



photograph by Hisao Suzuki

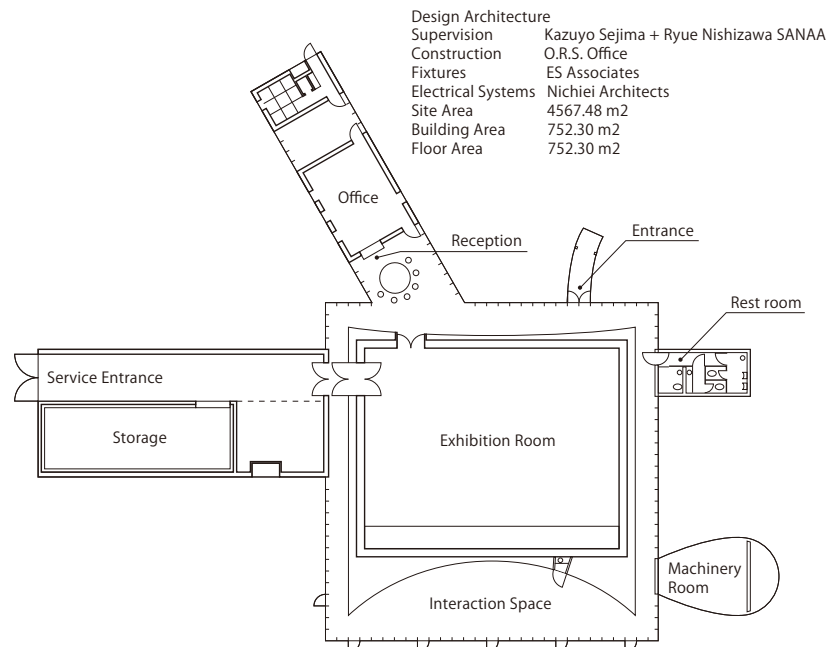
The Kumanokodo Nakahechi Museum of Art was the first art museum designed by the internationally prominent architectural firm SANAA.

Designed from the concepts of presenting art in a new kind of space creating a space for interaction through art, it opened in 1998 as the Nakahechi Municipal Museum of Art.

In 2005, in connection with a merger of municipalities, it was relaunched as an annex of the Tanabe City Museum of Art.



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Banka NONAGASE

(1889-1964)

Born as Hiro'o NONAGASE, in what is now Chikatsuyu in Nakahechi-cho, Tanabe.

Went to Osaka at age 14 to study with Rogetsu NAKAGAWA, and took the professional name Roshu. Moved to Kyoto in 1907 to study with Kokyo TANIGUCHI. Enrolled in the first class at the newly established Kyoto City University of the Arts in 1909, taking the professional name Banka at about that time.

His classmates included Bakusen TSUCHIDA, Chikkyo ONO, Shiho SAKIKIBARA and Kagaku MURAKAMI. Awarded the third prize at the 16th Shinko Bijutsu-in exhibition in 1911.

Cofounded the Kokugasousaku-Kyokai in 1918, together with four of his university classmates, and organized its exhibitions. Noted for numerous works that recast the expressive style of Nihonga, culminating in paintings shown at the 6th Kokugasousaku-Kyokai exhibition in 1927, after which he parted from the established art scene.

From 1930 he made several trips to China, and exhibited sketches from his travels. In 1946 he joined with artists and poets he encountered during wartime evacuation in Nagano Prefecture, to form the Hakuensha movement, and remained active in Nagano.



"Season of Fresh Growth" (c. 1918)

Ryoun WATASE

(1904 - 1980)

Born as Yukishige WATASE in Nagano Prefecture where his father worked, but considered his hometown to be what is now Nonaka in Nakahechi-cho, Tanabe.

Trained from age 7 in Nanga (Classical Chinese-style painting), and took the professional name Ryoun at age 12. Active in Wakayama Prefecture for seven years from 1924, studying during that time under Seisho FUKUDA.

Moved to Kyoto in 1930, where he showed paintings in the Nihon Nanga-in and Teikoku Bijutsu-in exhibitions.

Became well known after the painting "Saiso," which was shown in the 1933 Teikoku Bijutsu-in, won the admiration of German architect Bruno Taut, who reproduced it in one of his published diaries about Japan.

Traveled in China and Europe, painting and organizing exhibitions. Spent a year in the United States from 1958, holding solo exhibitions in various locations and actively spreading awareness of the Nanga.

In 1973, served as vice-president and exhibition judge of the Nihon Nanga-in, and received a distinguished service award from Wakayama Prefecture.



"Early Autumn in Kasugano" (1952)