



YOZO UKITA art works



Livre TOFOUN

A human being is a mass of sorrow.
With the realization of this philosophy,
I create works of art that have a stance.
These creations are explicitly from "life" uncalculated by thought.
I think that the creation of these works is a proof of life,
the true toil and understanding of a human life
that should be lived to the fullest.

Yozo Ukita

YOZO UKITA ART WORKS

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浮田要三の仕事

We have created a wonderful book of art work by the contemporary artist Yozo Ukita. I take pride that there is no other compilation full of such deep affection.

Our many thoughts did not flow smoothly, they were bent, they crashed, delayed and overflowed..... but because of the strength, passion and stature of those thoughts, this book was completed so successfully.

YUI KOSAKI
(daughter of Yozo Ukita)

YOZO UKITA ART WORKS

Contents

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1. Yozo Ukita in Gutai
2. KIRIN DAYS
3. U-chan's HAT
4. How Do You Do
5. Finland, Forssa

-1. Collected Works with Almost Nothing in Them

-2. Scandinavian Souvenir and Today

6. Lead Bridge
7. L



“YOZO UKITA ART WORKS” is a compilation of the work of artist Yozo Ukita (1924-2013), spanning more than half a century.

Ukita's art work began in 1955 with his participation in the Gutai group lead by Jiro Yoshihara. Ukita was editor for *Kirin*, a magazine founded in 1948 for children's poetry, compositions and pictures. He first met Yoshihara to receive a cover illustration and through associating with young artists who gathered around Yoshihara, Ukita himself began creating art in parallel to editing *Kirin*.

Yoshihara and the Gutai members were amazed and creatively inspired by the children's lively creations and free-wheeling expressiveness in *Kirin*. Ukita adorned the cover of *Kirin* with work, hardly different from the children's pictures, by Gutai members.

Ukita became an artist through his work as an editor, but his life-long concern was “human value”. Moreover, he came to think that “creating art is essentially a job for human beings”.

The progression of his life is deeply interesting as an actual way of life. Management of *Kirin* discontinued, the copyright transferred to a publishing company in Tokyo (Ukita had been running *Kirin* as well as editing), and he left the Gutai group to run a small bag factory. 1960s Japan was a time of rapid economic growth. Ukita ceased all art activity.

He did not resume creative work in earnest until after the age of seventy.

From about ten years earlier, he had gradually resumed art work. In 1983, invited by Gutai member Shozo Shimamoto, Ukita produced work in Düsseldorf, Germany and the group-exhibition that followed also renewed his eagerness. “I learnt, more or less at my age of sixty, that how we live and what we think of our real lives outside creating art is the very base for working on art.”

The series of work Boshi (hat) is from that period. A hat hardened by white paint is attached to a canvas painted white; it is a work without pretense. Ukita is remembered for always wearing a hat. It can be conceded that this white hat is Ukita's self-portrait.

People are people, we face a wall which separates us from ourselves, by placing his hat quietly on that wall (a canvas), Ukita engages his “deep desire to exist truthfully”.

“YOZO UKITA ART WORKS” is a compilation rich with human value.

