

HOLLIS TAGGART

RALPH SHIGETO IWAMOTO

BIOGRAPHY

1927 Born in Honolulu, Hawaii
2013 Died in New York City

EDUCATION

1951–1953 Art Students League, New York
1949–1951 New York City College of Technology, CUNY, Brooklyn, NY (Formerly known as New York State University Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences)
1948–1949 Art Students League, New York

MILITARY SERVICE

1946–1948 United States Army, Congressional Gold Medal Award Recipient

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1955 *Fauna Figures*, Regina Gallery, New York
1956 *Flora Figures*, Gima Gallery, Honolulu
1968 *Shaped Canvases*, Watson Gallery, Elmira College, Elmira, NY
1973 *Shaped Canvases*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
1974 *The Octagon Concept*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
1986 *8 Contemporary Asian-American Artists*, East/West Fusion Gallery, Sharon, CT
1989 *The Concept Form*, The Gallery, St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, MD
2001 *Drawings and Paintings*, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
2004 *Ralph Iwamoto works from the '50s*, David Findlay Jr. Fine Art, New York
2008 *Ralph Iwamoto: Fifty Years of Abstraction*, The Gallery at Sixth and Sixth, Tucson, AZ
2023 *Wild Growth: Ralph Iwamoto, Surrealist Works from 1955*, Hollis Taggart, New York
2025 *Ralph Iwamoto: Octagonal Permutations*, Hollis Taggart, New York
2026–27 *Imagined Flora: Ralph Iwamoto's Surrealist Beginnings*, Honolulu Museum of Art, HI

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1948 *Artists of Hawaii Group Show*, Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu
Group Show, Hale House [City Hall], Honolulu Art Association [Association of Honolulu Artists], Honolulu

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- Group Show*, Hale House, Hui Nani Artists, Honolulu
- 1953 *4th Annual*, Creative Gallery, New York
- 1954 *Group Show*, City Center Gallery, New York
- 1955 *Group Show*, Contemporary Arts Gallery, New York
- 1956 *56 Annual*, Riverside Museum, New York
- Contemporary Arts Gallery, New York, NY
- 1957 *22nd Annual*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH
- 1958 *Art USA*, Madison Square Garden, New York
- 153rd Annual*, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia
- Annual Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
- Drawings and Prints*, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA
- American Art of Our Time*, Chrysler Museum of Art, Provincetown, MA
- 1958–59 *Whitney Annual*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1959–60 *Whitney Annual*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1959 *Hawaiian Artists Painting in New York*, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC
- 1962 *27th Annual*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH
- 1964 *Group Show*, Kaymar Gallery, New York
- 1966 *And Another, 2nd National Print and Drawing Exhibition*, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
- 1967 *Group Shows*, Clara Josephs Gallery, New York
- 1968 *Group Shows*, Clara Josephs Gallery, New York
- 1969 *Group Shows*, Clara Josephs Gallery, New York
- 1970 *Annual Group Show*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- 1971 *35 Years in Retrospect*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH
- 1976 *American Abstract Artists*, Paterson State College, Ben Shahn Museum, Paterson, NJ
- 40th Anniversary Show, American Abstract Artists*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- 1978 *Small Works*, PS 1, Project Studio, Long Island City, NY
- 1979 *The Language of Abstraction As Presented By The American Abstract Artists: Works from the Fifties, Sixties, 1970s*, Betty Parsons Gallery and Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York
- 1980 *Small Works*, 60 Washington Square East Gallery, New York University, New York
- 1981 *Voices Expressing What Is*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- 1983 *New Direction: Ten Japanese-American Artists in Conjunction with the Enduring Heritage Exhibit*, Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
- Tradition and Today*, Bergen County Museum of Art and Science, Paramus, NJ

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- 1984 *Invitational Show*, Haragiku Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Invitational, Contemporary Japanese American Artists, Bloomingdale Gallery, Stamford, CT
- 1985 *Gathering of the Avant-Garde, the Lower East Side 1948 to 1970*, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York; also at St. Marks and Henry Street Settlement, New York
Expo-85, Isetan Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1986 *Modern Japanese Abstracts*, General Service Administration Gallery, Contemporary Artists Guild, New York
Firehouse Gallery, Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY
- 1990 *25th Anniversary Exhibition*, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI
- 1991–92 *Open Mind: The Sol LeWitt Collection*, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT
- 1992 *Columbus: Collision / Convergence of Cultures*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
Susann Morse Hilles Gallery of 20th Century Art, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT
- 1996 *Invitational Show*, Ise Foundation, JASSI Group, New York
Invitational Show, Japanese American Association, New York
- 1997 *Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions: Asian-American Artists and Abstraction, 1945–1970*, Taipei Gallery, Taiwanese Cultural Center, New York (Two-venue Presentation)
Asian Traditions / Modern Expressions, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago
Asian Traditions / Modern Expressions, Asian American Artists and Abstraction, 1945 - 1970, Jane Voorhees/Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers State University, New Brunswick, NJ
- 1998 *Asian Traditions / Modern Expressions*, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Asian Traditions / Modern Expressions, Kaohsiung Museum of Art, Taipei, Taiwan
Asian Traditions/ Modern Expressions, Bedford Gallery Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, CA
Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, (Two-venue Presentation)
Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions, Fisher Gallery, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- 1999 *American and European Art from 1900 to the Present*, Zimmerli Museum of Art, Rutgers State University, New Brunswick, NJ
Contemporary European and American Art, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT
Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions, Senshu Museum of Art, Akita, Japan
Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions, Fukuoka Asian Museum, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka, Japan

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- Asian Traditions / Modern Expressions*, Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kochi City, Shikoku, Japan
- 2000 *Invitational Show*, Japanese American Association, New York
Recent Acquisitions, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI
- 2001 *Paintings, Sculpture and Drawings*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
Altitude, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
Paintings and Drawings, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- 2002 *Enriched by Diversity, The Art of Hawaii, Inaugural Exhibition of Artists from 1940 to the Present*, Hawaii State Art Museum, Honolulu, HI
Recent Acquisitions, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI
500 Works on Paper: 1922–2002, Gary Snyder Fine Art Gallery, New York
Eastern Essence: Abstraction by Asian American Artists 1950 – 1970, Gary Snyder Fine Art, New York
Ad Infinitum Serial Works, Wynn Kramarsky, Private Showing, New York
Summersault, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
- 2003 *Notebook*, Pinkard Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
LeWitt Collection, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
Rivington Beach, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
Mother-in-Law, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
- 2003–04 *Holiday Invitational, New York Artists Equity Association, Inc.*, The Broome Street Gallery, New York
- 2004 *Infinite Possibilities: Serial Imagery in 20th Century Drawings*, Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
Works from the LeWitt Collection, Real Art Ways, Connecticut Cultural Center, Hartford, CT
Paintings, Drawings and Prints, Westbeth Gallery, New York
Invitational, New York Artists Equity Association, Inc., The Broome Street Gallery, New York
- 2005 *Other Dimensions of Abstract Art*, Tribes Gallery, New York
Group Show, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
Annual Group Show, Westbeth Gallery, New York
Honolulu to New York, The Contemporary Museum at First Hawaiian Center, Honolulu
- 2006 *Annual Show*, Westbeth Gallery, New York

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- The 181st Annual: An Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*, National Academy Museum, School of Fine Arts, New York
- Four (Drawings by Four Artists)*, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
- 2006–07 *10th Anniversary; Artists of Hawaii*, First Hawaiian Center, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu
- 2007 *Make Art Not War*, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
- Annual Show*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- Asian American Artists: 1900-1970*, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles
- 2007–08 *LeWitt x 2, Sol LeWitt: Selections from the LeWitt Collection*, Madison Museum of Contemporary Arts, Madison, WI; Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL; The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC; Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX
- 2008
- Black & White: A Group Show*, The Gallery at Sixth and Sixth, Tucson, AZ, December 6–January 31.
- 2008–09 Herbert Freedman Gallery, Interbonal, Inc., 1333 Lovern Ave., San Francisco
- Asian/American/Modern Art, Shifting Currents, 1900-1970*, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (deYoung Museum), San Francisco, CA [Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young Museum, October 25, 2008–January 18, 2009 and the Noguchi Museum, Long Island City, New York, February 18–August 23, 2009]
- 2009 *Holiday Invitational*, The Broome Street Gallery, New York
- 2010 *Westbeth Pioneers*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- Summer Set*, David Findlay Jr. Fine Art, New York
- 2011 *Summer Light*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- Planet Alert*, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
- 2012 *Winter Group Show*, Westbeth Gallery, New York
- 25 Years Anniversary Show*, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
- 2014 *Tetsuo Ochikubo and Friends*, Koa Art Gallery, Honolulu, HI
- 2017–18 *Abstract Expressionism: Looking East from the Far West*, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu
- 2019 *The Shaped Canvas Movement of the 1960s*, D. Wigmore Fine Art, Inc., New York
- 2021 *Homage to the Square: Albers' Influence on Geometric Abstraction*, D. Wigmore Fine Art, Inc., New York

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- 2023 *Of the Past and Present: Estates and Contemporary Artists at Hollis Taggart*, Hollis Taggart, New York
- 2023–24 *Tracing Lineage: Abstraction and its Aftermath*, The Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT
- 2024 *Dynamic Rhythm: Geometric Abstraction from the 1950s to the Present*, Hollis Taggart, New York
- Changes: Paintings from the 1970s*, Hollis Taggart, New York
- Asian-American Abstraction: Historic to Contemporary*, Hollis Taggart, New York
- Home of the Tigers: McKinley High and Modern Art*, Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii
- 2025 *The Insiders' Select*, Hollis Taggart, New York
- 2026 *Summer Highlights*, New York

AWARDS

- 1957 Purchase Prize, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH
- 1958 John Hay Whitney Foundation, Fellowship, New York
- 1987 Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation, Grant, New York
- 2002 Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Grant, New York
- 2011 Congressional Gold Medal Award, Washington, D.C.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Brian T. "Is the Smithsonian Weaseling Out from White House Questions?" *National Review*, September 11, 2025, nationalreview.com/2025/09/is-the-smithsonian-weaseling-out-from-white-house-questions.

Schwendener, Martha. "Discovering Surprises Among the Familiar at the Independent 20th Century." *The New York Times*, September 4, 2025, nytimes.com/2025/09/04/arts/design/independent-20th-century-art-fair-battery-cipriani-review.html.

Rabb, Maxwell. "Overlooked Minimalist Ralph Iwamoto Is Back in the Frame of New York Abstraction." *Artsy*, June 26, 2025, artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-overlooked-minimalist-ralph-iwamoto-frame-new-york-abstraction.

Chun, Emily. *Ralph Iwamoto: Octagonal Permutations* (New York, NY: Hollis Taggart, 2025). (digital catalog)

Boyers, Richard. "Transcultural Dialogues." *Salmagundi Magazine*, No. 224-225, Fall 2024-Winter 2025, salmagundi.skidmore.edu/articles/879-the-art-scene-transcultural-dialogues.

Seo, Diane. "Home of the Tigers. McKinley High School's Artist Legacy." *HONOLULU Magazine*, September 1.2024, honolulumagazine.com/homa-home-of-the-tigers-exhibition.

Schrader, Adam. "The Honolulu School That Quietly Nurtured Hawaii's Top Artists Gets a Museum Tribute." *Artnet*, July 20.2024, news.artnet.com/art-world/mckinley-satoru-abe-honolulu-museum-shows-2513029.

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Weschler, Jeffrey and Emily Chun. *Asian-American Abstraction: Historic to Contemporary* (New York, NY: Hollis Taggart, 2024).

Stampleman, Arthur. "Now Showing at the Bruce." *The Rye Record*, December 14, 2023, ryerecord.com/now-showing-at-the-bruce-2.

"An Origami-Inspired Art Wall Revives a Dreary London Transit Hub, and Other News." *Surface*, August 18, 2023, surfacemag.com/articles/adam-nathaniel-furman-abundance-paddington-london.

Porterfield, Carlie. "Chelsea gallery Hollis Taggart expanding again despite fears of a slowing market." *The Art Newspaper*, August 10, 2023, theartnewspaper.com/2023/08/10/hollis-taggart-chelsea-gallery-expanding-new-york.

Of the Past and Present: Estates and Contemporary Artists at Hollis Taggart (New York, NY: Hollis Taggart, 2023).

Tsang, Lillian. "Art historian delves into Ralph Iwamoto's surrealist paintings of Hawai'i flora." *Hawai'i Public Radio*, April 4, 2023, hawaiipublicradio.org/the-conversation/2023-04-04/art-historian-delves-into-ralph-iwamotos-surrealist-paintings-of-hawaii-flora.

Kakur, Arun. "The Art World News Roundup, March 2023." *Artsy*, March 23, 2023, artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-art-news-roundup-march-2023.

Allitt, Frances. "Dealers news in brief including a show focusing on an East Anglian artist in Aldeburgh." *Antiques Trade Gazette*, March 13, 2023, antiquetrade gazette.com/print-edition/2023/march/2584/dealers-diary/dealers-news-in-brief-including-a-show-focusing-on-an-east-anglian-artist-in-aldeburgh.

Irwin, Michael. "Who Are Harmony Korine, Ralph Iwamoto, and John Wesley's New Galleries?" *Ocula*, March 2, 2023, ocula.com/magazine/art-news/who-are-harmony-korine-ralph-iwamoto-new-galleries.

"Estate of Japanese American Artist Ralph Iwamoto Now Represented by Hollis Taggart, NY." *Widewalls*, March 2, 2023, widewalls.ch/news-feed/ralph-iwamoto-hollis-taggart-ny.

"\$55 M. Raised for Smithsonian Women's History Museum, Photographer Ans Westra Dies at 86, and More: Morning Links for February 28, 2023." *ARTnews*, February 28, 2023, artnews.com/art-news/news/smithsonian-womens-history-museum-fundraising-ans-westra-dead-morning-links-1234658946/.

"Art Industry News: A California Court Revives a Lawsuit Over a 'Sexist' Marilyn Monroe Statue + Other Stories." *Artnet*, February 28, 2023, news.artnet.com/art-world/art-industry-news-02-28-2023-2262659.

Ludel, Wallace. "Estate of Ralph Iwamoto—Japanese-American painter overlooked after early-career successes—gains gallery representation." *The Art Newspaper*, February 23, 2023, theartnewspaper.com/2023/02/27/ralph-iwamoto-estate-represented-hollis-taggart.

Weschler, Jeffrey. *Wild Growth: Ralph Iwamoto, Surrealist Works from 1955* (New York, NY: Hollis Taggart, 2023).

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- Bernstein, Fred A. "Tour a 1930s Hawaiian Home That Was Thoughtfully Transformed for the Next Generation." *1stdibs*, October 10, 2021, 1stdibs.com/introspective-magazine/odada-hawaii.
- Lenz, Emily. *The Shaped Canvas Movement of the 1960s* (New York, NY: D. Wigmore Fine Art, Inc., 2019), ill., 5, 29, 31.
- Hancock, Travis. "In a Sea of Change." *Living*, vol. 9.2, 2017, ill., 22–23.
- Papanikolas, Theresa and Stephen Salel. *Abstract Expressionism: Looking East from the Far West* (Honolulu, HI: Honolulu Museum of Art, 2017), ill. 6, 66–67.
- Regan, Margaret. "Minimalism and Modernists." *Tucson Weekly Print Friendly*, January 17, 2008. tucsonweekly.com/tucson/minimalism-and-modernists/Content?oid=1090223.
- Mark Pomilio. "The Elegance of Simplicity: The Paintings of Ralph Iwamoto." Catalogue essay for *Ralph Iwamoto: Fifty Years of Abstraction* (Tucson, AZ: The Gallery at Sixth and Sixth, 2008).
- Cornell, Daniell and Mark Dean, eds. *Asian/American/Modern Art, Shifting Currents, 1900-1970* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, 2008), ill. 125.
- Naves, Mario. "Un-Hyped Academy Annual Quietly Takes the Long View." *New York Observer*, June 5, 2006. observer.com/2006/06/unhyped-academy-annual-quietly-takes-the-long-view.
- Decker, Elisa. "Ralph Iwamoto at David Findlay, Jr." *Art in America*, January 2005.
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- Wechsler, Jeffrey. "Ralph Iwamoto: Nature Transformed, Nature Abstracted, Works from the 50's." *The Artists Proof*, New York Artists Equity Association, Inc. Publication, vol. 24, Fall 2004, ill., 7.
- Chavez, Anja. *Infinite Possibilities: Serial Imagery in 20th Century Drawings* (Wellesley, MA: Davis Museum and Cultural Center, 2005).
- Genocchio, Benjamin. "LeWitt the Collector, Filling Up a Warehouse." *The New York Times*, January 1, 2004, ill., Section E, 3. [nytimes.com/2004/01/01/arts/lewitt-the-collector-filling-up-a-warehouse.html?searchResultPosition=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/01/arts/lewitt-the-collector-filling-up-a-warehouse.html?searchResultPosition=1). [Angel Franco: Photographer. 2 geometric paintings are shown in the upper left corner of his photograph. – print edition only]
- Camper, Fred. "Precision Abstraction." *Chicago Reader*, October 16, 1997. chicagoreader.com/arts-culture/precision-abstraction.
- Wechsler, Jeffrey, ed. *Asian Traditions/Modern Expressions: Asian American Artists and Abstraction, 1945-1970* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1997).
- Jordan, Chris. "Linking East and West." *The Central New Jersey Home News*, April 11, 1997, 8.
- Harrison, Helen A. "Japanese Abstraction: Looking West." *The New York Times*, (Long Island Edition), December 29, 1985, 12.
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Ichida, Koji. *New York Art Letters To Japan* (Tokyo, Japan: Doyo Bijitsu-sha, 1984).

Weigl, Jean Kondo. *Works by Japanese - American Visual Artists and Craftsmen* (Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah, 1978).

Kusunoki, Takako. "Bold Paintings." *The New York Nichibei*, February 17, 1974.

Mellow, James R. "Art Review: Display by 7 At Westbeth." *The New York Times*, February 17, 1973, 28.

Devree, Howard. "Whitney Round-Up: The Annual Appraisal Masters–Newcomers." *The New York Times*, November 23, 1958, X13.

Newbill, Al. "Ralph Iwamoto." *Art Digest*, vo. 29, no. 16, May 15, 1955, 31.

Devree, Howard. "Art and Artists: Seven Exhibitions." *The New York Times*, Review, November 4, 1954, 46.

Burrows, Carlyle. "Art." *New York Herald-Tribune*, October 1954.

Breuning, Margaret. "City Center Group." *Art Digest*, vol. 29, no.1, October 1, 1954, 26.

Lawson, Edna B. "Non-Jury Art Exhibit Is Opened at Honolulu Hale." *The Honolulu Advertiser*, September 21, 1948, 7.

Goulding, John J. "250 Works of Art at City Hall This Week for Non-Jury Show." *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, September 21, 1948, 9.

SELECTED PUBLIC, PRIVATE, & CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH

Charmion Von Weigand Collection, Tibetan Buddhist Institute, New York

Department of Fine Arts, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Franklin Furnace Archives, New York

Herbert Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Honolulu Advertiser Publication Collection, Honolulu, HI

James and Mimi Rosenquist, Aripeka, Tampa, FL

Jane Voorhees/Zimmerli Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Heritage Room, Honolulu, HI

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles

New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM

Robert Ryman, New York City

The Swope Art Museum (Formerly the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery), Terre Haute, IN

Sol LeWitt Collection, Chester, CT

St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, MD

State Foundation of Culture and the Arts, Honolulu, HI

Werner (Wynn) Kramarsky Collection, New York

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The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI

Thurston Twigg-Smith Collection, Honolulu, HI

Vilcek Foundation, New York

Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT

Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC

Werner Kramarsky Collection, New York

Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA