

Makiko Kitama

Gibsons, BC, Canada
Born in Japan

Visual Artist | Art Instructor | Facilitator

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Kyushu Sangyo University, Fukuoka, Japan

Certified Secondary School Art Teacher (Japan)

Junior and Senior High School levels

Additional Training

Understanding Dementia, University of Tasmania (MOOC), 2012, 2025

Basic Training for Working in Long-Term Care: Understanding Non-Clinical Dementia Care

AWARDS

Graduation Exhibition Purchase Award

Kyushu Sangyo University, Japan, 1984

SOLO AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 Portraits of Cats, Dogs and Teddy Bears, Gibsons Public Library, Gibsons, BC
Artists of Christenson Village, Gibsons Public Art Gallery, Gibsons, BC

2024 Feline Friends, Sechelt Hospital, Sechelt, BC
Shirley and Ann, Christenson Village Gallery Space, Gibsons, BC

2023 Art of Healing Gala Art Auction, Sechelt Hospital, Sechelt, BC

2017 Bike Art Group Show, The Day of the Hour, Mattamy National Cycling Centre
Velodrome, Milton, ON

2003 Paintings of Antique Toys, Dr. Monica Monty, Vancouver, BC

- 2002** Featured Artist, Paintings of Antique Toys, Dr. Monica Monty Open House, Vancouver, BC
- 2000** Bear and Hare, Image West, Vancouver, BC
20 Minutes Portrait Drawing Group, Carnegie Centre, Vancouver, BC
A Show of Heads, Basic Inquiry, Vancouver, BC
Members' Group Show of the Human Figure, Basic Inquiry, Vancouver, BC
- 1999** Still Life Paintings, Sassenach Café, Sapporo, Japan
- 1993** Group Exhibition, Daimaru Fujii Gallery, Sapporo, Japan
- 1984** Graduation Exhibition, Kyushu Sangyo University, Fukuoka, Japan

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Art Instructor and Facilitator

2006–2025 Christenson Village, Gibsons, BC

Facilitated visual art sessions for residents in Assisted Living, Complex Care, and Dementia Care. Developed individualized creative engagement programs supporting emotional expression, cognitive stimulation, and quality of life.

Commissioned Artist

2004–Present

Commissioned portraits and custom paintings for private collectors.

ART-RELATED PROJECTS AND MEDIA

- 2026** Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives, Gibsons, BC
Spirit Rising: Japanese Canadian Voices of the Coast
Japanese text translation, typographic consultation,
and visual presentation of Japanese text
- 2025** Artists of Christenson Village Exhibition, Gibsons Public Art Gallery
- 2023** Banner paintings for Piano Phase Project, Lithuania
- 2017** Cycling Art Group Exhibition, National Track Cycling Event, Milton, ON

- 2016** MARINONI (award-winning Canadian documentary, directed by Tony Girardin)
Japanese translation and subtitles for Japan screenings
- 2015** Art Crawl Community Engagement Project, Sunshine Coast, BC
- 2013** Painting featured in Hallmark Channel television film Window Wonderland
- 2008** Illustration for Emerald Almonds television commercial
- 2007** Painting featured in film The Last Mimzy
- 2006** On-site sketch artist for commercial production, RADKE Films
- 2005** Illustrations for Perdue Chicken television commercial

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

- 2025** Journey Magazine, Cover and feature article, Christenson Village
- 2008** Artist in the House, Coast Cable Television
- 2008** The Globe and Mail, January 7, 2008
- 2004** Western Living Magazine, November 2004 issue

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DONATIONS

- 2023** Art of Healing Gala, Sechelt Hospital Foundation
- 2004–2012 (selected years)** BC Children's Hospital Foundation Crystal Ball
- 2008** Arts Umbrella Gala, Vancouver, BC
- 2007** Kelty Patrick Dennehy Foundation

LOCATION

Based in Gibsons, British Columbia, Canada
Moved to Canada in 1999
Living and working on the Sunshine Coast since 2006