

## Bernard Buffet: A Painter Who Depicted His Soul into Scratched Line, from the collection of Musée Bernard Buffet

The Nakanoshima Kosetsu Museum of Art is pleased to present the special exhibition Bernard Buffet: A Painter Who Depicted His Soul into Scratched Line, featuring works from Musée Bernard Buffet in Nagaizumi, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Born in Paris, the prolific artist Bernard Buffet (1928–1999) studied painting under the German occupation during World War II. After the war, he forged a distinctive style that reflected the anxiety and unease of a tumultuous era. With this striking vision, Buffet emerged as a voice of his generation and rose to international fame as an artistic prodigy before the age of twenty.

In Japan as well his imagery resonated powerfully. Amid the social unrest of the 1960s, marked by student movements and political protests, audiences embraced his nihilistic expressions. His works became a familiar presence in public spaces and cafes, securing him wide recognition. Throughout his career, Buffet resolutely pursued his own path of figurative expression, refusing to follow the prevailing currents of Abstract Expressionism. This uncompromising stance, however, later drew criticism that his works were vulgar and overly commercial. In response, the painter gradually distanced himself from the mainstream art world to work in isolation.

This exhibition invites visitors to reconsider Buffet's painting expression within a broader historical and aesthetic context, exploring the reality he sought to capture and reassessing his place as one of the great twentieth-century masters, alongside Picasso. Drawing on the rich holdings of Musée Bernard Buffet, it presents approximately sixty selected works—including oil paintings, prints, and manuscripts—with a focus on insects and still lifes that illuminate the artist's keen sense of form and enduring devotion to line.

### Admission

#### Adults

¥ 1600 ( ¥ 1400\*)

#### High school and university students

¥ 800 ( ¥ 400\*)

#### Elementary and junior high school students

¥ 400 ( ¥ 200\*)

\*For groups of 20 or more



**Baguette and fruit bowl**

1949, Oil, canvas, Musée Bernard Buffet



**Still life with lyrebird**

1952, Oil, canvas, The Shizuoka Shimibun



[First public exhibit]

**Butterfly, cherry and violet**

1990, Watercolour, ink, pencil, paper  
Hankyu Corporation



**Man sitting in studio**

1949, Oil, canvas  
Musée Bernard Buffet



**The three boats**

1950, Oil on paper, attached on canvas  
The Shizuoka Shimibun



**"My Circus" Scholarly dog**

1968, Lithograph, paper  
Musée Bernard Buffet