

**FRIEDMAN BENDA**  
**515 W 26TH STREET**  
**NEW YORK NY 10001**

**SHIRO KURAMATA**  
**1934 – 1991**

- 1991            Passed away in Tokyo, Japan
- 1981            Joined Memphis
- 1965            Established Kuramata Design Office
- 1956            Graduated from the Kuwasawa Design Institute
- 1934            Born in Tokyo, Japan

**Select Museum and Public Collections**

Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
Centro Cultural/Arte Contemporaneo, A.C., Mexico City, Mexico  
Corning Museum of Glass, New York, NY  
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX  
Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO  
Fonds national d'art contemporain, France  
Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Indianapolis, IN  
Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
Kunstgewerbemuseum Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, Germany  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
M+ Museum, Hong Kong  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Montréal, Quebec, Canada  
Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France  
Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany  
Museum of Fine Art, Boston, MA  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto  
The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
Toyama Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Toyama City, Japan  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

## Awards

- 1990 French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres  
1981 First Japan Design Award  
1972 Mainichi Industrial Design Award

## Select Exhibitions

- 2023 – 2024 *The Work of Shiro Kuramata: A Microcosmos of Memory*, traveling exhibition: Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo; Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Toyama; The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
- 2020 *What Would Have Been*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY
- 2019 – 2020 *Objects of Desire: Surrealism and Design 1924 – Today*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
- 2019 *Blow Up*, curated by Felix Burchter, Friedman Benda, New York, NY
- 2018 – 2019 *When Attitudes Become Chairs*, Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH
- 2017 *Ettore Sottsass: Design Radical*, The Met Breuer, New York, NY  
*DNA10*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY
- 2013 – 2014 *Shiro Kuramata: Design as Poetry*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
- 2012 – 2013 *Shiro Kuramata: Revolutionary Japanese Designer*, Design Museum Ghent, Belgium
- 2011 *Postmodernism: Style and Subversion 1970-1990*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
*Shiro Kuramata and Ettore Sottsass*, 21\_21 Design Sight, Tokyo, Japan  
*Modern by Design*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2010 – 2012 *The Essence of Things*. Traveling exhibition: Grassi Museum, Leipzig, Germany; Design Museum, Gent, Belgium; Museum August Kestner, Hannover, Germany; Vitra Design Museums, Weil am Rhein
- 2010 *Revisited*, The Gallery Mourmans, Knokke-Heist, Belgium
- 2003 *Moins et Plus*, Musée d'art Moderne de Saint-Etienne Métropole, France
- 1998 Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY, June-September
- 1997 *Designed for Delight. Alternative aspects of twentieth-century decorative arts*. Traveling exhibition: Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec, Canada; Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH; Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie, Krakow, Poland; Die Neue Sammlung, Munich, Germany; J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KN; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA

- 1996 – 1999 *Shiro Kuramata 1934-1991*. Traveling exhibition: Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan, June-September, 1996; Centro Cultural/arte Contemporaneo A.C., Mexico City, April – June, 1997; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, August – December, 1997; Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, February – May, 1998; Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Montreal, Canada, June – September, 1998; Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris, France, October – December, 1998; Österreichisches Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Austria, January-March, 1999; National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan, June – August, 1999
- 1995 *Japan Today*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark
- 1994 *Collection: Chairs of the 20th Century*, Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan  
*Japanese Design—A Survey Since 1950*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA  
*Images du Futur—'94 Japon*, Old Port of Montreal, Montreal, Canada
- 1993 *Electronic Surface—Liquid Structure*, O Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 1991 *Il Dolce Stilnovo della Casa*, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy  
*Design Connection—Shiro Kuramata Memorial*, Porte de Versailles, Paris, France  
*TAPIS*, Galerie Yves Gastou, Paris, France  
*Sealing of Dreams*, Gallery MA, Tokyo, Japan
- 1990 *Salone del Mobile*, Milan, Italy  
*Il Palazzo and Six Designers*, Gallery MA, Tokyo, Japan  
*I Spiritelli*, Museo Alchimia, Milan, Italy
- 1989 *Memphis & Transavanguardia*, Touko Museum of Contemporary Art, Aoyama, Tokyo; Fukuyama Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan  
*Uny Group. Bi ! Kujira*, Yatai at World Design Exposition '89, Nagoya, Japan  
*Europalia 1989 Japan*, Brussels, Belgium  
*Shiro Kuramata*, Galerie Yves Gastou, Paris, France
- 1988 *Petits Architectures Nomades (Little Nomad Architecture)*, Galerie Yves Gastou, Paris, France  
*KAGU Tokyo Designer's Week '88*, Axis Gallery Annex, Tokyo, Japan  
*Image Up Project Exhibition for Furniture from Shizuoka*, Axis Gallery, Tokyo; Shizuoka Isetan Department Store, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan Craft Council, Sydney, Australia  
*In\*Spiration Lighting Design Exhibition*, Tokyo, Japan; Paris, France; Milan, Italy
- 1987 *The 1987 Vitra International Exhibition*, Musée Rath, Geneva, Switzerland  
*IDÉE Shiro Kuramata Exhibition*, IDÉE Shop, Tokyo, Japan

- Milano Furniture Salon Exhibition*, Zeus Hall, Milan, Italy  
*Intellectual Interior*, Shibuya PARCO Part 3, Space Part 3, Tokyo, Japan  
*Exhibition Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Tokyo High School for the Arts*, Tokyo High School for the Arts, Tokyo, Japan  
*Memphis Vol. 8*, Milan, Italy  
*Shiro Kuramata Exhibition*, Gallery Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
- 1986 *Kagu—Mobilier*, The Royal Monastery of Fontainebleau, France  
*Chairs*, San Francisco Airport Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*1910—1970 Japon des Avant-Gardes*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
*Cappellini Presents the Furniture by Shiro Kuramata*, Museum of Milan, Milan, Italy  
*Project K3*, Axis Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Tokyo: Form and Spirit*, Axis Gallery (1985), Walker Arts Center and other cities in the USA  
*Shiro Kuramata*, Galerie Yves Gastou, Paris, France
- 1985 *Contemporary Landscape: From the Horizon of Postmodern Design*, National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan  
*Tokyo: Its Shape and Substance Tokyo in Tokyo*, A collaboration with Tadao Ando, Axis Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Time Piece*, Axis Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Time Machine*, Gallery 911, New York, NY  
*Prints by Twenty Top International Artists*, Laforet Museum Akasaka, Tokyo and Kyoto International Conference Hall, Japan  
*A Panorama of Contemporary Art in Japan—Design of Daily Life*, Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan  
*Japan Creative Exhibition*, Seibu Department Store, Tokyo, Japan  
*Clock: Five Artists*, Tokyo, Japan and New York, NY  
*Shiro Kuramata Smal*, Cassina Japan Showroom, Tokyo, Japan
- 1984 *Japanese Designers—Tradition and the Present*, Central Hall of the Soviet Artists Alliance, Moscow, Russia  
*Phoenix / New Attitudes in Design*, Queen's Quay Terminal, Toronto, Canada
- 1983 *From Spoons to Cities: One Hundred Designers at Work*, Milan, Italy  
*Memphis Vol. 4*, Milan, Italy  
*Tokyo International Lighting Design Competition 1983*, Livina Yamagiwa, Tokyo, Japan  
*Design Gallery Exhibition No. 302 Terrazzo Shiro Kuramata*, Matsuya Ginza Design Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1982 *Memphis Vol. 3*, Milan, Italy  
*Casa Italia—Memphis Group Exhibition*, Seibu Department Store, Ikebukuro, Tokyo, Japan
- 1981 *Memphis Vol. 2*, Milan, Italy  
*Small Small Exhibition*, Ao Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
 M.T.I. 'Furniture by Architects,' Cambridge, UK

- Three Designers Exhibition*, Ina Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Metal Sculpture Exhibition*, Mikimoto Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Design Forum '81*, Matsuya Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
- 1981 *Lighting Exhibition*, Mikimoto Hall, Tokyo, Japan  
*System Monopoll*, Matsuya Ginza Design Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1978 *Design and Art of Modern Chairs*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan  
*MA Espace-Temps du Japon*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France
- 1977 *Isu (chair)*, Tokyo Designers Space, Tokyo, Japan  
Small Small Exhibition, Ao Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
Art Today '77—Structure of Visuality, Seibu Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1976 *Wonderland*, Ao Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*One Day One Show*, Tokyo Designers Space, Tokyo, Japan
- 1975 *Wall Paper Design by Ten Designers*, Kawakichi, Tokyo, Japan  
*Negation of Form*, Kirony Interior In, Tokyo, Japan  
*Akari (Light) Exhibition*, Ao Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Experiment Work*, Matsuya Ginza Design Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1973 *A Glimpse of Kuramata's Work*, Matsuya Ginza Design Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1972 *The Modern Living Interior Exhibition*, Maison du Meuble, Tokyo, Japan Tokyo  
*International Lighting Design Competition 1972*, Matsuya Ginza, Tokyo, Japan  
*Acrylic Lamps*, Gallery Fujie, Tokyo, Japan
- 1971 *The 11th São Paulo International Biennale*, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1970 *Seibu New Form Interiro Show IE No. 2*, Seibu Department Store, Tokyo, Japan  
*Good Design Exhibition '70*, Matsuya Ginza, Tokyo, Japan  
*Shaggy Art Exhibition*, Detzi Building, Tokyo, Japan
- 1968 *DESIGN FOR LIVING*, Matsuya Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

### **Select Literature**

Sudjic, Deyan. *Shiro Kuramata*, Phaidon, 2013.

Adamson, Glenn. *Postmodernism: Style and Subversion, 1970-1990*, London: V&A Publishing, 2011.

Seki, Yasuko. *Shiro Kuramata, Ettore Sottsass - 21\_21 Design Sight Exhibition Book*, Japan: 21\_21 Design Sight, ADP Co Ltd, 2010.

Gaillemin, Jean Louis Gaillemin. *Design Contre Design*, Paris: Galeries nationales di Grand Palais, 2007.

Marcus, George H. *Masters of Modern Design: A Critical Assessment*, New York: Monacelli Press, 2005.

Marcus, George. *Masters of Modern Design. A Critical Assessment*, New York: The Monacelli Press, 2005.

Baverey, Michel, ed. *Moins et Plus. Le Design dans la collection du fonds national d'art contemporain*, Paris: Centre national des arts plastiques, 2002.

Uyeda, Makoto. *Shiro Kuramata 1943-1991*, Tokyo: Kuramata Design Office for Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, 2000.

Brunhammer, Yvonne and Marie-Laure Perrin. *Le Mobilier Français. 1960-1998*, Paris: Éditions Massin, 1998.

Eidelberg, Martin. *Designed for Delight. Alternative aspects of twentieth-century decorative arts*, Canada: Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts, 1997.

Von Vegesack, Alexander, Peter Dunas, Mathias Schwartz-Clauss, (eds). *100 Masterpieces from the Vitra Design Museum*, Germany: Vitra Design Museum, 1996.

Aikawa, Michikio, ed. *Shiro Kuramata*, exh. cat., Tokyo: Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, 1996.

*Shiro Kuramata 1943-1991*, exh. cat., Tokyo: Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, 1996.

Fiell, Charlotte and Peter. *Modern Chairs*, Germany: Taschen, 1993.

Sottsass, Ettore. "An Exhibition Dedicated to Shiro Kuramata," *Domus*, December, 1996.

Armer, Karl Michael, Albrecht Bangert and Ettore Sottsass. *80s Style*, New York: Abbeville Press, 1990.

## Select Press

### 2024

Demetriou, Danielle. "Step inside this rare Shiro Kuramata-designed cocktail bar in Japan," *Wallpaper\**, May 21, 2024.

### 2023

Demetriou, Danielle. "Shiro Kuramata's multilayered cosmos on view in Tokyo," *Wallpaper\**, December 3, 2023.

Maerkle, Andrew. "Art or design? Art Week Tokyo exhibition relooks at the role of craft in post-war Japanese art," *The Art newspaper*, October 30, 2023.

Deb, Sukanya. "Taking a look back at Shiro Kuramata's astonishing career," *Stirworld*, February 1, 2023.

#### **2019**

Salerno, Rita. "Shiro Kuramata: Japanese Aesthetic Meets Western Postmodernism," *Elle Décor*, September 6, 2019.

#### **2018**

Colaci, Davide Fabio. "Shiro Kuramata: interiors for a new world," *Domus*, February 23, 2018.

#### **2017**

"Luminaire to host Shiro Kuramata exhibition during Design Miami," *Dezeen*, November 27, 2017.

#### **2015**

Seidman, Troy. "The Singular Designs of Shiro Kuramata," *Modern Magazine*, Spring 2015.

Lindemann, George. "The Art of Collecting." *Cultured*, February/March, 2015.

#### **2013**

Vik, Natashi. "Floating Design: Shiro Kuramata and His Contemporaries." *The Japan Times*, July 3, 2013.

Sudjic, Deyan. "How designer Shiro Kuramata helped change views of Japan." *Financial Times*, June 21, 2013.

Lasky, Julie. "'Shiro Kuramata' by Deyan Sudjic," *New York Times*, June 19, 2013.

"How Shiro Kuramata was inspired by Kubrick's 2001," *Phaidon*, December 2013.

#### **2012**

"Design Museum in Ghent exhibits works by revolutionary Japanese designer Shiro Kuramata." *Art Daily*, December 25, 2012.

#### **2009**

Suzuki, Joe. "An Artist's Legacy," *Clear*, Vol. VIII, Issue 2, 2009.

#### **2008**

Mason, Brook. "Rising in the East. Shiro Kuramata Leads the Pack," *The Art Newspaper*, December, 2008.

#### **2007**

"Légères?" *La Gazette de L'Hotel Drouot*, December, 2007.

#### **2003**

"Kuramata's Tokyo," *Domus* no. 858, April 2003.

#### **1999**

Bassi, Alberto. "Shiro Kuramata: Il Design Transparente," *Casabella*, July-August, 1999.

**1996**

Sottsass, Ettore. "Una Mostra Dedicata a Shiro Kuramata," *Domus*, December, 1996.

"Kiyotomo Sushi Restaurant in Tokyo," *Domus*, No. 779, February, 1996.

**1993**

Polledri, Paolo. "Shiro Kuramata: A Design Poet Appraised," *I.D.*, March—April, 1993.

**1992**

Reif, Rita. "Squaring Off with Aesthetic Connections," *International Herald Tribune*, June 6-7, 1992.

Morozzi, Cristina. "Parole fortie e immagini deboli," *Modo*, March 1992.

Barberis, Maurizio. "L'oggetto Tessuto, The Woven Object," *Annual Tessuti*, 1992.

**1991**

"L'Objet du Mois: Le Siege de Tokyo," *Vogue*, December 1991.

"From 1960 to 1990 Interior Design in Japan: Shiro Kuramata." *Ottagono*, August 1991.

Boisi, Antonella. "Giappone—Shiro Kuramata." *Interni*, July-August 1991.

"Designet med faryenes lyde," *Politiken*, July 20, 1991.

"Hommage à Shiro Kuramata," *Marie Claire Maison*, May 1991.

Pawson, John. "Shiro Kuramata," *Blue Print*, April 1991.

"Intermezzo," *Abitare con Arte*, March 1991.

"I Segni Della Superficie," *Modo*, March 1991.

Richard, Christine. "Mort d'un maitre," *Le Quotidien de Paris*, February 18, 1990.

"Mort du designer Shiro Kuramata," *Le Figaro*, February 13, 1990.

Benaïm, Laurence. "Mort du un designer japonais Shiro Kuramata," *Le Monde*, February 7, 1991.

"Conversazione fra Shiro Kuramata e Andrea Branzi," *La Nazione*, January 29, 1991.

"Den Evige Jagt på det Perfecte," *Bo Bedre*, 1991.

Pearlman, Chee. "Shiro Kuramata 1934—1991," *Architectural Review*, 1991.

"Shiro Kuramata," *Connaissance des Arts*, 1991.



Fitoussi, Brigitte. "Hommage à Shiro Kuramata." *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui*, 1991.

### **1990**

"Shiro Kuramata, Designer Poète Allégresse et Transparence." *Le grand cahier*, July-August 1990.

"Kuramata, Images du Monde Flottant." *Connaissance des Arts*, February 1990.

"Shiro Kuramata, Dans un Fauteuil." *Marie-France*, February 1990.

### **1989**

Benaïm, Laurence. "Plexi trouble." *Le Monde*, November 28, 1989.

Branzi, Andrea. "Purple Shadows." *Terazzo*, November 3, 1989.

Dings, Matt. "Ontwerpen Tegen de Stress Kuramata." *De Tijd*, April 7, 1989.

"Shiro Kuramata 1967—1987." *Interior Design*, 1989.

### **1988**

"Breaking the Bonds." *Progressive Architecture*, September 1988.

Popham, Peter. "Chairs to the World." *Sunday Times Magazine*, September 1988.

"Deux cafés Kyoto et Tokko." *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui*, February 1988.

Kicherer, Sybille. "Heister eines neuen japanischen design." *Form*, 1988.

"Shiro Kuramata Designer." *Marie Claire*, January 1988.

"Intervista a Shiro Kuramata." *L'Uomo Vogue*, January 1988.

Kazuko, Saito. "La Leggerezza Dell'Architettura." *Interni*, 1988.

Y. Shiratori. "Mon Petit Chou." *Abitare*, 1988.

"De Wetien van de Leegte." *De Tijd*, 1988.

### **1987**

"Shiro Kuramata." *I.D.*, September—October 1987.

"Popham, Peter. "The Toast of Modernism." *Sunday Times Magazine*, October 16, 1987.

"Japan is on the Go." *Time*, September 21, 1987.

"Edizioni in grande Serie: XO vuole imporsi." *Modo*, March 1987.

### **1986**

Fitoussi, Brigitte. "Les tiroirs secrets de Kuramata." *Maison Française*, December 1986.

“Le salon du meuble.” L’Architecture d’Aujourd’hui, December 1986.

“Shiro Kuramata Designer.” Casa Vogue, November 1986.

Colin, Christine. “L’Ultima Generazione del Design Giapponese.” Casa Vogue, January 1986.

Taki, Koji. “Kuramata à Paris” “Shiro chez lui” “L’esprit Kuramata.” L’Atelier, 1986.

“Shiro Kuramata s’installe chez Yves Gastou.” Techniques & Architecture, 1986.

“Samourais du design.” City, 1986.

### **1985**

Zanini, Marco. “Al Confine tra Design e Architettura.” Casa Vogue, 1985.

“Shiro Kuramata: I Mobili Trasparenti.” Domus, No. 664, September 1985.

“People and Projects.” I.D., January—February 1985.

### **1982**

Smetana, Donatella. “Il Colore del Bianco e Nero e il Colore del Suono.” Casa Vogue, August 1982.

“Shiro Kuramata.” An interview by Kazuko Sato, Domus, April 1984.

### **1981**

“Japan Points to the Future: Shiro Kuramata Interior Angles.” G.Q., August 1981.

### **1979**

Contribution by Shiro Kuramata, Erco, April 1979.

### **1977**

“Il Vetro Incollato.” Domus, No. 572, July 1977.

### **1972**

“Tokyo: Closed Box.” Domus, No. 509, April 1972.

### **1970**

“Shiro Kuramata: Two Stores in Tokyo.” Domus, No. 493, December 1970.