



### Nihonga – Japonism

In an effort to modernise the country the government of Japan propagated in the later half of the nineteenth century Western-style academic oil painting. As one result of this policy the umbrella term Nihonga (Japanese painting) came to designate the various modernising movements of traditional painting. Until today Nihonga is characterised by the use of rich natural mineral or plant pigments bound by animal glue.

Almost contemporaneous to these developments European artists of the Impressionist movement discovered the colours and daring compositions of Japanese woodblock prints and the shapes and formats of traditional crafts. These served as a major inspiration for the new artistic directions which soon were dubbed Japonism and exerted a profound influence on European modern art.

### Claude Monet and Japan – the garden at Giverny

The painter Claude Monet (1840–1926), who was a central member of the Impressionist movement named after one of his paintings »Port du Havre, Impression soleil levant« of 1872, referred in his work time and again to Japanese inspirations as evidenced by his collection of woodblock prints, a portrait of his wife Camille clad in a kimono or his tendency to work in series.

The Japanese connection might be most apparent, however, in the design of the garden at his house in Giverny which included a bridge in Japanese style and the famous pond of water lilies. Blending the images of the flowers, the water surface and reflections of the sky, these paintings which constitute the most prominent motif of his later years are free painterly essays on perception and representation.



### Hiramatsu Reiji – Monet's Water lilies – Nihonga

Hiramatsu Reiji is a leading proponent of contemporary Nihonga. Inspired by Monet's garden at Giverny as well as by his water lily paintings, Hiramatsu created over the years a series of paintings as Hommage à Monet. Hiramatsu's variations executed in the precious materials and painstaking techniques which are characteristic of Nihonga bear witness to the ongoing dialogue between Japanese and European art and at the same time display the distinctive seasonal and compositional intensity of this Japanese art form.



Hiramatsu Reiji

1941 in Tokyo geboren, studierte an der Universität Aichi, Abschluss 1965. Seit 1992 lebt und arbeitet er in Kamakura, Professor an der Kunstakademie Tama. Zahlreiche Einzel- und Gruppenausstellungen, Preise und Auszeichnungen.

Hiramatsu Reiji

Born 1941 in Tokyo, he received his education at Aichi University, graduated in 1965. Since 1992 he lives and works in Kamakura. He teaches at Tama Art Academy. Featured in countless group and one-man shows Hiramatsu won many competitions and received any number of awards and distinctions.

## HIRAMATSU REIJI

### SEEROSENBILDER

PAINTINGS OF WATER LILIES

HOMMAGE À MONET



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