

# History of Art in Shibetsu



Creative activities using modern art such as Western-style painting and sculpture became popular in Shibetsu during and shortly after the War from the mid-1940s to mid-1950s. During this time, students with specialized educations in art from Tokyo University of the Arts and Hokkaido Gakugei University (present-day Hokkaido University of Education) were dispatched as teachers to junior high and elementary schools in Shibetsu. These teachers began to teach art, not only in the schools, but also in the community.



Beginning with the foundation of the *Sodokai* led by Noboru Matsunaga in 1946 (renamed to the *Mudokai* in 1957), art began to blossom among the citizens and spread with the establishment of groups like the *Shinsodo Bijutsukyokai* (New Sodo Society for the Fine Arts) by Kumao Tsukamoto (founded in 1970) and the *Shibikai* (founded in 1979), which originated out of painting classes being offered at the community center.

