

Shimomura's Masterpiece Theater  Ruler

## 下村将大 展

2025 **1.22** Wed - **3.30** Sun

**10:00-18:00** ※Closed Mondays, Tuesdays Free Admission

Organized by Kyoto Culture and Art Promotion Organization for People with Disabilities

Cooperation : Mizunagi Gakuen Social Welfare Corporation, Mizunagi Kahara Gakuen

This exhibition, entitled "Shimomura Masterpiece TheateRuler : Masahiro Shimomura Exhibition," will feature paintings by Masahiro Shimomura.

Shimomura mainly uses oil-based pens, coupy pencils, and pencils to create striking paintings reminiscent of an act in a story. The motifs depicted are diverse, and include town scenes with houses and bridges, creatures such as birds and dogs, and nature symbolically used, such as trees with intense sunlight filtering through them. There are also series that resemble sets from period dramas and dot-picture-like geometric patterns, all of which are realized from his memory and imagination without reference to sketches, photographs, or other materials. Similar compositions, like those of a theater stage, are frequently found in these works. The world in one painting evokes through us a story that is connected to another work. When the works are placed side by side, the horizons and ridges are sometimes connected to other paintings, as if they were composed of multiple paintings. The rhythm of the repeated drawings creates an ideal and harmonious arrangement.

And the "ruler" is indispensable to the drawing process. Used not only for straight outlines but also for the painting process, the ruler plays an important role in Shimomura's drawings.

The blank space is colored by repeatedly drawing lines along the ruler, shifting it little by little. The ruler is also used to draw circles, which are not smooth curves. Until recently, signs were drawn freehand, but for the newly emerging simple signs, rulers are used.

The byproduct of this process, the coupes and pencil shavings rubbed off by the ruler, give the piece an aged look that is an essential element of the work.

In the video, we present scenes of the production filmed in August 2023 and October 2024. In addition to the unique drawing, we focused on the many routines in the daily activities. Standard long sleeves and work clothes. The Hyakunin Isshu, a set of 100 poems, which he loves so much that he even

memorizes the names of the poets. The order in which he puts away his karuta cards in their cases. The rules of placement on the black-and-white and colored jokers of a playing card.

The dates listed are the dates of production one year in the future. For example, most of the works marked "2023" were painted in 2022. However, "sometimes the year catches up."

After finishing a painting, a "time of loving" begins, in which he looks at the completed work with tender eyes, as if he is soaking in the afterglow of a masterpiece's final performance.

We hope you will enjoy the drama of Shimomura's works, in which numerous such mysteries exist.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr. Shimomura, Mizunagi Kahara Gakuen, his family, and all those involved for lending us their valuable works for this exhibition and for being so kind in responding to our repeated interviews.

Kyoto Culture and Art Promotion Organization for People with Disabilities  
art space co-jin



下村将大 しもむら まさひろ

SHIMOMURA Masahiro

Born in 2000

Affiliation: Mizunagi Gakuen Social Welfare Corporation,  
Mizunagi Kahara Gakuen

Exhibition history :

2023 The Symbiosis Art Festival "What if ... Anyhow..."

Other activities: event poster painting at partner facilities,  
etc.

Profile

## Exhibitions Related Events

### co-jin lecture vol.3

### MAEDA Hidekazu “ギ i ≠ i ギ” Performance

Date: 8 March (sat) 18:30~19:30

Venue: art space co-jin

Fee: Free of charge

Description: A photogenic performance using motifs of fascinating elements from SHIMOMURA Masahiro's works, reconstructed through Maeda's body.

※ Details will be announced on our website, newsletter, and social networking sites.

### MAEDA Hidekazu/ 前田英一

Profile

Started physical expression in 1997. He has performed in "OR", "memorandum", and "Voyage" by the performing art group Dumb Type, and has toured in Japan and abroad. He wrote, directed, and performed in "Every day is a new beginning," a stage piece about the collapse and rebirth of the earth (organized by GODA Kikaku, 2018, Rohm Theater Kyoto North Hall). He has also performed and filmed in many other artists' works. Under the name Francois Aldente, he has been a member of the drag queen and club party "DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER" since 1995. He has been actively involved in performances and workshops at art galleries, contemporary art events, and clubs in Japan and abroad, and his presence, which has a great impact on the scene, has been enthusiastically supported by his fans.