John Szostak

**Umehara, Ryûzaburô (1888–1986)**

Umehara Ryûzaburô was a Japanese oil painter and an important proponent of Post-Impressionist style in Japan. His paintings feature bright, vibrant colors and highly expressive brushwork, demonstrating the enduring influence of his teacher, Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Umehara was one of the first graduates of the Kansai Art Institute (*Kansai Bijutsuin*), where he studied under Asai Chû (1856-1907). After Asai’s death, Umehara traveled to Paris, where he enrolled at the Académie Julien. He remained in France for five years, during which time he visited Renoir at Cagnes-sur-Mer and studied under him for two months, and the two maintained a close relationship after Umehara returned to Japan in 1913. After repatriation, he became involved in many important art groups, including the Nikakai in 1914, the Spring Sun Society (*Shunyôkai*) in 1922, and was a founding director of the Japanese Painting Society’s (*Kokugakai*) oil painting section in 1928. He served as professor at Tokyo School of Art (now Tokyo University of Art) from 1944 until 1952, the same year he received the Order of Cultural Merit. Later in life he became an avid practitioner of the ink-based Nanga style of East Asian painting. His atelier is preserved at Kiyoharu Art Village (Kiyoharu Geijutsu Mura) (< http://www.kiyoharu-art.com/umehara/index.htm >).

**References and Further Reading**

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