Eve Loh

Bakusen, Tsuchida (土田麦僊, 1887 - 1936)

Tsuchida Bakusen was a Nihonga 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 art school (鈴木松年, 1848 – 1918), but later joined Takeuchi Seihô’s school (竹内栖鳳, 1864 - 1942), where he thrived under Seihô’s tutelage and 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), influenced by French Post-Impressionists 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 composed of figure paintings, mostly of women or children in rural landscapes. *Bathhouse Maiden* (1918) was declared an “important cultural property,” and *Maiko in a Garden* (1924) represents one of his great masterpieces.

References and Further Reading

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