

Chihiro Iwasaki, Her Life and Works



57 days after birth, 1919



Family picture to commemorate her parents who got invited for the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Showa (Chihiro at far left), 1928 (age 9)



Fifth year at Tokyo Prefectural Sixth Girls' High School 1935 (age 16)



Picture taken for matchmaking, 1938 (age 19)



In front of unit commander Morioka's housing, Boli China, 1944 (age 25)



With her husband, Zenmei, 1950 (age 31)



At the planned site of their new house in Shimo-shakujii, Nerima-ku, November 1951 (age 32)

1918	Taisho 7	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born on December 15, as the eldest daughter of Masakatsu Iwasaki, his wife, Fumie, in Takefu, Fukui Prefecture, where her mother was assigned to work away from home Chihiro's father, Masakatsu, works as a building engineer for the Fortification Headquarters of the old Japanese Army, mother Fumie teaches home economics and science at a girls' high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July, "Akai Tori" (The Red Bird), a children's literary magazine, is first published. In November, the World War I ends
1919	Taisho 8	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The family moves to Shibuya-cho (now Shibuya-ku), Tokyo 	
1920	Taisho 9	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth of her sister, Yoshiko 	
1922	Taisho 11	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys illustrations for children created by Kiichi Okamoto, Hatsuyama Shigeru, Takeo Takei, and others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Kodomo no Kuni" (Children's Kingdom), a children's illustrated magazine, is first published
1923	Taisho 12	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth of her sister, Junko 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Kanto Earthquake in September
1925	Taisho 14	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enters Shibuya Municipal Hasedo Elementary School in Shibuya-cho, Tokyo 	
1927	Showa 2	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often draws sekiga (impromptu drawings) for gatherings such as school plays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan Children's Artists Association establishes prompted by Takeo Takei
1931	Showa 6	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enters Tokyo Prefectural Sixth Girls' High School (currently the Tokyo Metropolitan Mita High School) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manchuria Incident in September
1932	Showa 7	13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manchuria declares independence in March. May 15th Incident
1933	Showa 8	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves to Naka-Meguro, Meguro-ku and begins to study sketching and oil painting under Saburosuke Okada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan withdraws from the League of Nations in March
1936	Showa 11	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completes her studies at Girls' High School in March and subsequently enters supplementary course of the same school In May, her painting is accepted for the Shuyo Exhibition of Western-style Painting by Women Artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 26 Incident. Initial publication of "Kodansha no Ehon" (Kodansha's Picture Books) series
1937	Showa 12	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to study calligraphy of the Kozei Fujiwara school under Shuyo Oda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marco Polo Bridge Incident in July. Sino-Japanese War of 1937-1945 commences
1939	Showa 14	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First marriage in April. Her husband is adopted into the Iwasaki family. In June, the couple moves to Dailan, Manchuria (around Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, the north-eastern part of China today), where he is employed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany invades Poland in September. World War II begins
1940	Showa 15	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chihiro's mother Fumie, retires from teaching, becomes supervisor of the Greater Japan Federation of Girl's Youth Groups (later reformed as the Greater Japan Youth Organization) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripartite Pact signed by Japan, Germany, and Italy in September
1941	Showa 16	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In March, her husband commits suicide. Chihiro is widowed and comes back to Japan. Starts studying calligraphy again under Shuyo Oda, aiming to become a calligrapher. Around this time, starts teaching calligraphy at Bunka Fashion College. The family moves into a house in Chiyoda-cho, Nakano-ku (near current-day Hon-cho) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific War commences in December
1942	Showa 17	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts again to study oil painting, this time under Tai Nakatani 	
1944	Showa 19	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, along with Tai Nakatani and her sister Yoshiko, travels to Boli (in Heilongjiang Province, China) with a women's pioneer group. Returned to Japan in August as the war situation grew aggravated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. B29 bombers start air raids on Tokyo in November
1945	Showa 20	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of her family home in one of the air raids that attacked Tokyo; took refuge at her maternal grandmother's home in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Tokyo Air Raid in March. Japan surrenders: World War II ends
1946	Showa 21	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Her parents begin to cultivate land in Matsukawa Village, Kita-Azumi county, Nagano prefecture (current site of the Chihiro Art Museum Azumino) Joins the Japan Communist Party in Nagano Prefecture. In spring, returns to Tokyo and becomes a writer-illustrator for the Jinmin Shinbun (People's Paper). Enters Art School under the Department of Publicity, Japan Communist Party Starts to study art under Toshiko Akamatsu (Toshi Maruki). Becomes a member of Japan Art Group and Japan Children's Picture Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan Children's Picture Group is founded in July Constitution of Japan is promulgated in November
1947	Showa 22	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participates in the foundation of Avant-garde Art Group In May, illustrates her first independent book: <i>Warai Kitsune Sono Na wa Rainekke</i> (The Bad Fox: His Name Is Rainekke), Kasumigaseki Shobo 	
1948	Showa 23	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works on many newspaper clips, illustrations, picture magazines, and text books. Often paints in oil as well. Takes lodgings on second floor of a tin shop in Kanda Creates a set of illustrated "paper-theater" storytelling panels called <i>Okasan no Hanashi</i> (The Story of a Mother), at the request of Japan Democratic Cultural Association. Around this time, determines to become an artist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is formed in September
1949	Showa 24	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becomes acquainted with Zenmei Matsumoto through activities of Japan Communist Party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shimoyama Incident and Mitaka Incident in July. Matsukawa Incident in August. People's Republic of China is established in October
1950	Showa 25	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January, marries Zenmei Matsumoto. <i>Okasan no Hanashi</i> (The Story of a Mother) is published and wins the Education Minister's Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korean War begins in June
1951	Showa 26	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth of her son, Takeshi in April In June, for financial reasons, is obliged to leave Takeshi in her parents' care in Matsukawa village, Nagano prefecture. Visits there almost every month to see him, making numerous sketches of him 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Francisco Peace Treaty and the first of the United States-Japan security treaties signed in September
1952	Showa 27	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buils a house in Nerima-ku, Tokyo (today the site of the Chihiro Art Museum Tokyo). Starts her life there as a family of three, for 22 years 	

1953	Showa 28	34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chihiro's Father, Masakatsu, passes away in January 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial publication of the "Iwanami Children's Books" series
1956	Showa 31	37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receives the Juvenile Culture Award of the Shogakukan Publishing Co. for her illustrations and other works issued in illustrated magazines for young children. Creates her first picture book <i>Hitori de Dekiru yo</i> (I Can Do It All by Myself), Fukuinkan-shoten 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan is granted membership in the United Nations in December Initial publication of "Kodomo no Tomo" (Children's Friends) series by Fukuinkan Shoten
1958	Showa 33	39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts her career at the monthly picture magazine, "Kodomo no Sekai" (Children's World). Designs a set of illustrated "paper theater" story-telling sheets called <i>Otsukisama Ikusu</i> (How Old Is the Moon). The work wins the Health and Welfare Minister's Award in 1959 	
1960	Showa 35	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created <i>AIUEO no Hon</i> (The Alphabet Book: A-I-U-E-O), which won the Sankei Children's Books and Culture Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second of the United States-Japan security treaties are signed Japan Children's Picture Group dissolves the following year
1962	Showa 37	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paints her last oil work: "Children". Along with Daihachi Ota, Masao Kubo, and other artists, protests against reuse of their textbook illustrations, putting up a tenacious fight until the issue is resolved 	
1963	Showa 38	44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins a major series of cover illustrations for the magazine "Kodomo no Shiawase" (Children's Happiness). In March, forms "Group Kabe" with Suekichi Akaba, Teruyo Endo, Koza Kakimoto, Akira Nakao, Saburo Watanabe, Toshi Maruki and others. In June, attends the Women's International Conference held in Moscow 	
1964	Showa 39	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms "Children's Illustrations Group Kuruma" with Tai Yasu, Teruyo Endo, Koichi Kume, Jiro Takidaira, Tsune Tomoto, Genjiro Mita, and others In August, Japan Children's Book Artists Society (so-called Dobiren) inaugurated. As executive board member, continues active involvement in copyright protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tokyo Olympic games in October
1965	Showa 40	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryu no Me no Namida (The Tears of the Dragon) published by Kaiseisha, and Ohanashi Andersen (H.C. Andersen's Fairy Tales), by Doshinsha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US airplanes begin bombing North Vietnam in February
1966	Showa 41	47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travels to Europe with her mother Fumie. After returning to Japan, illustrates H.C. Andersen's E no Nai Ehon (What the Moon Saw), later published by Doshinsha. Builds a lodge in Kurohime Heights, Nagano Prefecture: creates picture books at this site every year thereafter. Oyayubi Hime (Thumbelina) is published by Hikari no Kuni Showa Shuppan, and Tsuru no Ongaeshi (The Crane's Reward) by Kaiseisha 	
1967	Showa 42	48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illustrated <i>Watashi ga Chiisakatta Toki ni</i> (When I Was a Child). Her husband became a member of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet. Shirayuki Hime (Snow White) is published by Shueisha, Riko na Okisaki (The Wise Queen) by Kodansha, Ningyo Hime (The Little Mermaid) and Urashima Taro (The Dragon Palace) by Kaiseisha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third Arab-Israeli War begins in June
1968	Showa 43	49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created <i>Ame no Hi no Orusuban</i> (Staying Home Alone on a Rainy Day). This is her first attempt at a picture book with a story told mainly by pictures rather than by words. Subsequently thereafter, creates picture books with Yasuo Takeishi from Shikosha. Creates autobiographical picture book <i>Watashi no Ehon</i> (My Picture Book), published by Midori Shobo (which is now Shin Nihon Shuppansha). <i>Hakuchō no Mizumi</i> (The Swan Lake) is published by Sekai Shuppansha, <i>Akai Fusen</i> (The Red Balloon), <i>Akai Kutsu</i> (The Red Shoes) by Kaiseisha, <i>Ai Kagirinaku</i> (Unlimited Love) by Doshinsha. 	
1969	Showa 44	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates <i>Onita no Boshi</i> (Onita's Hat), later published by Poplarsha, <i>Akachan no Kuru Hi</i> (A New Baby Is Coming to My House) by Shiko-sha, and <i>Hana no Douwa-shu</i> (Flower Fairy Tales) by Doshinsha. Publishes <i>Futari no Buto Kai</i> (Invitation to the Dance) from Gakushukenyusha, <i>Aoi Tori</i> (The Blue Bird) by Sekai Bunka-sha, <i>Koi no Iru Mura</i> (A Village with Carp) by Shin Nihon Shuppansha. 	
1970	Showa 45	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draws <i>Tonari ni Kita Ko</i> (Will You Be My Friend?) for Shikosha with pastels. Most of the artist's currently existing pastel drawings date from this year. <i>Ofuro de Chapu Chapu</i> (I Love Bathing), <i>Moshi Moshi Odenwa</i> (The Phone Is Ringing), <i>Mannyo no Uta</i> (Verses of "Ten Thousand Leaves") are published by Doshinsha, <i>Niji no Mizumi</i> (The Rainbow over the Lake) by Kaiseisha. Participates in street exhibition organized by the "Association to Help the Children of Vietnam". Takes mother to live together, who suffers from cerebral thrombosis since the previous year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EXPO '70 opens in Osaka in March
1971	Showa 46	52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes <i>Kotori no Kuru Hi</i> (The Pretty Bird) which wins the Graphic Prize Fiera di Bologna Book Fair in 1973 Undergoes treatment for duodenal ulcer Publishes <i>Akachan no Uta</i> (Songs for Babies) and <i>Takebarabe</i> (Child's Play) from Doshinsha, <i>Yukigon no Okurimono</i> (The Snowman's Present) from Shin Nihon Shuppansha 	
1972	Showa 47	53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illustrates <i>Hisa no Hoshi</i> (Hisa's Star) for Iwasaki Shoten, <i>Yukino Hi no Tanjōbi</i> (Snowy Birthday) for Shikosha. Is hospitalized to Yoyogi Hospital in summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diplomatic relations established between Japan and China in September
1973	Showa 48	54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illustrates <i>Pochi no Kita Umi</i> (What's Fun without a Friend?), published by Shiko-sha; Completes <i>Senka no Naka no Kodomotachi</i> (Children in the Flames of War), posthumously granted the bronze medal of the Leipzig International Book Fair in 1974 Series of cover illustrations for the magazine "Kodomo no Shiawase" (Children's Happiness) is compiled into a book entitled <i>Kodomo no Shiawase Gashu</i> (Collective Illustrations of "Children's Happiness"), by Iwasaki Shoten. In autumn, is diagnosed with liver cancer and hospitalized in Yoyogi Hospital. Returns home afterwards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vietnam War ends in April
1974	Showa 49	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is hospitalized again in March, due to her worsened condition Finishes a picture of a baby in June, which turns out to be her last work completed. Dies of primary liver cancer on August 8 	



Chihiro reading newspapers in her atelier, and her Son, Takeshi, leaning on her back, autumn 1956 (age 37)



With her husband, Zenmei, in their garden blooming with marguerites, May 1968 (age 49)



With Chiro, her beloved dog in her studio, 1971 (age 52)



Painting "A Boy Holding His Knees to His Chest", 1971 (age 52)



On the veranda of the newly expanded living room of her mother, Fumie, 1972 (age 53)



At the celebration party of winning the Graphic Prize Fiera di Bologna, 1973 (age 54)



At home, April 1973 (age 54)