

Ishikawa Kyuyoh Biography

Year	Age	
1945	(Showa 20) 0	Born in Imadate Town, Fukui Prefecture, and raised in Takefu City (both now Echizen City).
1950	(Showa 25) 5	Began attending the calligraphy school of calligrapher Kimura Sōgaku.
1953	(Showa 28) 8	Became a disciple of Sugimoto Chōun, a calligraphy professor at the University of Fukui.
1957	(Showa 32) 11	Entered junior high school. Met calligraphy teacher Kakiuchi Yōseki and realized the artistic nature of calligraphy.
1963	(Showa 38) 18	Entered Kyoto University’s Faculty of Law. Received the pen name “Kyuyoh (kyū-yō)” from his teacher Kakiuchi Yōseki, combining “九” (ku/kyū) from Kuzuryū River in his hometown and “楊” (yō) from his teacher’s name.
1966	(Showa 41) 21	Formed the calligraphy research group “Yūgetsukai” (sprout group) with his fellow students.
1967	(Showa 42) 22	Joined Sanyo Chemical Industries, Ltd., Kyoto. Married Hashiba Miyako.
1971	(Showa 46) 26	Dissolved “Yūgetsukai” and established “Hananaki bara no kai” (flowerless rose group).
1974	(Showa 49) 29	Published his first collection of works, <i>Frozen Fire—Contemporary Symbols: Selected Works of Ishikawa Kyuyoh</i> (Kyoto: Genshoku-sha).
1978	(Showa 53) 33	Decided to become an independent calligrapher and left the company. Established the Ishikawa Kyuyoh Studio.
1985	(Showa 60) 40	His wife Miyako established the art gallery specializing in calligraphy, Gallery Shiroiten, in Kyoto (later moved to Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). Until 2018, the gallery held twice-annual solo exhibitions of Kyuyoh’s work, providing a valuable platform for his calligraphic activity.
1987	(Showa 62) 42	Published his second collection of works, <i>Collected Works of Ishikawa Kyuyoh: Yet...</i> (Kyoto: Shibunkaku Publishing).
1990	(Heisei 2) 45	Received the Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities for <i>The Demise of Calligraphy: Modern Calligraphic Theory</i> (Kyoto: Dōhōsha Publishing).
1997	(Heisei 9) 52	Decided to move his base to Tokyo and relocated to Negishi, Taito Ward.
2000	(Heisei 12) 55	Received designation as Person of Cultural Merit from Kyoto Prefecture.
2001	(Heisei 13) 56	Appointed Head of the Kyoto Seika University newly established Organization for Human Contact, as well as Director of the Institute for Writing and Civilizations.
2002	(Heisei 14) 57	Received the Mainichi Publishing Culture Award for <i>A History of Japanese Calligraphy</i> (Nagoya: University of Nagoya Press). Received Japan Inter-Design Forum’s Culture Design Award.
2006	(Heisei 18) 61	Published <i>Selected by the Artist, Annotated by the Artist: Works of Ishikawa Kyuyoh</i> (Tokyo: Shinchosha).
2009	(Heisei 21) 64	Received the Osaragi Jirō Prize for <i>A History of Modern Calligraphy</i> (Nagoya: University of Nagoya Press).
2017	(Heisei 29) 72	Completed the twelve-volume <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh’s Collected Writings</i> (Kyoto: Minerva Shobo).
2019	(Heisei 31) 74	His wife Miyako passed away.
2021	(Reiwa 3) 76	Honored as a Kyoto City Person of Cultural Merit.
2022	(Reiwa 4) 77	Received People’s Honor Award from Echizen City.
2024	(Reiwa 6) 79	Published his comprehenive catalogue raisonné <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh: the Complete Works</i> (Kyoto: Shibunkaku Publishing).

Selected Exhibitions

1974	(Showa 49) 29	Solo exhibition. Honolulu: University of Hawaii at Manoa Art Gallery; YWCA O’ahu Laniākea.
1982	(Showa 57) 37	<i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Calligraphy Exhibition</i> . Kyoto: Kyoto Municipal Museum of Traditional Industry, Tokyo: Gallery Kobun.

1986	(Showa 61) 41	<i>Gallery Shiroiten Anniversary: Exhibition of New Works by Ishikawa Kyuyoh</i> . Kyoto: Gallery Shiroiten. <i>The World of Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Kyoto: Kyoto International Hotel.
1994	(Heisei 6) 49	Exhibited at <i>Jumping Typography</i> exhibition (Tokyo: O Art Museum)
1996	(Heisei 8) 51	Exhibited at <i>Spiritual Fragments: Drawing Letters in Art</i> exhibition (Hakodate: Hakodate Museum of Art)
1997	(Heisei 9) 52	Exhibited at <i>Taegu Asia Arts Exhibition</i> (Daegu: Daegu Arts Center)
1999	(Heisei 11) 54	Exhibited at <i>East Asian Calligraphy: The Art of Writing</i> (Seoul: Seoul Art Center)
2008	(Heisei 20) 63	<i>The Tale of Genji 1,000 Year Anniversary Project: Exhibition of Renderings of the 55 Chapters of The Tale of Genji by Ishikawa Kyuyoh</i> . Kyoto: The Museum of Kyoto; Echizen: Takefu Public Hall Memorial Museum.
2010	(Heisei 22) 65	<i>Rendering Man’yō Poetry with Man’yōgana: Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Tokyo: Gallery Shiroiten; Kyoto: Daimaru Kyoto Gallery.
2011	(Heisei 23) 66	<i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition: Calligraphy, Sake Vessels, and the Tale of Genji</i> . Itami: Itami City Craft Center; Itami City Museum of Art.
2017	(Heisei 29) 72	<i>Calligraphy! Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Tokyo: Ueno Royal Museum.
2018	(Heisei 30) 73	<i>This Autumn: Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Tokyo: Gallery Shiroiten (the last solo exhibiton at the gallery).
2019	(Reiwa 1) 74	<i>Second Movement: Calligraphy! Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Nagoya: Furukawa Museum. <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Nagoya: Nagoya Gallery.
2020	(Reiwa 2) 75	Exhibited at <i>The Potentiality of Drawing Exhibition</i> . Tokyo: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. <i>The Profundity of Calligraphy</i> . Kanazawa: Art Genra. <i>The World of Ishikawa Kyuyoh: A Literary Journey in Calligraphy</i> . Fukui: Fukui Museum of Literature.
2022	(Reiwa 4) 77	<i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Niigata: Sakyukan. <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Niigata: Niigata Eya.
2023	(Reiwa 5) 78	<i>A Taction Anthology: Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Kyoto: Kyoto Takashimaya, Tokyo: Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Osaka: Osaka Takashimaya.
2024	(Reiwa 6) 79	<i>Kawahigashi Hekigotō and Ishikawa Kyuyoh: Adventure of Taction</i> . Itami: Itami City Museum of Art, History and Culture. <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Hong Kong: Art Basel Hong Kong 2024. <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh: The Complete Works</i> . Tokyo: Ueno Royal Museum. Exhibited at Frieze Masters 2024 (London) <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition: The Tale of Genji and Japanse Classic Literature</i> . Tokushima: Tokushima Prefectural Museum of Literature and Calligraphy. <i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh: 55 Scrolls of The Tale of Genji—A Symphony of Calligraphy</i> . Fukui: Fukui Museum of Literature (until March, 2025).
2025	(Reiwa 7) 80	<i>Ishikawa Kyuyoh Exhibition</i> . Kyoto: Shibunkaku.

* Compiled from “Biography” and “Solo Exhibition and Participation in Other Exhibition” in Ishikawa Kyuyoh: the *Complete Works* (Kyoto: Shibunkaku Publishing, 2024).