

Art in the Garden

50 Prints and Paintings:
Toko Shinoda at 100

Winter 2013



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“Certain forms float up in my mind’s eye. Aromas, a blowing breeze, a rain-drenched gust of wind...the air in motion, my heart in motion. I try to capture these vague, evanescent images of the instant and put them into vivid form.”

Over the past six decades, Japanese artist Toko Shinoda has achieved an astonishing international reputation as a master of the ancient art of calligraphy, an accomplished poet, and one of the most fascinating abstract artists of the modern movement. In celebration of her 100th birthday and in honor of the Garden’s 50th anniversary, this special exhibition features a selection of her work from The Tolman Collection in Tokyo, known worldwide as a major dealer in contemporary Japanese prints. More significantly, Tolman is also the world’s largest publisher of fine print editions by contemporary Japanese artists. The Tolman Collection has commissioned 320 exclusive, limited-edition lithographs of Shinoda’s work since the 1970s.

Born in 1913 to Japanese parents in Manchuria, Toko Shinoda returned to Japan with her family when she was two years old. There, she trained in the art of calligraphy starting at age six. She held her first solo exhibition in Tokyo in 1940. In the 1950s, Shinoda lived for two years in New York, where she became associated with the Abstract Expressionist movement—one of the few women

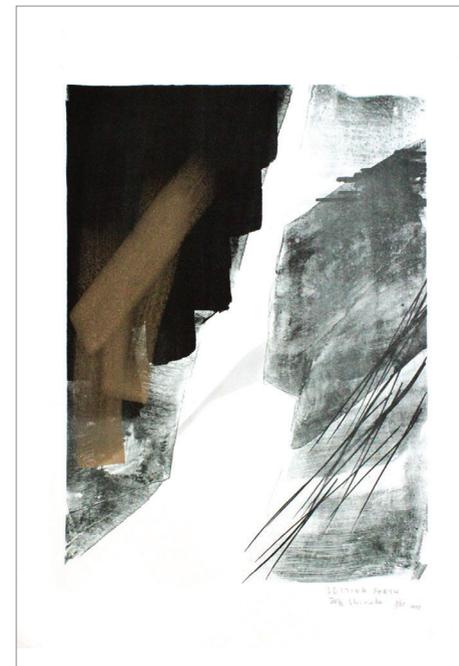
to have succeeded in this male dominated milieu. Her work has been noted for the use of “expansive, dynamic brush strokes... bold and daring, slashing across the paper’s surface, carving out a landscape inhabited by both warrior and poet.”

In 1954, Shinoda was included in a group exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, establishing her as a rising international artist. In the 1960s, she began working in lithography, a process that lends itself easily to her dynamic brushstroke style. She has created a number of large murals, the largest of which is 90-feet long, installed at Zojo-ji, a revered 600-year-old temple in Tokyo. Her work can be found in museum collections throughout the world, including the Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, and recently in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Shinoda’s work pays homage to the three perfections of East Asian art—painting, calligraphy and poetry—in a contemporary mode that transcends time and place, East and West.



Heian Verse, Toko Shinoda, 1996



Setting Forth, Toko Shinoda, 2007



Fleeting Passage, Toko Shinoda, 1983

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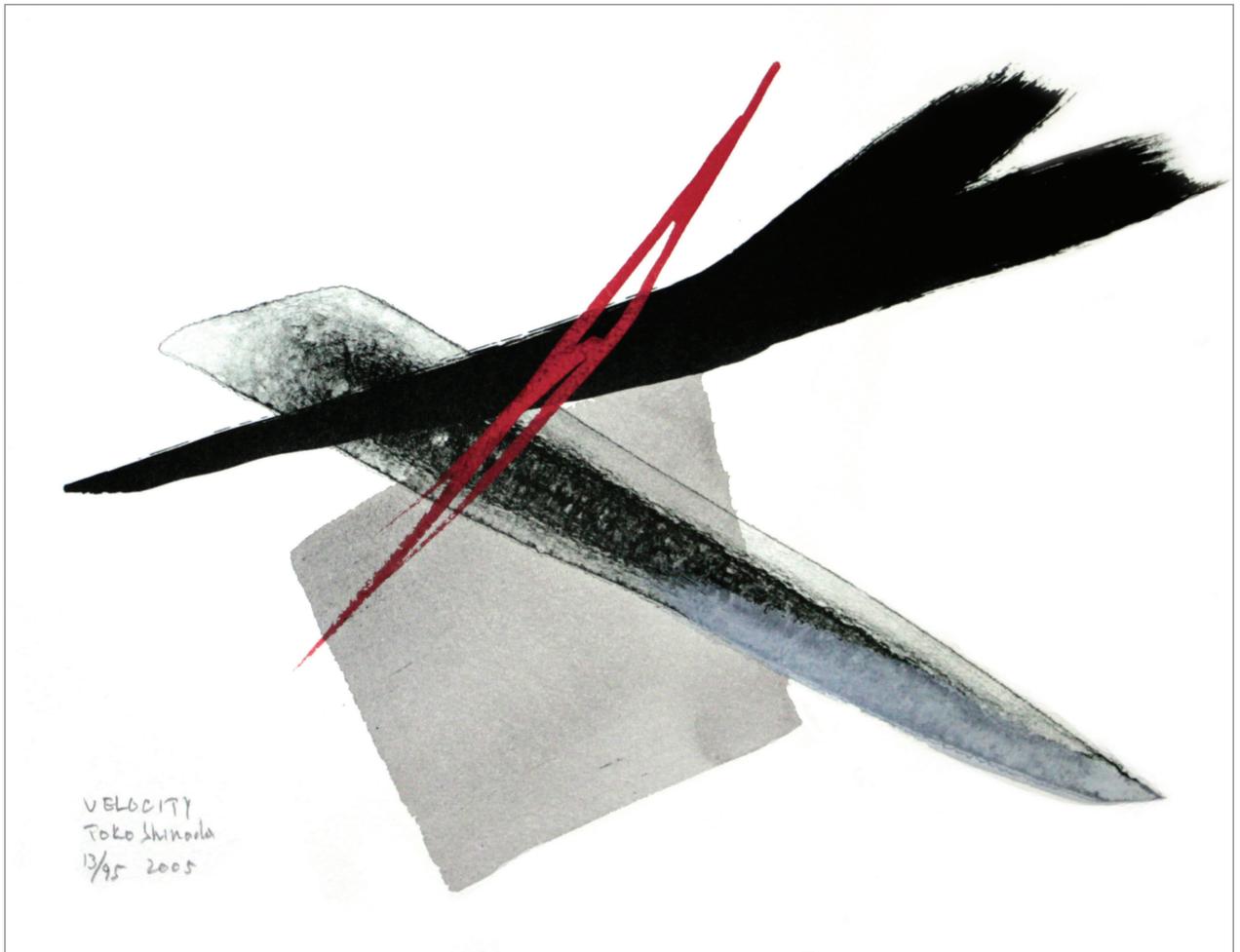
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*Front cover: Festive, Toko Shinoda, 1984
Back cover: Velocity, Toko Shinoda, 2005*



📷 Photos and images courtesy of the Tolman Collection.

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