

## Geometric Perspectives on Japanese Abstraction



Martyn Chalk, Vladimir Tatlin, Reconstruction of Vladimir Tatlin's "Counter-Relief"  
(1913-1914 / 1980-1984) wood, gouache, oil paint, paper, 70x40x6cm

Exhibition Title	Geometric Perspectives on Japanese Abstraction
Artists	Martyn Chalk (Vladimir Tatlin) ,Yoshishige Saito, Masakazu Horiuchi, Jiro Takamatsu, Kishio Suga
Co-organizer	TSUBAKI-KINDAI Gallery
Dates	2014.8.30 (sat) – 10.4 (sat)
Venue	Tokyo Gallery + BTAP   Tokyo 〒104-0061 7F 8-10-5 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo TEL: 03-3571-1808 / FAX: 03-3571-7689
Gallery Hours Closed	(Tues - Fri) 11:00-19:00 (Sat) 11:00-17:00 Sun, Mon and Holidays
Reception Party	2014.8.30 (Sat)   16:00-18:00 At Tokyo Gallery + BTAP
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"Geometric Perspectives on Japanese Abstraction" will be exhibited at Tokyo Gallery+BTAP from Saturday, August 30th.

The appearance of geometric abstraction in Japanese art is believed to have been prompted by Russian artists' visit to Japan (in the 1920s) and Tomoyoshi Murayama's residence in Berlin (1922-23). It was the emergence of these new artistic movements in the Taisho era that prompted Yoshishige Saito, influenced by Russian Constructivism and Dadaism, to begin working in geometric abstraction. While Saito's early geometric works were lost in the war, they were recreated in 1978 for an exhibition at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. It can have been no coincidence that the artists that assisted Saito in the reproduction were the Mono-ha artists who studied under Saito at Tama Art University, such as Nobuo Sekine, Susumu Koshimizu and Katsuro Yoshida. When we look at the path taken by the Mono-ha movement in and after the 1970s we can see the influence brought to bear by Saito, a trailblazer in the field of geometric abstraction.



Kishio Suga "PROTRUSION KX-87" (1987)  
Plywood board, lacquer 130.5x95x6cm



Martyn Chalk, Vladimir Tatlin,  
Reconstruction of Vladimir Tatlin's "Counter-Relief"  
(1913-1914 / 1980-1984)  
wood, gouache, oil paint, paper, 60.6 x 29.2 x 6.6 cm

Because of the way Japanese modern art attempted to break away from established forms of expression, it is often associated with expressionist movements such as Art Informel. In order to gain a more three-dimensional understanding of movements such as Mono-ha and Gutai, however, it is important for us to see these movements not only in the context of a simultaneous global modern movement, but as part of a Japanese lineage that dates back to the prewar period.

"Geometric Perspectives on Japanese Abstraction" showcases a refabrication of "Counter-Relief" by leading Russian avant-garde artist Vladimir Tatlin, in addition to works by Yoshishige Saito, Masakazu Horiuchi, Jiro Takamatsu and Kishio Suga as it examines the tradition of geometric expression in modern Japanese art.