

## **The Noguchi Museum Announces Major Touring Retrospective and Monograph on Toshiko Takaezu**

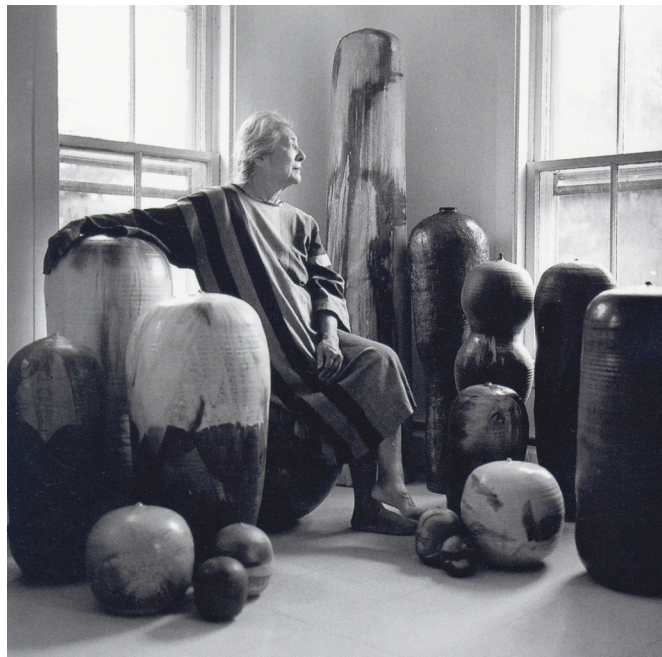
Exhibition will feature around 300 works, and will tour nationally beginning in 2024

New York, NY (June 17, 2022) — On the centennial of the birth of artist Toshiko Takaezu (1922–2011), The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum announces a major touring retrospective and monograph centered on her work and life. This will be the first nationally touring retrospective of Takaezu’s work in twenty years. To coincide with the exhibition the Museum will co-publish a new monograph with Yale University Press.

Of Okinawan heritage and born in Hawai‘i, Takaezu was acknowledged in her lifetime as one of the most important ceramicists and artist-educators in America, but these associations have tended to obscure the extraordinary range and depth of her practice. The Noguchi Museum’s project will serve as an in-depth consideration of her work, on her own terms, highlighting Takaezu as one of the most compelling and conceptually innovative American artists of the last century in any medium.

Noguchi Museum Director Brett Littman states, “The Noguchi Museum is dedicated to advancing the understanding of Isamu Noguchi’s art and life from as many angles as possible. As a part of these efforts, we have sought to present the work of artists in Noguchi’s milieu who sustained a dialogue with him. Noguchi and Takaezu clearly shared a deep mutual admiration, so it feels particularly fitting that we are working together with the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation on this major project that will bring renewed scholarship and interest to her work.”

Darlene Fukuji, President of the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation and grandniece of the artist, states, “Since 2015, the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation has been dedicated to preserving and promoting the artistic legacy of Toshiko Takaezu and educating the public about her work and teachings. We are thrilled to be working with The Noguchi Museum on this exhibition and monograph, which we hope will introduce new audiences to her exceptional art and legacy.



Toshiko Takaezu with her works at home in Quakertown, New Jersey, 1997.  
 Photo: Bobby Jae Kim. © Toshiko Takaezu Foundation



Toshiko Takaezu with moons, 1979.  
Photo: Yasuhiro Wakabayashi (Hiro).  
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“On a personal note, I grew up in Hawai‘i hearing about Isamu Noguchi, and I know my great aunt would be so pleased that her work will be presented in the museum he founded and designed. It is particularly symbolic to announce this project on what would have been her 100th birthday. It is so meaningful to be able to do her legacy justice on such a significant milestone.”

## EXHIBITION

The exhibition consists of a chronological retrospective that charts the development of her empirical-conceptual practice as well as several large-scale installations based on ones she made in her lifetime.

Included works span her seven-decade career, beginning in the late 1940s. Installations will focus on Takaezu’s systematic experimentation with ceramics as an art form combining sculpture and painting—at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, in her teaching years at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and in her increasingly environmental approach to ceramics and installations of her work after her move to a large studio in New Jersey (where she also taught at Princeton University). From the late 1960s on, she had unified her approach to ceramics, sculpture, and painting to consistently convey the sublimity of nature in individual pots. In addition to the ceramic works for which she is best known, the exhibition will also include rarely-seen paintings and weavings in which she explored and perfected her ideas about abstract painting.

Thematic installations based on exhibitions she presented during her lifetime will include displays inspired by her *Star Series*, moons, *Gaea* and *Devastation Forest* installations, and garden seats. Also included will be an interactive installation and concert program of new works by composer Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti (finalist for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in music) centered on the hidden element of sound in Takaezu’s works. Takaezu filled many of her closed forms with “rattles,” encouraging viewers to navigate their unseen interior volumes through sound.

The exhibition will be organized by The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, with assistance from the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation and the Takaezu family. It is co-curated by art historian Glenn Adamson, Noguchi Museum Assistant Curator Kate Wiener, composer and sound artist Leilehua Lanzilotti, and former Noguchi Museum Senior Curator Dakin Hart. It will feature over 300 works from private and public collections around the country, and is tentatively scheduled to be presented first at The Noguchi Museum from March 20 to July 28, 2024.



Toshiko Takaezu, *Gaea*, LongHouse Reserve, East Hampton, New York, July–September, 1994. © Toshiko Takaezu Foundation

## NATIONAL TOUR

Following its presentation at The Noguchi Museum, the exhibition will travel to three to four additional venues across the United States. Planned venues include the Cranbrook Art Museum (2024–25), the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2025), and the Honolulu Museum of Art (2026).

The curatorial team for the retrospective is also working on a complementary large-scale installation at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston scheduled to open in October 2023.

## MONOGRAPH

To accompany the exhibition, The Noguchi Museum, in association with Yale University Press, will publish a new monograph on Toshiko Takaezu. The volume will feature new essays and photography of her work.

## ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by category-defying sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum) in Queens, New York, was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Itself widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements and holding the world's largest collection of his works, the Museum features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed industrial building and a serene outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to managing the artist's archives and catalogue raisonné, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of Noguchi's material culture, from sculpture, models, and drawings, to his personal possessions. Provocative installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions and collaborations with practitioners across disciplines, offer a multifaceted view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence.

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