

KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 148



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

Feature Exhibition

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties

The Conservation of Japanese Art

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Galleries 2F-1-5, 1F-1, 1F-3-5

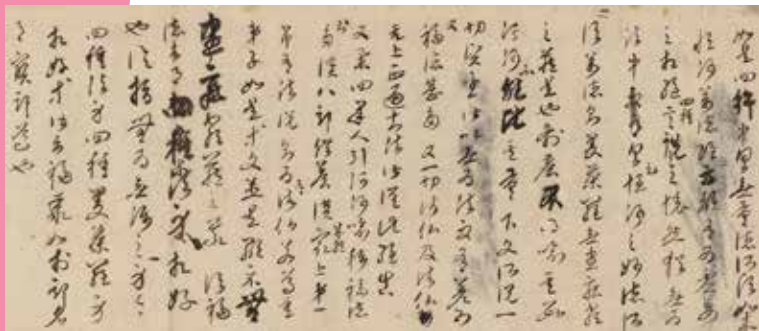
The Conservation Center for Cultural Properties was established in July, 1980, with the goal of safe conservation of designated cultural properties.

2020 marks the Center’s fortieth anniversary year. To commemorate this event, we have decided to mount an exhibition featuring carefully selected works that exemplify conservation’s most significant advancements in recent years.

This exhibition is underwritten by the Agency for Cultural Affairs as a part of the Japan Cultural Expo program. The Japan Cultural Expo is an initiative designed to foster interest in Japanese art and culture, highlighting the universal appeal of the country’s rich and varied history.

In this spirit, we hope that visitors to the exhibition will take this exhibition as a chance to rethink the relationship between Japanese people, nature, and art.

(By Ōhara Yoshitoyo, Chair of the Department of Conservation Administration; translation by Trevor Menders)



National Treasure
Segment of the Diamond Wisdom Sutra Commentary, detail
 By Kūkai (774–835). Kyoto National Museum



National Treasure
Water Fowl in the Lotus Pond
 By Tawaraya Sōtatsu (dates unknown)
 Kyoto National Museum

Feature Exhibition

Bullish on the New Year

Celebrating the Year of the Ox

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

This annual New Year’s exhibition highlights the ox, one of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac. In Japan, oxen and cattle have been living with humans since the Kofun period (ca. 3rd–6th c.). Besides their roles as domesticated animals, oxen were also considered to be messengers or vehicles of the gods. Their use for plowing on farms became widespread during the Heian period (794–1185). This exhibition features depictions of the ox on various art objects ranging from small to large in scale.

(By Furuya Takeshi, Curator of Archaeology; translation by Melissa M. Rinne)



Haniwa, Bull
 Excavated from Imashirozuka Tumulus, Osaka
 Imashirozuka Museum, Takatsuki, Osaka



Figurine (Okimono) of a Bull
 Kyoto ware, Eiraku type; stoneware with polychrome
 Cochin (Kōchi) glazes
 By Eiraku Tokuzen (1852–1909)
 Gift of Kōnoke Zen’uemon, Kyoto National Museum



Ox, from the Twelve Animals of the Chinese Zodiac
 Korea, Gyeongju, Chungghyo-dong Tomb of General Kim
 Yushin
 Gift of Umehara Sueji, Kyoto National Museum

Feature Exhibition

The 50th Anniversary of the Ueno Memorial Foundation for the Study of Buddhist Art

The Newsmen's Eye

East Asian Painting and Calligraphy Collected by Ueno Riichi

February 2–March 7, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Galleries 2F-1–5

Ueno Riichi (1848–1919), also known by the sobriquet Yūchiku, was renowned both as president of the newspaper company Osaka Asahi Shimbun (today's Asahi Shimbun) and as a collector of early Japanese and Chinese art. In 1970, his son Seiichi founded the Ueno Memorial Foundation for the Study of Buddhist Art. This exhibition, in celebration of the Foundation's fiftieth anniversary, features masterworks of Chinese calligraphy and painting together with selected works of Japan art amassed by Ueno Riichi.

(By Kure Motoyuki, Chair of the Department of Research and International Collaboration; translation by Melissa M. Rinne)



Song Rubbings of Calligraphy by Wang Xizhi, entitled the *Seventeenth Album*. Collection of Ueno Yūchiku, Gift of Ueno Seiichi. Kyoto National Museum



National Treasure
Amida (Amitabha) Coming over the Mountain
Kyoto National Museum

Priest Gyōnen 700th Memorial Special Exhibition

The Buddhist Legacy of Jianzhen (Ganjin) and His Successors

March 27–May 16, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

The eminent Tang-dynasty Chinese Buddhist priest Jianzhen (688–763), better known by his Japanese name of Ganjin, was a highly respected master of the Vinaya (Ch: Jielü) school.

This exhibition honors the memory of Ganjin, venerated as one of the true founders of Japanese Buddhism, with a selection of treasures preserved through the centuries at Tōshōdai-ji. These objects, together with masterworks from other temples associated with the *vinaya* and its revival over the ages, trace the Buddhist legacy of Ganjin and the various luminaries who emerged as his spiritual successors in Japan.

(By Ōhara Yoshitoyo, Chair of the Department of Conservation Administration; translation by Melissa M. Rinne)



National Treasure
Seated Priest Jianzhen (Ganjin)
Hollow dry lacquer with pigments
Tōshōdai-ji Temple, Nara

Thematic Exhibitions in The Collection Galleries

3F-1 Ceramics

Ceramics of Japan and East Asia
December 19, 2020–February 28, 2021
(Closed March 2–7, 2021)

3F-2 Archaeological Relics

Archaeology of Kyushu and the Kinki Area: The Development of Yayoi Pottery, Haniwa Clay Figurines, and Sueki Vessels
December 19, 2020–February 28, 2021
(Closed March 2–7, 2021)

2F-1–5

Feature Exhibition

The Conservation of Japanese Art

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021

Feature Exhibition

The Newsmen's Eye

February 2–March 7, 2021

1F-1 Sculpture

Feature Exhibition

The Conservation of Japanese Art

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021

Japanese Sculpture

December 19, 2020–March 7, 2021

1F-2

Feature Exhibition

Bullish on the New Year: Celebrating the

Year of the Ox

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021



Thematic Exhibitions in The Collection Galleries

1F-2

Feature Exhibition

Hina Matsuri and Japanese Dolls

February 9–March 7, 2021



Ishō (Fashion) Doll, Noh Play Shōjō
Kyoto National Museum

1F-3-4

Feature Exhibition

The Conservation of Japanese Art

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021

Feature Exhibition

Celebration of the 1300th Anniversary of the *Nihon Shoki*

The National Treasure *Chronicles of Japan* and Other Ancient East Asian Texts

February 4–28, 2021

(Closed March 2–7, 2021)



National Treasure
Chronicles of Japan (Nihon shoki),
Vol. 22, Iwasaki Version, detail
Kyoto National Museum

1F-5 Metalwork

Feature Exhibition

The Conservation of Japanese Art

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021

The Love for Small Daggers

February 2–28, 2021

(Closed March 2–7, 2021)

1F-6 Lacquerware

Preserving Lacquers through Conservation

December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021

Glocal *Makie* Lacquers from Early Modern Japan

February 2–28, 2021

(Closed March 2–7, 2021)

Upcoming Exhibitions

Feature Exhibition

Olympia Meets Japanese Art

June 5–July 4, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, 1F and 2F

Cover: *Water Fowl in the Lotus Pond*. By Tawaraya Sōtatsu. Kyoto National Museum. National Treasure. *Figurine (Okimono) of a Bull*. By Eiraku Tokuzen. Gift of Kōnoike Zen'ueemon, Kyoto National Museum. *Amida (Amitabha) Coming over the Mountain*. Kyoto National Museum. National Treasure. *Segment of the Diamond Wisdom Sutra Commentary*, detail. By Kūkai. Kyoto National Museum. National Treasure. *Seated Priest Jianzhen (Ganjin)*. Tōshōdai-ji Temple, Nara. National Treasure. *Jianzhen's Expedition to the East*, Vol. 3, detail. Tōshōdai-ji Temple, Nara (On view March 27–April 18, 2021). Important Cultural Property.

ADMISSION

December 19, 2020–March 7, 2021:

Admission to the Museum Collections Galleries

Adult ¥700 Univ. Student ¥350

Admission is free for high school age and below, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caretaker, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show I.D.

March 9–25, 2021:

Admission to the Museum Gardens and Outdoor Exhibits

Adult ¥300 Univ. Student ¥150

Outdoor exhibits only. Admission is free for high school age and below, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caretaker, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show I.D. Guide booklet is provided with adult admission only.

March 27–May 16, 2021:*

Special Exhibition Admission

Adult ¥1800

Univ. Student ¥1200

High-School Student ¥700

Admission is free for middle school students, and for visitors with disabilities and one caretaker. Please show I.D.

*During special exhibition periods, all visitors must pay special exhibition admission.

HOURS

December 19, 2020–March 25, 2021:

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

March 27–May 16, 2021:

For the special exhibition hours information, please visit the official website.

>>Official Website: <https://ganjin2021.jp>

CLOSED ON MONDAYS

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

*The Museum will be closed on December 28, 2020–January 1, 2021, and March 26, 2021.

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 the "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 Kyotokawaramachi 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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