

Nobuko Kamiya

GALLERY
SEKI RYU
ギャラリー石榴

- 1914 Born in Zentsuji Town, Kagawa Prefecture, as the third daughter of Chokichi Miyawaki
- 1927 Moved to Shibuya, Tokyo
- 1932 Graduated from Jissen Girls' School and became an auditor in the Department of Japanese Literature at Toyo University
- 1940 Became a teacher of Japanese literature at Tokyo Prefectural 10th High School for Girls, while studying painting under Seiji Togo at the Surugadai Western Painting Institute
- 1943 Married Rokuya Kamiya, the fourth son of the famous Asakusa "Kamiya Brewery," Her husband was conscripted in 1944 and died in the war
- 1946 Began painting, Became a devoted student of painter Ken Hirohata of the Nikakai Kyushitsu Association and cohabited with him in Kuga-yama
- 1948 Hirohata died in an unexpected railway accident, Participated in the formation of the Japan Avant-Garde Artists' Club
- 1949 Invited by Ten'ya Abe and Yoshishige Saito to join the Art and Culture Association and became a member
- 1952 Left the Art and Culture Association
- 1953 Participated in the founding of the International Art Club
- 1968 Moved to New York, engaging in painting while also restoring Oriental art pieces
- 1983 Returned to Japan due to illness
- 1986 Passed away as her illness worsened

Selected solo exhibitions:

- 2000 Retrospective: The World of Nobuko Kamiya, Shuyu Gallery, Tokyo (JP)
- 1954 Solo Exhibition, Yoseido Gallery, Tokyo (JP) (also held in 1955, 1957)
- 1952 Solo Exhibition, Takemiya Gallery, Tokyo (JP)

Selected group exhibitions:

- 2005 Women in the Avant-Garde 1950–1975, Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi (JP)
- 1953–1954 Abstraction and Fantasy: Understanding Non-Representational Painting, National Museum of Modern Art / The Former Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (JP)
- 1952 Retrospective and Perspective of Modern Painting, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (JP)

1951 Women Painters' Association Indépendants Exhibition, (JP)
1950 4th United Art Organizations Exhibition, (JP) (also exhibited in 1951)
1947 Independent Exhibition, (JP) (also exhibited in 1948)

References:

"Japanese Women Artists in Avant-garde Movements, 1950-1975" catalogue, Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, 2005,

URLs:

"Sixty-Year History of the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo"
https://www.momat.go.jp/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/4_artists_index_JPN.pdf, accessed February 10, 2026,
Megumi Asano, "My Favorite Artist 3: The Painter Who Challenged the Avant-Garde, Nobuko Kamiya," Aoki Juku Blog, <https://blog.aoki-juku.net/archives/2362714.html>, accessed February 10, 2026,