**Nikakai (Society of Progressive Japanese Artists) (二科会) (1914 - )**

The Nikakai, or Second Section Association, was established in 1914 as a reaction to the Japanese government-sponsored exhibition, the Bunten. The motivation behind the formation of the Nikakai was prompted by events happening within the Nihonga (Japanese-style painting) category at the Bunten. In 1912, officials at the Bunten divided Nihonga into two sections- with the additional section catering for submissions that were considered more progressive or that belonged to the “new faction” (Shinpa 新派). The Yôga (Western-style) artists on the other hand, increasingly felt similar dissatisfactions with the judging panel and wanted a separate category also. In 1913, a petition was made for their demands but was rejected. As a result, the Nikakai was set up in the following year, by Yamashita Shintarô (山下新太郎1881 -1966) and Ishii Hakutei (石井栢亭 1882 – 1958), along with other artists. The association also organises exhibitions known as the Nikaten which accepts submissions for painting (excluding Nihonga), sculpture, design and photography. Members of the Nikakai are said to be forbidden to submit to the government sponsored exhibitions- the Bunten and Teiten. Today the association remains the largest independent oil painting organisation.

**References and Further Reading**

Ajioka, Chiaki., Clark, John., Menzies, Jackie and Tsutomo, Mizusawa. (1998). *Modern Boy, Modern Girl: Modernity in Japanese Art, 1910- 1935*. Sydney: Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Clark, John. (1998). *Modern Asian Art*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Clark, John. (2013). *Modernities of Japanese Art*. Leiden: Brill.