Video, directed by Aomi Okabe and photographed and edited by Yasushi Kishimoto(45 minutes, color) is completed as the first of the series *Ufer!Art Documentary*.

October 8-January 11, 1999

*Addressing the Century: 100 Years of Art and Fashion*, Hayward Gallery, London  
Travels to: Kustmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (February 26- May 23, 1999)

October 17- November 29

*So\*getsu and Its Era 1945-1970*, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History  
Travels to: Chiba City Museum of Art(December 5- January 10, 1999)

1999

February 11-March 22

*Art/Domestic: temperature of the Time*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo

May 4- June 27

*Gutai*, Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris

2000

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

December 2-February 15, 2001

*Tanaka Atsuko 1998-2000: Recent Works*, Gallery HAM, Nagoya

2001

March 3-May 6

*Atsuko Tanaka: Search for an Unknown Aesthetic, 1954-2000*, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History

Travels to: Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Shizuoka (July 28-September 9)

October 4-December 9

*Facts of Life: Contemporary Japanese Art*, Hayward Gallery, London

2002

February 8-March 2

*Atsuko Tanaka: Paintings of 2000*, Koyama Tomio Gallery, Tokyo

February 16-April 6

*Atsuko Tanaka: Circle, Circle, Circle*, Gallery HAM, Nagoya

February 23-March 30

*Atsuko Tanaka in Kyoto*, Mori Yu Gallery, Kyoto

September 7-November 3

*Atsuko Tanaka*, Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck, Austria

2003

November 22- January 31, 2004

*Atsuko Tanaka, New Paintings 2002-2003*, Gallery HAM, Nagoya

2004

January 24-March 14

*Gutai Retrospective*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kobe

September 14-October 23

*Atsuko Tanaka: Paintings and Drawings 1980-2002*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York

September 14-December 11

*Electrifying Art: Atsuko Tanaka 1954-1968*, Grey Art Gallery New York University, New York

*Traces: Body and Idea in Contemporary Art*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan (11/9-12/19/04); The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan (1/12-2/27/05)

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

2005

January 21-March 20

*Electrifying Art: Atsuko Tanaka 1954-1968*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery,  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

January 28-March 8, 2005

*Resounding Spirit: Japanese Contemporary Art of the 1960s*, Samek Art Gallery,  
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

May 13-June 11, 2005

*Works on Paper – 2005*, Schmidt Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO

October 23-January 30, 2005

*The Painted World – P.S.1 Center for Contemporary Art*, Long Island City, NY

2006

April 9-July 9, 2006

*Zero: International Avant-garde of the 50s and 60s*, Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf,  
Germany

2008

January 11-February 9, 2008

*The Masked Portrait: Aspects of Japanese Contemporary Art 1949-Present*, curated by  
Midori Nishizawa, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY

January 17-February 18, 2008

*Atsuko Tanaka/Akira Kanayama*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, NY

July 2 – August 15, 200

*Painting Now and Forever II*, Matthew Marks Gallery and Greene Naftali Gallery,  
New York, NY

\* The letter with asterisk means that with macron.