

## A Tale of Two Brothers Across Time

## Hiroshima Artist Gorō SHIKOKU and the Diary of Naoto on His Deathbed

Gorō SHIKOKU (1924-2014) dedicated his artistic talents to the anti-war and anti-nuclear weapons movements, inspired by the death of his beloved younger brother, Naoto (1927-1945), who passed away at the young age of 18 as a victim of the atomic bombing.

"I'll create art on behalf of all of those who lost their lives: art which calls for the end of war and of nuclear weapons. This is what's important--I don't care if it's considered art or not..."

The death of his younger brother changed his entire life.

This special exhibition brings to life the story of two brothers across time through passages in Naoto's diary written from the day of the bombing until the day he died, and through pieces of art which his older brother Gorō went on to create.



My Beloved Little Brother Naoto (1948)



Self Portrait (1967)



Petition (1962)



Brothers Sketching (1996)



Vietnamese Mother and Child (1964)



Requiem for My Little Brother

## "When you lose you way in life, re-read this diary, Goro! Read Naoto's diary!"

Timeline for Gorō and Naoto

1924 Gorō is born as the third son in the Shikoku family.

Naoto is born as the fourth son in the Shikoku family. 1927

1940 Gorō goes to work at the Hiroshima Army Uniform Depot to support his family, giving up on his dream to go to art school.

Gorō is sent to Manchuria to fight in Japan's losing war. 1944

Naoto dies, a victim to the atomic bombing at only age 18. 1945

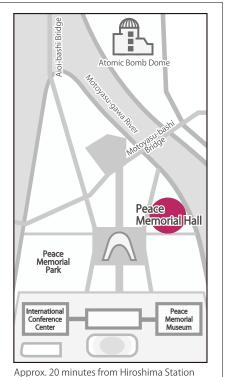
1945 WWII ends; Gorō is interned in Siberia.

1948 Gorō returns to Japan and learns of the death of Naoto.

Gorō joins Sankichi TŌGE's "Warera no Uta no Kai" and uses poetry and illustrations to 1949 promote the anti-war, anti-nuclear weapons movement.

Gorō works to support the NHK-based "Public Call for Illustrations by Hibakusha" initiative. 1974

2014 Gorō passes away in Hiroshima at the age of 89.



(South Exit)

By Streetcar: Take the streetcar headed for Miyajima-guchi or Eba and get off

at Atomic Bomb Dome-mae. Take the Hiroshima Bus bound for Yoshijima and get off at Hondori.

\* No parking available.

## The Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims

TEL: 082-543-6271 FAX: 082-543-6273 URL: https://www.hiro-tsuitokinenkan.go.jp/ Address: Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811

Hours: Dec-Feb: 8:30 am to 5 pm Mar-Jul: 8:30 am to 6 pm

8:30 am to 6 pm (8/5, 8/6: 8:30 am to 8 pm)

Sept-Nov: 8:30 am to 6 pm

Closed: 12/30-31

