

KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO JUNE, 2015

Special Exhibition
Kano Painters of the Momoyama Period:
Eitoku's Legacy

Feature Exhibitions
The Aoi Festival: A Thousand-Year Tradition

Japanese Masks:
From Religious Procession to Noh Performance

Special Exhibition

Kano Painters of the Momoyama Period ▶ April 7–May 17, 2015

Eitoku's Legacy

Meiji Kotokan (The Main Hall)

2015 marks the 400th anniversary of the 1615 Siege of Osaka, after which the reins of Japanese political power transferred from the Toyotomi clan to the Tokugawa, changing the course of history for centuries to follow. During this time of political upheaval, not only warlords but also artists were engaging in cutthroat strategic competition for survival. The Kano school of painters, which had hitherto maintained close relations with political authorities, faced their greatest crisis ever in this turbulent age. The sudden death of their leader Kano Eitoku (1543–1590), the emergence of rival painter Hasegawa Tōhaku (1539–1610), and a shifting political landscape made this one of the most precarious situations the Kano school had ever faced, and one requiring tough decisions by its artists.

This exhibition focuses on the years following Eitoku's death, centering around the Keichō era (1596–1615). Featuring painted masterworks by Eitoku's successors, it traces the changes in aesthetic tastes from bold dynamism to lavish splendor, and eventually to the restrained chic favored by Tokugawa rulers. (Continued on next page.)



Important Cultural Property
Portrait of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, on view 4/7–4/26
Uwajima Date Heritage Cultural Preservation Association



Important Cultural Property
Peacock and Pine by Kano Tan'yū (1602–1674)
Motorikyū Nijō Castle Office, Kyoto

Feature Exhibition

The Aoi Festival: A Thousand-Year Tradition ▶ April 21–May 31, 2015

Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

The Aoi Festival, or Aoi Matsuri (or more formally, the Kamo Festival), is one of the Three Great Festivals of Kyoto, along with the Gion Festival and the Festival of Ages (Jidai Matsuri). Since ancient times, it has been held annually at Kyoto's Shimogamo and Kamigamo Shrines on the fifteenth day of May. During the Heian period (794–1185), in the early 800s, the Kamo Festival began to be held by imperial order and was attended imperial envoys, making it the most important festival in the capital. Today, as one of Japan's three court-sponsored festivals (*chokusai*)—along with the festivals Kasuga

Festival and Iwashimizu Festival—the Aoi Festival brilliantly conveys the elegance of the Heian capital. Beloved by citizens from every sector of society, the festival has also been the inspiration for numerous episodes in Japanese literature and works of art. This exhibition features works that evoke this age-old annual event, a mainstay of life in Kyoto for over a millennium.

(By Ōhara Yoshitoyo, Senior Curator of Buddhist Paintings, translated by Melissa Rinne)



Battle of the Carriages, detail
Ninna-ji Temple, Kyoto
This screen painting depicts a scene from the "Aoi" chapter of the Heian period novel The Tale of Genji.



Kosode with Kamo Horse Racing
Kyoto National Museum

(Continued from previous page.) How did the Kano manage to hold their ground and even boost their standing as official painters to the Edo shogunate in the midst of such massive upheaval? In this special exhibition, the history of the Kano school's existential fight is elucidated through brilliant works of art, along with explanations of their historical contexts and of the various figures with whom they were associated.

(By Yamamoto Hideo, Senior Curator of Medieval Paintings; translated by Melissa Rinne)



National Treasure
Merrymaking under the Cherry Blossoms (left screen)
 By Kano Naganobu (1577–1654)
 Tokyo National Museum, on view 4/28–5/17



Album of Fan Paintings
 By Kano Sōshū (1551–1601)

Feature Exhibition

Japanese Masks From Religious Procession to Noh Performance

June 9–July 20, 2015, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

This exhibition features approximately thirty heirloom masks belonging to temples and shrines in the Kyoto region. Among them are Heian-period (794–1185) processional masks of the Twelve Devas used at Tō-ji Temple during rites for its five-story pagoda, Nanbokuchō-period (1333–1392) processional masks of the Eight Classes of Protectors, a Kamakura-period (1185–1333) mask of Vaiśravaṇa (Bishamon-ten) used in the New Year's Eve *tsuinae* ritual at the Kokubun-ji Temple in Tango, and Noh and Kyōgen masks from Kyoto shrines dating to the Muromachi (1392–1573) and Edo (1615–1868) periods. While these richly varied masks were created for functional use in rituals or performances, they also exhibit distinctive sculptural characteristics exemplifying the periods in which they were made.

(By Asami Ryūsuke, Senior Curator of Sculpture; translated by Melissa Rinne)



Important Cultural Property
Brahmā from Twelve Deva Masks
 Kyoto National Museum

Thematic Exhibitions in The Collection Galleries

3F-1 Ceramics

Chinese Ceramics
 March 17–September 6, 2015

**3F-2
 Archaeological Relics**
Bronze Mirrors of the Kofun Period
 January 2–April 19, 2015

Archaeological Artifacts from Kyoto and Shiga
 April 21–June 28, 2015

**2F-1
 Illustrated Handscrolls**
Miraculous Stories of Buddhist Deities
 April 14–May 10, 2015
Two Versions of the Biography of Priest Shinran
 May 12–June 7, 2015

Handscrolls by Kano School Artists
 June 9–July 5, 2015

**2F-2
 Buddhist Paintings**
Art of the Lotus Sutra and Shakyamuni
 April 14–May 10, 2015
Folding Screens of the Twelve Devas
 May 12–June 7, 2015
Senzui Byōbu Landscape Screens: From Court to Temple
 June 9–July 5, 2015

**2F-3
 Medieval Paintings**
Zen Figure Painting
 April 14–May 10, 2015
Early Kano School Painting
 May 12–June 7, 2015
Painters at Tōfuku-ji: Minchō and Ryōsen
 June 9–July 5, 2015

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2F-4

Momoyama–Edo Paintings

Kano Eitoku and Hasegawa Tōhaku

April 14–May 10, 2015

Soga Shōhaku: The Peculiar and the Beautiful

May 12–June 7, 2015

New Trends in Edo Painting: Nanpin and Western Styles

June 9–July 5, 2015

2F-5

Chinese Paintings

Landscapes of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

April 14–May 10, 2015

Paintings of the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties

May 12–June 7, 2015

Figure Paintings of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

June 9–July 5, 2015

1F-1 Sculpture

Masterworks of Asian Sculpture

April 14–June 28, 2015

Buddhist Guardian Deities

April 14–June 28, 2015

1F-2 Feature Exhibition

The Aoi Festival: A Thousand-Year Tradition

April 21–May 31, 2015

Japanese Masks: From Religious Procession to Noh Performance

June 9–July 20, 2015

1F-3 Calligraphy

The Age of Nobunaga, Hideyoshi, and Ieyasu

March 31–May 10, 2015

Imperial Calligraphy

May 12–June 14, 2015

Memorial Sutras: Sanctifying the Letters of the Deceased

June 16–July 20, 2015

1F-4 Textiles and Costumes

Shibori: The Art of Tie-Dyeing

March 25–April 26, 2015

Japanese Wedding Costumes

April 29–June 7, 2015

Summer Kimono

June 10–July 20, 2015

1F-5 Metalwork

Shintō (New Swords) of the Momoyama Period

March 31–May 24, 2015

Metalwork of the Muromachi Period

May 26–July 20, 2015

1F-6 Lacquerware

Lacquered Cosmetic and Toiletry Implements

February 24–April 19, 2015

Lacquered Writing Boxes and Furnishings

April 21–May 31, 2015

Lacquers from China and Ryūkyū

June 2–July 20, 2015

Upcoming Exhibitions

Feature Exhibition

In Commemoration of the 100th Daizō-e Exhibition

The Eastward Expansion of Buddhism: Art of the Buddhist Canon

July 29–September 6, 2015

ADMISSION

Adult ¥520 (¥410)

Univ. Student ¥260 (¥210)

Admission is free for youths of high school age and below.

Fees in parentheses are for groups of 20+

These fees are for admission to the Collections Galleries only. Special Exhibitions require separate admission fees, which include admission to the Collections Galleries.

HOURS

9:30 am– 5:00 pm (Entrance until 4:30 pm)

During special exhibitions, these hours are extended until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday–Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, and until 8:00 p.m. on Friday. Admission ends thirty minutes before closing time.

CLOSED ON MONDAY

When Monday is a national holiday, the museum remains open on Monday and closes the following Tuesday.

The Museum will be open on Monday, May 4, 2015.

ACCESS

Via JR or Subway

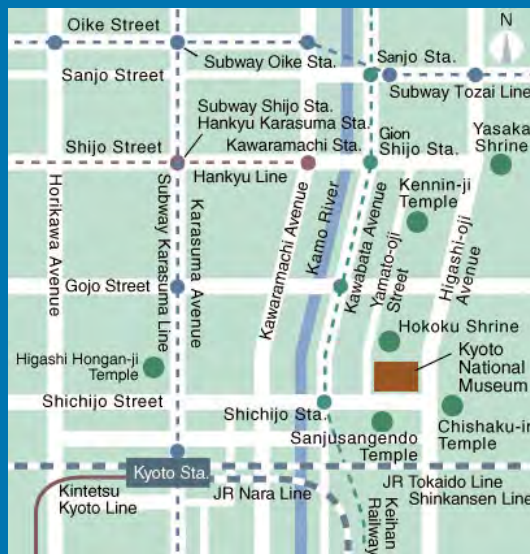
Get off at Kyoto Station. From bus platform D2 in front of the station, take City Bus #206 or #208 to “Hakubutsukan Sanjusangendo-mae” bus stop. One-minute walk to the Museum.

Via Keihan Railway

Get off at Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the Museum.

Via Hankyu Railway

Get off at Kawaramachi Station. Walk east over the bridge to the Keihan Railway Gionshijo Station. Take Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the Museum.



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