

Morita Shiryū Biography

Year		Age	
1912	(Meiji 45)	0	Born in Toyooka City, Hyōgo Prefecture, Japan.
1937	(Showa 12)	25	Began to study calligraphy under Ueda Sōkyū. Moved to Tokyo.
1938	(Showa 13)	26	Received Minister of Education Award for <i>Japan-Manchuria-China Calligraphy Exhibition</i> .
1944	(Showa 19)	32	Evacuated to Toyooka.
1948	(Showa 23)	36	Published the first issue of <i>Sho no bi</i> (Beauty of Calligraphy) (–1952).
1950	(Showa 25)	38	Moved to Kyoto. Acquainted with Ijima Tsutomu and Hisamatsu Shin'ichi.
1951	(Showa 26)	39	Published the first issue of <i>Bokubi</i> (Beauty of Ink) (–1981).
1952	(Showa 27)	40	Co-founded the avant-garde calligraphers' group Bokujinkai (Ink People Society) with Inoue Yūichi, Eguchi Sōgen, Nakamura Bokushi, and Sekiya Yoshimichi.
1962	(Showa 37)	50	Participated in cultural exchange in Germany at the invitation of the Germany government.
1963	(Showa 38)	51	Visited Europe and USA, lectured, demonstrated, and showed films on calligraphy.
1968	(Showa 43)	56	Lectured on calligraphy from January to March on NHK Television, Japan's national broadcast station.
1971	(Showa 46)	59	Published <i>The Works of Shiryū Morita: Selected by the Artist</i> .
1975	(Showa 50)	63	Published the exhibition catalog <i>Morita Shiryū's Sho (Japanese Calligraphy)</i> . Published <i>Kindai no bijutsu 28: Sho to bokushō</i> (Modern Art vol. 28: Sho and Ink Art).
1978	(Showa 53)	66	Received a Merit Award of Arts and Crafts in Kyoto Prefecture, Japan. Resigned from Bokujinkai.
1980	(Showa 55)	68	Designated as a Person of Cultural Merit in Kyoto City, Japan. Published <i>In/Chiffres</i> , works of Morita Shiryū and the French intellectual Roger Caillois.
1981	(Showa 56)	69	Published the first issue of <i>Ryūmon</i> (Gate of Dragon) (–1984).
1984	(Showa 59)	72	Established Soryusha as a center for the study of calligraphy.
1995	(Heisei 7)	83	Received a Cultural Award in Hyōgo Prefecture, Japan.

1998	(Heisei 10)	86	Passed away at the age of 86.
2000	(Heisei 12)		Awarded a Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon by the Japanese government.

Selected Exhibitions

1941	(Showa 16)	29	2nd Keiseikai Exhibition. Tokyo: Kyūkyodo.
1949	(Showa 24)	37	<i>Survey of Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition</i> . Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum.
1953	(Showa 28)	41	<i>Salon of October</i> . Paris: Galerie Craven.
1954	(Showa 29)	42	<i>Japanese Calligraphy</i> . New York: The Museum of Modern Art. 1st Bokujin Group Exhibition. Tokyo and Kyoto: Maruzen Gallery.
1955	(Showa 30)	43	<i>Japan-America Abstract Arts</i> . Tokyo: National Museum of Modern Art. <i>Phases of Contemporary Art</i> . Paris. Bokujin Group Exhibition. Paris: Galerie Colette Allendy; Brussels: Galerie Apollo. <i>Contemporary Japanese Calligraphy: Art in Sumi</i> . Tokyo: National Museum of Modern Art; later traveled to Europe.
1957	(Showa 32)	45	Bokujin Group Exhibition. New York: World House Gallery.
1958	(Showa 33)	46	<i>Development of Modern Japanese Abstract Painting</i> . Tokyo: National Museum of Modern Art. Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture. Pittsburgh: Carenegie Institute.
1959	(Showa 34)	47	5th São Paulo Art Biennial. São Paulo.
1961	(Showa 36)	49	Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture. Pittsburgh: Carenegie Institute. 6th São Paulo Art Biennial. São Paulo. <i>Modern Japanese Ink-painting</i> . Traveling exhibition in USA.
1962	(Showa 37)	50	<i>Meaning and Symbol: Masters of Japanese Calligraphy</i> . Darmstadt: Mathildenhöhe, later traveled to other cities in Germany.
1963	(Showa 38)	51	1st Thirty Contemporary Japanese Calligraphers Exhibition. Tokyo: Shinjuku Isetan. <i>Art and Writing</i> . Baden-Baden: Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden; Amsterdam: Stedelijk Museum. <i>Sho: Modern Calligraphy by Shiryū Morita</i> . New York: Mi Chou Gallery.
1964	(Showa 39)	52	Solo exhibition. Kyoto: Gallery of Kyoto Prefecture and Yamada Gallery.

			<i>Contemporary Japanese Painting</i> . Washington, D.C.: Corcoran Gallery of Art, later traveled to other cities in USA.
1965	(Showa 40)	53	Solo exhibition. Frankfurt: Hudtwalcker Gallery. <i>Morita, Sugai, Iida</i> . Hannover: Brusberg Gallery.
1966	(Showa 41)	54	1st Japan Art Festival. Traveling exhibition in USA.
1967	(Showa 42)	55	Expo '67. Montreal. 2nd Japan Art Festival. Traveling exhibition in USA.
1968	(Showa 43)	56	3rd Japan Art Festival. Traveling exhibition in Mexico. <i>Mutual Influences Between Japanese and Western Arts</i> . Tokyo: National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
1969	(Showa 44)	57	Solo exhibition. Ottawa: National Gallery of Canada, later traveled to other cities in Canada (–1970).
1970	(Showa 45)	58	Expo '70. Osaka: Expo Museum of Fine Arts. Solo exhibition. Berlin: Haus am Lützowplatz.
1972	(Showa 47)	60	7th Japan Art Festival. Traveling exhibition in Mexico City and Buenos Aires.
1975	(Showa 50)	63	Solo exhibition. Kyoto: Asahi Gallery. 10th Japan Art Festival. Traveling exhibition in Australia and New Zealand.
1976	(Showa 51)	64	<i>Sho: Modern Japanese Calligraphy</i> . Offenbach: Klingspor Museum, later traveled to other cities in Germany.
1986	(Showa 61)	74	<i>Artist Today in Kyoto 3: Morita Shiryū Exhibition</i> . Kyoto: Gallery 106 at the Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art.
1992	(Heisei 4)	80	<i>Morita Shiryū and Bokubi</i> . Kobe: Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art.
2012	(Heisei 24)		<i>One Hundred Years Since the Birth of Morita Shiryū Exhibition: World's Art Pioneer and His Traces That the City of Toyooka, Tajima is Proud of</i> . Toyooka: Hyogo Prefectural Maruyamagawa Kouen.