### Ai-Mitsu (靉光, 1907-1946)

Ai-Mitsu, born Nichiro Ishimura, was the second son to a landowning family in Hiroshima. As an artist he was known for his Western-style paintings, his eschewing of the hieratic of *sensō-ga* (painting, 戦争画), and his pursuit of a variety of styles ranging from *sōgen-ga* (Chinese-style painting, 宋元画), to self-portraits and Surrealism. During the war he joined a group of self-portrait painters called the *Shinjin Gakai* (Association of New Painters 新人画会), which was established in 1943. He was conscripted in 1944 and sent to the front in Manchuria, where he died in 1946 in a hospital in Shanghai following the surrender of Japan. While many of his works were destroyed in the atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima, his most famous work, *Me no aru fūkei* (目のある風景, Landscape with an Eye, 1938), is currently held in the collection of the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. In this painting of a shapeless landscape with an embedded eye, he succeeded in giving form to the thoughts and feelings that were generally suppressed during Japan’s Asia-Pacific war.

**References and further reading:**

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