

# 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

PRESS RELEASE

2012.2.10



Exhibition Title	Monique Frydman		
Period	Wednesday, November 23 (holiday), 2011 – Tuesday, March 20 (holiday), 2012 10:00 - 18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays) Note: Tickets available until 30 minutes before closing  Closed: Mondays (except January 2, January 9, March 19), December 29 – January 1, January 10		
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Gallery 11, 12, 14 and corridor space	Number of Exhibited Works	13
Admission	General: ¥1,000 (¥800) / College students: ¥800 (¥600) / Elem/JH/HS: ¥400 (¥300) / Seniors over 65: ¥800 (Prices in brackets for groups of 20 or more, and advance tickets)  Tickets are joint admission tickets for this exhibition and "The Ossu! Shugeibu and Hideki Toyoshima: Jiga-Daizessan - My Artwork Amazes Me" Tickets also allow admission to "Silent Echoes – Collection II."  Advance Tickets: Available from October 23 at Ticket PIA and Lawson Ticket.		
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)		
Co-organized by	The Yomiuri Shimbun, The Japan Association of Art Museums		
Grants from	INSTITUT FRANÇAIS	Supported by	Ambassade de France au Japon, Lion Corporation, Shimizu Corporation, Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.
In Cooperation with	JCDecaux, GLACE CONTROLE, BOGÉNA GALERIE		
Exhibition Coordinator	Bogéna Gidrol		
Inquiries	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Tel +81-(0)76-220-2800)		

## Media Contact 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Exhibition Curator: Emiko Yoshioka  
Public Relations Office: Yuko Kuroda, Hiroaki Ochiai and Misato Sawai  
1-2-1 Hiroosaka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan 920-8509  
Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2814 Fax: +81-(0)76-220-2806  
http://www.kanazawa21.jp E-mail: press@kanazawa21.jp



INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS

JCDecaux



## About the Exhibition

The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa presents a major individual exhibition of the work of Monique FRYDMAN, an important French woman artist. Frydman has earned a solid reputation through solo exhibitions at many venues, including the Musée Matisse in France, La Verrière, The Hermès Foundation in Belgium, Passage de Retz in France and group shows like “elles @ centrepompidou” at the Centre Georges Pompidou in France. This is the first time she has appeared in an exhibition of this kind in a museum in Japan or any other Asian country.

Frydman became a practicing artist in the late 1970s. Taking painting as her main form of expression, she has pursued the expression of color and light with a variety of materials, including canvas, pigment, pastels, and paper. The colors and images that emerge from the intimate and interactive dialogue between the artist’s body and the materials she uses penetrate the space in which the work is placed and adroitly transform the site. The artistic realm that she creates expresses complex aspects of human awareness and emotion and forms connections with our own memories and bodies.

In recent years, she has made a number of site-specific installations with such materials as glass, Plexiglas, paper and cloth. In this exhibition, we present 13 of her works, including three new installations resulting from a dialogue with the architectural space of this museum. Frydman unleashes her unique colors and light in the bright, white space of the museum, leaving mysterious reverberations in the space and in our hearts and minds.

## Exhibition Features

### The First Solo Museum Exhibition of this Highly Respected French Woman Artist in Asia

In recent years, Monique Frydman has presented solo and group exhibitions to great acclaim in many art museums throughout the world. In 2009 she was awarded the Order of the Legion of Honor by the French government. In both reputation and quality, she is an excellent representative of the present state of contemporary French art, but her work has not previously been seen on a substantial scale in Japan. This is the first Frydman exhibition to be held in a museum in Japan or any other Asian country. It is also the first solo exhibition of a French artist at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

### An Art of Color and Light in Space that Speaks to the Depths of Human Consciousness

In the process of understanding and expressing color and light with original methodologies and theories of the body, Frydman illuminates complex aspects of human consciousness and emotions and projects them into the space inhabited by the viewer and the artwork. Whatever materials she uses, Frydman’s works are strongly and sensitively linked to the memory and awareness of the viewer, filling the exhibition space with the artist’s original colors and light, gently guiding us into a different spatial realm.

### Kaleidoscope of Light

Utilizing the architecture of the museum, designed by Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa / SANAA, Frydman has explored some of her previous concerns in three new pieces. The most dramatic is her response to the glass corridor passing through a courtyard, boldly transforming it into a corridor of light, a *Kaleidoscope* glowing with more than twenty colors. All three new works are specially constructed to fit particular spaces in the museum.

### Link with the Centre Pompidou

To commemorate the opening of the exhibition, we have planned to present a dialogue between the artist and Camille Morineau, curator of the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. A text by Morineau also appears in the catalogue. Morineau curated the fascinating “elles @ centrepompidou” (2009-2011), an exhibition showcasing the work of women artists from the center’s collection created in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In this exhibition, she gave special attention to Frydman’s work and expressed her high regard for the artist.

## Artist Profile

### Monique Frydman

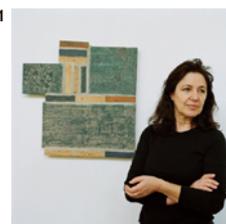


Photo: Raphael Frydman

Born in Nages in the Tarn region of France in 1943. At present, she lives and works in Paris and Senantes, France. She studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Toulouse and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. She became involved in political activism but in 1974 established a studio in Paris and restarted her art career there. Travels to countries like India, Australia, America, and Japan gave her inspiration from a variety of cultural environments. Frydman has taken the expression of light and color beyond the framework of painting defined in a narrow sense. In recent years, she has produced large installations and undertaken commissioned works that are unified with architecture. Her work has been acquired by the Centre Georges Pompidou (Musée national d’Art Moderne) and other major public collections. Solo exhibitions at the Musée Matisse in Le Cateau-Cambrésis, France, in 2006 and La Verrière, The Hermès Foundation in Brussels, Belgium in 2008. She participated in the sensational group show, “elles @ centrepompidou” at the Centre Georges Pompidou. In Japan, she was recently included in the exhibition “No Man’s Land” held in the old building of the French Embassy in Japan prior to demolition between 2009 and 2010. Frydman received the Order of the Legion of Honor in 2009.

## Related Programs

**Opening Commemorative Artist's Talk:****Emcee:** Emiko YOSHIOKA, curator**Date/time:** Wednesday, November 23 / 14:00 – 16:00**Venue:** Lecture Hall, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa**Admission:** No charge (with a ticket for the exhibition)**Capacity:** Limited to 80 people, in order of arrival**Language:** French (French-Japanese consecutive interpretation available)

\*The participation of Camille Morineau in the conversation with Monique Frydman has been cancelled due to her sudden illness.

**Gallery Talks by Curator****Date/time:** December 17, 2011, January 7, February 18, and March 3, 2012 (All days are Saturdays)  
14:00 – 14:30**Meeting Place:** Lecture Hall, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa**Fee:** No charge (with same-day ticket to this exhibition) **Language:** Japanese**Let's Read Picture Books****Date/time:** December 17, 2011, January 7, March 3, 2012 (All days are Saturdays) 11:00 - 11:30**Language:** Japanese **Fee:** No charge**Meeting Place:** In front of Lecture Hall, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

For people of all ages, from children to adults

**Poetry Reading****Date/time:** February 18, 2012 16:00-16:30**Language:** Japanese **Fee:** No charge (with a ticket for the exhibition)**Meeting Place:** In front of Lecture Hall, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

For people of all ages, from children to adults

## Publications

The exhibition catalogue "Monique Frydman" was published on February 1 from AKAACA Art Publishing.

It contains about 40 installation views from the exhibition, an interview with the artist, and the texts on the artist.

"Monique Frydman"

Size: 200 x 200 mm Page: 96 pages (61 colored pages)

Language: Japanese / English Art Direction: TOYONAGA Seiji

Price: 2,500 yen Publisher: AKAACA Art Publishing, Inc.

Date of Publication: February 1



## Works

Artist portrait (no. 1) and photos of artworks below (no. 2 to 10) are available for promotional purpose.

Interested parties should contact the Public Relations Office upon reading the conditions below.

Email: [press@kanazawa21.jp](mailto:press@kanazawa21.jp)**<Conditions of Use>**

\*Photos must be reproduced with the credit and caption given.

\*Please refrain from cropping. During layout, please avoid laying type (caption or other) over the photo.

\*Please allow the Public Relations Office to verify information at the proof stage.

\*Please send a proof (paper, URL, DVD or CD) to the museum.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in advance.

Gallery 14

New work

*Murmure*2,3.  
Monique Frydman  
*Murmure*, 2010-11  
Installation view  
Photo: TOYONAGA Seiji

An installation composed of about 800 sheets of thin, semi-transparent paper covering the walls of the circular space. The thin papers are continually set in motion, fluttering up and down, by air currents and the movements of visitors passing by. Very light colors were applied to the walls behind the paper, becoming visible to viewers as the thin sheets of paper move about. The sound of the paper mixes with the voices of visitors and other sounds, creating the "murmur" indicated by the title and suggesting the existence of an unseen presence. This is a new work, a variation of *Whisper*, shown to great acclaim at La Verrière, The Hermès Foundation in Brussels in 2008, adapted to our museum.

Corridor Next to Gallery 14

*Le Mural jaune,*  
from series *Les Aires*

4.  
Monique Frydman  
*Le Mural jaune*, from series *Les Aires*  
2005  
Installation view  
Photo: TOYONAGA Seiji



This 14.5 meter piece, composed of several parts with a color scheme based on yellow, is installed in a corridor. The material, tarlatan (thin, starched muslin with a rough, open weave), is hand-tinted by the artist in subtle tones with a painting medium. The thin, overlapping, semi-transparent pieces of tarlatan creates subtleties of nuance and color, capturing the eyes of visitors and leading them to the next exhibition space.

Glass Corridor in the Courtyard

New work

*Kaleidoscope*

5,6.  
Monique Frydman  
*Kaleidoscope*, 2010-11  
Installation view  
Photo: TOYONAGA Seiji



The glass corridor passing through one of the courtyards within the exhibition zone is a special feature of the museum. Frydman boldly transformed it into a work of art. Sheets of plastic film with colorful squares of more than twenty different tones cover the tunnel of glass, causing a shower of light to fall softly on visitors passing through the corridor. The colors are projected past the corridor to the courtyard and onto the walls and floor in the interior, encouraging a new spatial experience for visitors. This work produces a physical experience of new possibilities of expressing color and light that the artist has been exploring.

Gallery 12

New work

*Red Room*

7,8.  
Monique Frydman  
*Red Room*, 2010-11  
Installation view  
Photo: TOYONAGA Seiji



A new installation using tarlatan, a material the artist has been experimenting with in recent years. In contrast with *Murmure* in Gallery 14, layers of tarlatan, tinted by the artist in subtly different tones of red, cover the entire surface of the gallery walls, enveloping visitors in a torrent of intense color. Three overlapping layers of tarlatan create a moiré effect, stimulating the senses and memories of viewers.

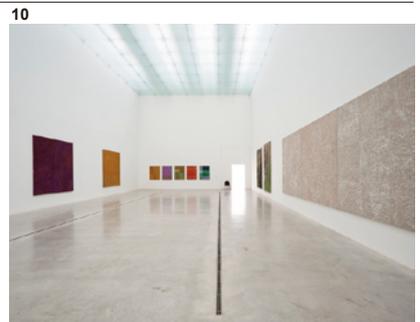
Gallery 11

Nine paintings including  
a new series

9.  
Installation view of the paintings  
by Monique Frydman  
from left:  
*Calcaire 5* (2008)  
*Le pavement jaune* (1989)  
*Gris* from series *Les Eclats* (2004)  
*Amarante* from series *Les Eclats* (2004)  
Photo: TOYONAGA Seiji



10.  
Installation view of the paintings  
by Monique Frydman  
from left:  
*Amarante* from series *Les Eclats* (2004)  
*Or 1* from series *Les Eclats* (2005)  
*des saisons avec Bonnard* (2010)  
*Les dames de nage II, 2* (1995)  
*Les dames de nage II, 1* (1994)  
Photo: TOYONAGA Seiji



Nine carefully selected paintings executed by Frydman between the latter half of the 1980s and the present show the essence of her painting practice, which is the foundation of her artistic expression. The paintings range from *Les dames de nage*, her first series, in which unexpected images were revealed by placing pieces of string and tree branches under the canvas and applying pigments and pastels to the surface, to the *Les Eclats* series, in which the artist examined the expressive possibilities of single colors on large square surfaces applied with a similar technique, the *Calcaire* series, a thoroughgoing exploration of white, and her latest work, *des saisons avec Bonnard*.

\* Please contact us for inquiries of photos of individual paintings.