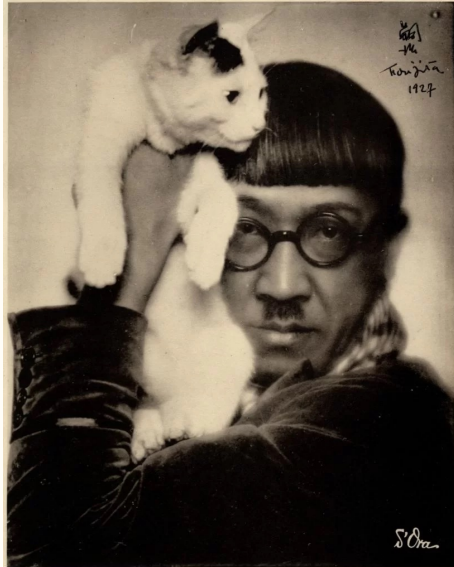


## Artist Resources – FOUJITA Léonard Tsuguharu 藤田 嗣治 (Japanese-French, 1886-1968)

[Fondation Foujita](#)

[Foujita at Galerie des Modernes](#)



Foujita with his cat, 1927  
Photograph: Fondation Foujita

In 1926, [The Inaugural Exhibition: Tsuguharu Foujita](#) was on display at the Valentine Gallery in New York, which was both the gallery's first exhibition and artist's first solo exhibition in the United States.

[Léonard Foujita](#) was a retrospective launched by The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, in 2006. The exhibition commemorated the 120<sup>th</sup> birthday of the artist, including 100 artworks and large murals, many of which were on display in Japan for the first time.

[Gilden's Art Gallery](#) displayed a rare collection of Foujita's drawings in 2013.

In 2018, *Foujita: A Retrospective – Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Death* was installed at the [Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum](#), featuring a wide range of his practice including landscape paintings, portraits, nudes, and religious paintings. Read an article about the exhibition in [Frieze](#): "From Parisian Salons to Japanese Nationalism, the Compelling Story of Painter Léonard Foujita."

The Maillol Museum in Paris also launched an exhibition commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the artist's death, [Foujita, Painting in the Roaring Twenties](#), in 2018. The exhibition focused on his work produced between 1913 and 1931. Read an article about the exhibition in [The Guardian](#), "Back in favour: Japanese master who outshone Picasso in 1920s Paris," and another in [Vogue](#). Also watch a [video](#) produced by TRT about the artist and this major retrospective.

[Daily Art Magazine](#) published an article by Zuzanna Stańska in 2020, "Tsuguharu Foujita: The Cat Master," about the artist's love of painting cats. [The Great Cat](#) also highlights Foujita's favored subject as it relates to the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century art.

Read a 2021 article in [Far Out Magazine](#) about Foujita, who author Sam Kemp calls "the lost bohemian of 1920s Paris."

Greg Robinson and Seth Jacobowitz published a short biography of Foujita's life and work on Discover Nikkei. [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) of "Foujita Discovers the Americas: An Artist's Tour" are available online.



Foujita in his studio, 1917  
Photograph: Jean Agélou



FOUJITA Léonard Tsuguharu 藤田 嗣治 (Japanese-French, 1886-1968)  
**Voilier à Collioure (Mlle. Pauline)**, 1920  
Watercolor, brush, pen, and India and blue inks on paper

Private Collection; L2022:139.12

Born and raised in Tokyo, Tsuguharu Foujita studied *yōga* (Western-style oil painting) before moving to Paris in 1913. Foujita was among the first generation of Japanese artists to live and work abroad, and his style came to blend Japanese and European painting techniques. While living in Paris, the artist was neighbors with Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920) and soon became friends with Diego Rivera (1886-1957), Chaïm Soutine (1893-1943), and other active members of the French modernist art scene. **Voilier à Collioure (Mlle. Pauline) (Sailboat in Collioure (Miss Pauline))** was painted after World War I, when Foujita started to gain critical acclaim in Europe. The artist continued to work actively in France and internationally until World War II, when he became Japan's leading war artist. In 1950, Foujita returned to France, converted to Christianity, and took the name Léonard when he became a French citizen.

*On view May 3 – August 6, 2023*