

SEIZAN GALLERY

TOKYO NEW YORK

SHIGEMI YASUHARA





SHIGEMI YASUHARA (b. 1984, Saitama, Japan)

Shigemi Yasuhara approaches nature through the contemplative language of Nihonga, drawing inspiration from masters such as Hasegawa Tōhaku and Maruyama Ōkyo. His practice centers on close observation of the natural world, often beginning with leaves he encounters while hiking in the mountains—particularly those of the magnolia obovata and horse chestnut. Rather than reproducing them faithfully, Yasuhara transforms these familiar forms through vivid blue hues made from ground lapis lazuli, reinvigorating ordinary greenery with an unexpected luminosity.

A signature butter-yellow ground anchors many of his compositions, where branches, vines, and fragments of landscape emerge through precise brushwork and delicate color. Closer inspection reveals subtle details—worm-eaten holes highlighted with gold leaf, a traditional Nihonga material—that acknowledge the quiet marks of time and life in nature. For Yasuhara, these imperfections are not flaws but expressions of harmony, reflecting the inevitability of fading, aging, and change.

Equally important is what remains unfinished. Portions of his paintings are left unpainted, rendered only in sparse sumi ink outlines. This deliberate incompleteness echoes an older Japanese philosophical sensibility: that perfection signals an ending, while the unfinished allows something to endure. Through this balance of refinement and restraint, Yasuhara's paintings invite viewers into a moment of stillness—where observation, time, and nature remain gently unresolved.

CURRICULUM VITAE

SHIGEMI YASUHARA

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D. in Conservation and restoration of Japanese painting, Graduate School of Conservation, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 MFA in Conservation and restoration of Japanese painting, Graduate School of Conservation, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 BFA in Nihonga, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japa

SOLO EXHIBITION (by selection)

- 2025 Shigemi Yasuhara Nihonga-ten: Hana no Iro Ha no Kaori, Nagoya Matsuzakaya, Aichi, Japan
- 2023 Yasuhara Shigemi Nihonga-ten: Sokohakatonaku Tadayou Mori no Ibuki, Nihombash Mitsukoshi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2022 Shitazushū Kanko kinen: Shigemi Yasuhara, SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2021 SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2018 SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Sendai Mitsukoshi, Miyagi, Japan
- 2015 Art Space Rashinban, Tokyo

GROUP EXHIBITION (By selection)

- 2022 Art on Paper, SEIZAN Gallery booth, New York
- 2018 Nihonga: Contemporary Art of Japan, SEIZAN Gallery, New York
- 2017 Ma no Kōzō-ten, Iwasaki Memorial Museum, Kanagawa, Japan
Something Precious: Ichigo, SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Kaku no Kai, SEIZAN Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 Natsu no Geijyutsusai 2016 Jisedai o ninau wakatesakka sakuhin-ten, Nihombashi Mitsukoshi, Tokyo, Japan
Dialogues avec nos aînés, Lyon, France
New Craft Exhibition, Gallery Midori, Tochigi, Japan
Taira no Kai, Artspace Rashinban, Tokyo, Japan

- 2015 Tokyo University of the Arts Doctoral Program Final Exhibition 2015, The University Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum selection: Kaku no Kai, Tokyo, Japan
The 2nd Mukyu no Kai, Nihombashi Mitsukoshi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 Haru no In-ten, Saiko Nihon Bijutsu-in, Tokyo, Japan
In-Ten, Saiko Nihon Bijutsu-in, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 The 27th Yume no Kai, Seibu Ikebukuro, Tokyo, Japan
Romania-ten, Hotel Chinzanso, Tokyo, Japan
Kansei Kinen-ten Koumyouin Shouhekiga: Hasuike-zu, Fei Art Museum Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japa
- 2010 Tokyo University of the Arts graduation exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- The University of Art Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan
Yamatane Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
Colección SOLO, Madrid, Spain

AWARDS

- 2023 Grand Prize, The A.D. Works Group Nihonga Prize, Tokyo University of the Arts
- 2019 Grand Prize, Mirai o Ninau Nihonga Shinsedai, Yamatane Museum of Art, Nihonga Award 2019
- 2016 Nomura Art Award, Nomura Foundation, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan
Hirayama Ikuo Culture and Art Scholarship, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japa
- 2008 Ataka Award Scholarship, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

SPRING GROUP SHOW
MARCH 19 – MAY 9, 2026

Keiko Arai
Hiroyoshi Asaka
Kiyoshi Hamada
Yasuko Hasumura
Moeko Maeda
Nonihiko Saito
Taro Tabuchi
Kenta Takahashi
Shigemitsu Yasuhara



INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *SPRING GROUP SHOW*
MARCH 19 - MAY 9 2026



SHIGEMI YASUHARA
NEW PAINTINGS
MARCH 14 - APRIL 27, 2024

INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *NEW PAINTINGS*
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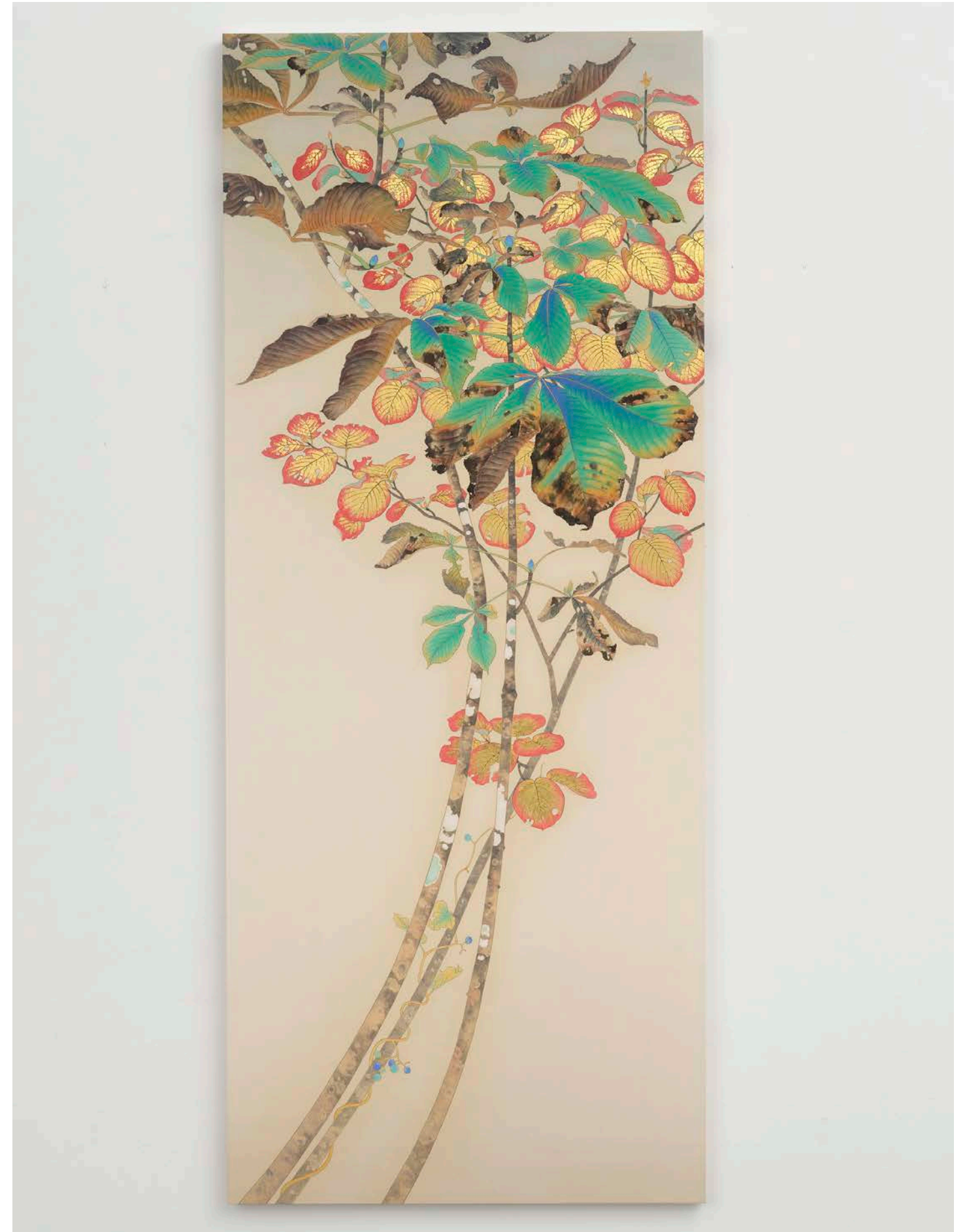


INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *NEW PAINTINGS*
MARCH 14 - APRIL 27, 2024



INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *NIHONGA: CONTEMPORARY ART OF JAPAN*
SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 20, 2018

Shigemi Yasuhara
Horse Chestnut in Autumn Sun, 2025
Natural mineral pigments, gofun, gold leaf, gold paint, and ink on washi paper (gampi)
mounted on wood panel
52 x 21.3 x 1 in (132 x 54 x 2.5 cm)





DETAIL

Shigemi Yasuhara

Horse Chestnut in Autumn Sun, 2025

Natural mineral pigments, gofun, gold leaf, gold paint, and ink on washi paper (gampi)
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52 x 21.3 x 1 in (132 x 54 x 2.5 cm)



Shigemi Yasuhara
Magnolia Leaves, 2025
Natural mineral pigments, gofun, gold paint, and ink on washi paper (gampi)
mounted on wood panel
52 x 18.9 x 1 in (132 x 48 x 2.5 cm)



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For inquiries
director@seizan-gallery.com