Eve Loh

Bakusen, Tsuchida (土田麦僊) (1887 - 1936)

Tsuchida Bakusen was a Nihonga (traditional style) painter from the Kyoto Painting circle. He was also the leading founder of the Association for the Creation of National Painting (国画創作協会, Kokuga Sôsaku Kyôkai ) (1918 – 1928). Bakusen moved to Kyoto in 1903 to study at Suzuki Shônen’s (鈴木松年,　1848 – 1918) art school. He later joined Takeuchi Seihô’s (竹内栖鳳, 1864 - 1942) school, thriving under his tutelage in a nurturing environment. In the years following his graduation from Kyoto Municipal Painting College, where he studied from 1909-1911, Bakusen produced Nihonga works such as *Island Women* (1912) that were influenced by the French Post-Impressionists like Gauguin, Van Gough and Cezanne. Bakusen exhibited at government-sponsored Bunten and Teiten exhibitions, but his dissatisfaction with the former led to a hiatus during which he established the Association and exhibited only at its exhibitions, the Kokuten. Bakusen’s work is comprised of figure paintings, mostly of women or children in rural landscapes. *Bathhouse Maiden* (1918), declared an Important Cultural Property, and *Maiko in a Garden* (1924) represent some of his masterpieces.

References and Further Reading

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