

# Shinro Ohtake RETINA

**Ohtake Shinro's Retina World is a Highly Concentrated Group of Works, Focusing on the New and Never Before Shown**

2025 8.1 [fri.]  
→ 11.24 [mon.]



Shinro Ohtake, *Retina / Ambiguous anxiety*, 1989-2024 Photo by Shimpei Yamagami

Exhibition Title	Shinro Ohtake: Retina
Date	Fri. 1 August – Mon. 24 November 2025
Closed	Mondays (except 11 August, 15 September, 13 October, 3 November and 24 November), Tue. 16 September, Tue. 14 October, Tue. 4 November

## — About the Exhibition

The Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art (MIMOCA) is pleased to present Shinro Ohtake's (b.1955) first solo exhibition at the museum in 12 years, following "Shinro Ohtake: NEWNEW" in 2013. Ohtake began exhibiting in the late 1970s, and has since participated in major international exhibitions including Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev's documenta 13 (Germany) and Massimiliano Gioni's 55th Venice Biennale (Italy). He has had numerous exhibitions both in Japan and overseas, including a large-scale solo show that opened at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo and traveled to venues in Ehime and Toyama. Spanning nearly half a century, his practice has produced an immense and diverse output driven by staggering creative energy. Among his vast body of work, this exhibition focuses on the *Retina* series as a lens for deeper exploration of Ohtake's unique world.

*Retina* was conceived in Ohtake's studio in Uwajima, Ehime, where he relocated in 1988. He worked intensively on this series through the early 1990s, and has continued developing it alongside other groups of works ever since. The retina is a thin, transparent membrane at the back of the eye that detects light and transmits visual information to the brain via the optic

nerve. Ohtake gave this name to a group of paintings in which he greatly enlarged discarded Polaroid test film bearing traces of light, and coated the surfaces with a layer of clear urethane resin. Two distinct elements – the plane of the photographic image and the transparent coating – are unified through the viewer's retina, coming together in the mind as new images that carry vestiges of time and memory. In the new *Retina* works now in progress, Ohtake's series continues to evolve. Photosensitive materials, left to age and deteriorate over long periods of time, are visually imprinted with that very passage of time, and as the images are covered in many layers of transparent coating, the scenes that emerge from *Retina* continue to stir viewers as if evoking untapped memories.

In addition to 12 ambitious new *Retina* works, the exhibition centers on a new relief work approximately three meters tall that incorporates sound and light into the *Retina* series, as well as a group of works anchored by a large, previously unexhibited *Retina* from the early 1990s. The core of the exhibition consists of works that maintain an ongoing dialogue with *Retina* through the lenses of time and memory, including the large-scale installation *Retinamnesia Filtration Shed*, now realized at the scale originally envisioned; the ongoing gouache series *Retina Landscape*, begun in the mid-2010s; and the oil painting series *Retina / Border*. We invite you to explore the mesmerizing, ever-growing world of Ohtake's series, which encompasses a huge number of works that connect the eyes, film, and photography to the concept of the retina.



Photo of new work in progress Photo by Shimpei Yamagami

## Highlights

### Exhibition focusing on the *Retina* series within Ohtake's practice

This exhibition offers an in-depth look at Shinro Ohtake's *Retina* series, a body of work central to his wide-ranging practice over the past half century. The series, which Ohtake conceived around the time he relocated his studio to Uwajima, Ehime in 1988, has continued to evolve, and will now be presented at MIMOCA in Marugame. The city is located along the Yosan Line in Shikoku, the region also home to Uwajima. By tracing the development of *Retina* in relation to a variety of other works, viewers can gain a deeper sense of the richness and complexity of Ohtake's practice.

### Twelve new works from the *Retina* series and previously unseen works unveiled

In addition to the twelve new *Retina* works produced for this exhibition, MIMOCA will debut a monumental new relief work, approximately three meters tall, that incorporates sound and light. This is also a rare opportunity to see works never before shown, including a large *Retina* from the early 1990s. Visitors will be able to experience the world of Ohtake's *Retina* from a fresh perspective as it unfolds in multifarious forms, from two-dimensional works to installations.

### First solo exhibition at MIMOCA in twelve years

This marks Shinro Ohtake's first solo exhibition in Marugame in twelve years, following "Shinro Ohtake: NEWNEW" in 2013. The show is one of extraordinary scale, occupying the entire museum from the entrance through the second- and third-floor galleries. Since its opening in 1991, MIMOCA has held more than 150 exhibitions, but this will be one of the largest and most densely configured in its history. It also marks a major milestone in Ohtake's practice, reflecting his current position while suggesting directions his work may take in the future.



Photo of new work in progress  
Photo by Shimpei Yamagami





Shinro Ohtake, *Retinamnesia Filtration Shed*, 2014, Installation view of Yokohama Triennale 2014, ©Shinro Ohtake Courtesy of Take Ninagawa, Tokyo Photo by Kei Okano



Exhibition view at "Shinro Ohtake: NEWNEW", 2013 at MIMOCA. Photo by Masahito Yamamoto

All images of the work shown ©Shinro Ohtake

<b>Exhibition</b>	Shinro Ohtake: Retina
<b>Organized by</b>	<p>Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, The MIMOCA Foundation, “Setouchi Art Museum Link” Project (office: Fukutake Foundation) Japan Arts Council, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan</p> <div>  Setouchi Art Museum Link  </div>
<b>Venue</b>	Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, 3F GalleryC, 2F GalleryA, 1F Entrance Hall
<b>Date</b>	Fri. 1 August 2025 – Mon. 24 November 2025
<b>Hours</b>	10:00 - 18:00 (Admission until 30 minutes before closing time)
<b>Closed</b>	Mondays (except 11 August, 15 September, 13 October, 3 November and 24 November), Tue. 16 September, Tue. 14 October, Tue. 4 November
<b>Admission</b>	<p>Adults ¥1,500  Students (college, university) ¥1,000  Children (under 18), residents of Marugame who are 65 and over, and all visitors with a physical disability certificate are admitted free.</p> <p>[Group use discount for groups of 20 or more]  Adults ¥1,200  Students ¥800</p> <p>[City resident discount for Marugame citizens]  Adults ¥900  Students ¥600</p> <p>*Ticket valid for admission to the permanent collection.  *City residents must present identification (driver's license, insurance card, etc.) at the first-floor reception desk when visiting.  *The city resident discount cannot be combined with other discounts, including group discounts.</p>

## Concurrent Exhibition

Permanent collection: “Genichiro Inokuma Since 1955”

Venue: 2F Gallery B

## Next Exhibition

“Janet CARDIFF The Forty Part Mote”

“Genichiro Inokuma”

## — Related Program

### Opening Talk

On the opening day of the exhibition, artist Shinro Ohtake will join curator Koichi Nakata for a conversation about the show.

Speaker: Shinro Ohtake (Exhibiting artist)

Interviewer: Koichi Nakata (Deputy Director and Chief Curator, MIMOCA)

Date and Time: Saturday, August 2, 2025, 16:00 – 17:30

Capacity: 150 (numbered tickets will be distributed at the venue starting at 11:00 on the day)

Note: On the day of the talk, museum hours will be extended as part of the Night Museum program. Visitors will be able to view both this exhibition and the permanent collection until 20:00.

## — Related Products

### Exhibition catalogue and original merchandise coming soon.

A catalogue containing numerous new works from the *Retina* series, along with exclusive merchandise created for this exhibition, will be available during the exhibition. Further details will be announced when decided. Please stay tuned.

## — Artist Profile

### Shinro Ohtake

Shinro Ohtake has held midcareer surveys at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (2006); Fukuoka Art Museum (2007, toured to Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art); Takamatsu City Museum of Art (2013); Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art (2013); and Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto (2019, traveling to the Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito). Solo exhibitions outside Japan include the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1985); Artsonje Center, Seoul (2012); and Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art, London (2014).

In addition to Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev's documenta 13 in 2012, and Massimiliano Gioni's 55th Venice Biennale in 2013, Ohtake has participated in major international exhibitions including Gwangju Biennale 2010; Setouchi Triennale 2013, 2016, and 2019; Yokohama Triennale 2014; and the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art 1993 and 2018.

Ohtake's work has been exhibited in thematic surveys at institutions such as the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Grey Art Gallery, New York University; Seattle Art Museum; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Tate Liverpool; Malmo Kunsthalle; Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; Asia Culture Center, Gwangju; Barbican Centre, London; Centre-Pompidou-Metz; Al Hamriyah Studios, Sharjah; National Museum of Art, Osaka; and Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong, among many others.

Within Kagawa Prefecture, his works are also on view on the islands of Naoshima, Teshima, and Megijima (Megijima only during the Setouchi Triennale).

Artist website: <https://www.ohtakeshinro.com>

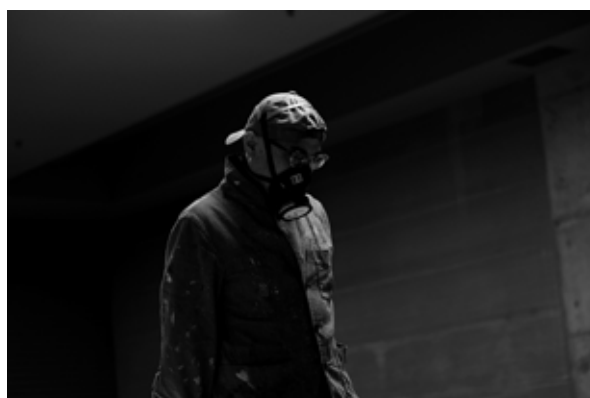


Photo by Shimpei Yamagami



# About MIMOCA

## Opened in 1991, over 30 years in operation

MIMOCA opened on its site in front of JR Marugame Station on November 23, 1991. Staying true to Genichiro Inokuma's wish for a contemporary art museum dedicated to the new artistic expression of the moment, MIMOCA offers a variety of exhibitions and programs, including a permanent exhibition primarily of work by Inokuma, special exhibitions with a contemporary art focus, and workshops for children.

## Housing 20,000 works by Genichiro Inokuma

Home to around 20,000 paintings, drawings and other works by Genichiro Inokuma, MIMOCA covers Inokuma's life and career with incredible breadth and depth through its permanent and special exhibitions, plus a diverse range of resources from the tiny works Inokuma dubbed "Dialogue Sculptures," to items he and his wife collected around the world and made part of their daily lives.

## As a museum specializing in contemporary art

MIMOCA presents exhibitions of work by both Japanese and international artists, with a focus on contemporary art. To date this has included solo exhibitions devoted to the work of, among others, Jan Fabre, Marina Abramović, Marlene Dumas, Ernesto Neto, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Chiharu Shiota, Takashi Homma, and Miyako Ishiuchi. The museum is also proactive in showcasing emerging artists such as Teppei Kaneuji, Takehito Koganezawa, Rieko Shiga, and Koji Nakazono, and in recent years launched the MIMOCA EYE open-call exhibition aimed at young artists. Casting its gaze even wider to contemporary creative expression, the museum also covers fashion and furniture design, and contemporary architecture.



Photo by Yoshiro Masuda

## Stunning architecture designed by Yoshio Taniguchi

The MIMOCA building was the work of Yoshio Taniguchi, a highly-regarded designer of multiple art museums. His dialogue with Inokuma resulted in a building that embodies the ideals of both artist and architect, down to the smallest detail. The expansive facade featuring Genichiro Inokuma's massive, eye-catching mural Creation Plaza loosely connects station frontage and building. Entering the museum, one finds a wide, open space suffused with natural light. On the second floor are two galleries of contrasting size, then on the third, a generously proportioned exhibition space with a ceiling height of over seven meters. The large staircase at left front of the building connects to a public space that allows diverse approaches to the creation and display of art. The second-floor art center is equipped with a library, hall and studio, while the Cascade Plaza and cafe at the rear of the third floor also offer pleasant ways to pass the time.

## [Access] 1 min. walk from Marugame Sta.

