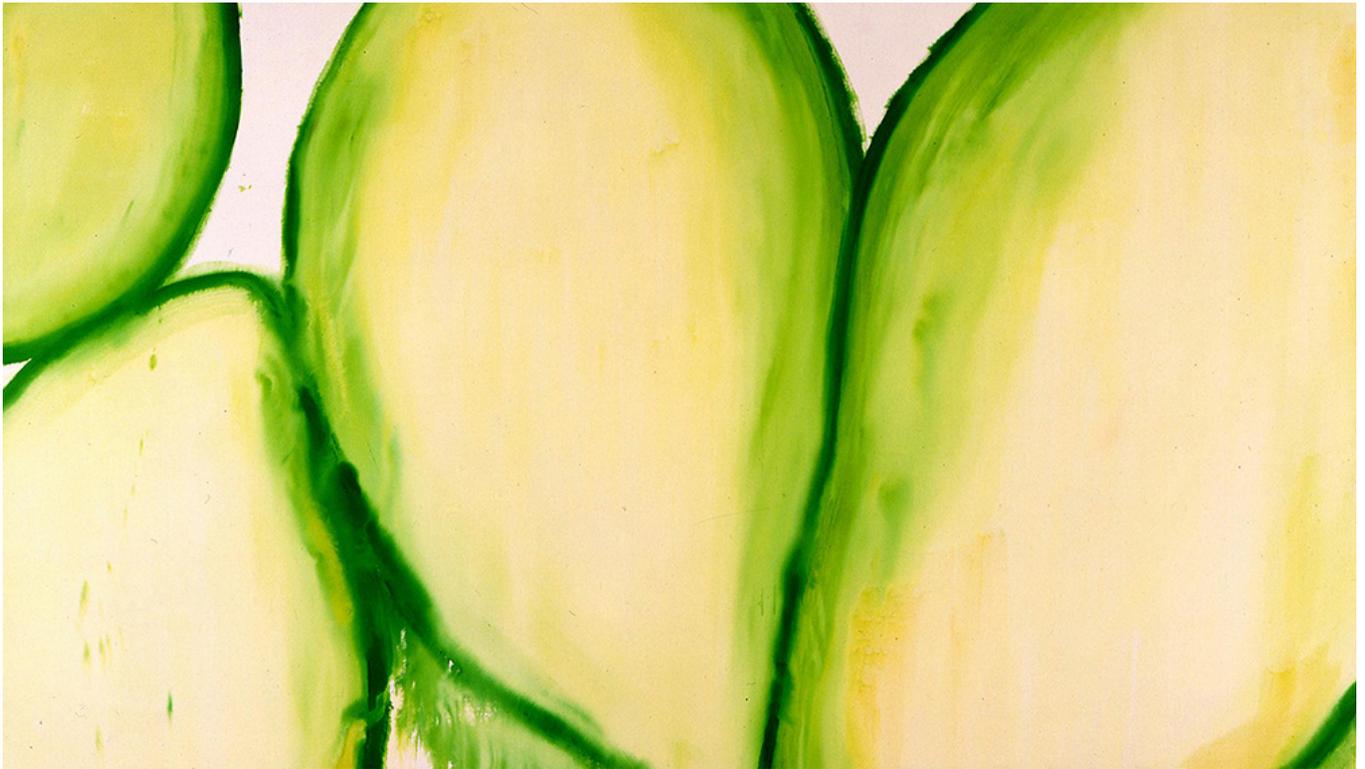


ShugoArts Show: Naofumi Maruyama, Beginning

Saturday 14 February – Saturday 4 April 2026



Naofumi MARUYAMA, *untitled (green leaves)*, 1990, acrylic on cotton, 192x333cm

I was drawn to contemporary art and believed that there was a universal “something” within it. Without realizing it, I began painting. Having never touched oil paints, I started with watercolors.

Inside my closet I had plenty of cotton sheeting that I used to practice garment making. I painted on that fabric. Later I learned that this method is called the “staining” technique, although at the time I knew nothing about it.

All I had was admiration for art and a determination to live here, no matter what.

January 2026, Naofumi Maruyama



Naofumi MARUYAMA, *sky (kitami) B*, 1988, acrylic on cotton, 130.5x97.5cm

ShugoArts will host the exhibition ShugoArts Show: Naofumi Maruyama, Beginning, featuring the early works of Naofumi Maruyama.

Born in 1964, Maruyama began his career as a painter in 1988. Since then he has developed a distinctive stain technique in which paint is allowed to bleed into cotton fabric. He has created a body of work while fluidly moving the boundary between abstraction and representation, sometimes with meticulous care and sometimes with free-wheeling spontaneity.

This exhibition focuses on the first four years of his artistic journey, when a young man, who had originally set his sights on the fashion industry, made a decisive turn toward painting. It will showcase paintings, drawings, and photographs including his earliest pieces in 1988 and those exhibited in his solo show at INAX Gallery 2 (Kyobashi, Tokyo) in 1991. The show offers a valuable opportunity to trace how Maruyama's initial experiments with the stain technique laid the groundwork for his lifelong practice.

By following his exploratory path, visitors can gain fresh insight into the origins of a career that now spans 38 years and enrich their understanding of his current body of work.

We kindly invite you to cover this exhibition and hope it will reach a wider audience through your introduction.

January 2026, ShugoArts

ShugoArts Show: Naofumi Maruyama, Beginning

Dates | Saturday 14 February – Saturday 4 April 2026

Venue | ShugoArts (2F, complex665, 6-5-24 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan)

Opening Hours | 11am – 6pm (Sun, Mon & public holidays closed)

Naofumi Maruyama Group Exhibitions at Museums

SPRING RISING

Dates | 13 December 2025 – 31 May 2026

Venue | Pola Museum of Art

Exhibition Website | https://www.polamuseum.or.jp/en/sp/spring_rising/

Collection Exhibition 3: Déjà vu

Dates | 31 January – 10 May 2026

Venue | 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Exhibition Website | https://www.kanazawa21.jp/data_list.php?g=126&d=252



Naofumi MARUYAMA Biography

Born in Niigata, Japan in 1964. Maruyama currently lives and works in Tokyo. He has become one of the most important painters in Japan since the 1990s. The artist incorporates the stain technique, a painting technique using cotton cloths soaked with water and acrylics, in order to depict his motifs which are so soft that they melt with time and place. His paintings are figurative yet abstract, ushering the viewers to a plateau where there is no boundary between a subject and an object; in other words, the viewers become part of his paintings. Maruyama's painting practice is bolstered by his diligent, rational and sincere research and practice of "the possibility of the spaces that exist only inside paintings." He has been a Professor in the Painting Department at the Musashino Art University since 2000. Maruyama received The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Art Encouragement Prize for New Artists in 2008.

Selected exhibitions: puddle, Keteleer Gallery, Antwerp, 2025; NO DATE, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2025; HIRAKU Project Vol.14 Naofumi Maruyama Kicking the Water: Sengokuhara, Pola Museum of Art, Kanagawa, 2023; Kicking the Water, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2022; Lascaux and Weather, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2018; FLOWING, Wooson Gallery, Daegu, 2017; GROUND2: Talking About Paintings, Talking About

Seeing, Musashino Art University Museum & Library, Tokyo, 2016; Niigata Creations - Museum in Motion, Niigata City Art Museum, Niigata, 2014; Floating Boat, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi, 2011; Transparent Footsteps, ShugoArts, Tokyo, 2010; the front in the back, Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo, 2008; Portrait Session, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, 2007; The Elegance of Silence: Contemporary Art from East Asia, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2005; HAPPINESS: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR ART + LIFE, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2003; Taipei Biennial: Great Theatre of the World, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, 2002; MOT Annual 1999: Modest Radicalism, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 1999; 8th Triennale-India, Lalit Kala Akademi, National Academy of Art, New Delhi, 1994; Solo at Satani Gallery Tokyo, 1992.

ShugoArts

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