


NEWSLETTER
APRIL TO JUNE 2022



KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 153

Commemorating the
1200th Anniversary of
Saichō's Death
Buddhist Art of the
Tendai School



Special Exhibition

Commemorating the 1200th Anniversary of Saichō's Death

Buddhist Art of the Tendai School

April 12–May 22, 2022, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

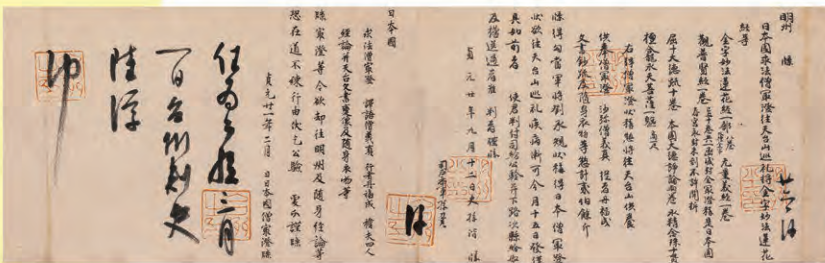
The Buddhist priest Dengyō Daishi Saichō (767–822) laid the foundations for the promulgation of Tendai Buddhist teachings that would come to transform Japanese Buddhism. In commemoration of the 1200th anniversary of Saichō's death, the Kyoto National Museum brings together 130 treasured objects and artworks from across Japan. These works tell of the beginnings of the Japanese Tendai school, the dissemination of its teachings, the diverse cultures created from Tendai thought, and the place of Tendai Buddhism in the modern world. In addition to masterpieces associated with Saichō from Enryaku-ji Temple on Mt. Hiei, northeast of Kyoto, the exhibition also features important treasures and Buddhist icons exemplifying the essence of Tendai art from temples located throughout Japan. Among them are 23 objects designated as National Treasures and 71 Important Cultural Properties. Kyoto's proximity to Mt. Hiei and many other historical Tendai temples makes it a fitting location for this must-see exhibition of the treasures of Tendai Buddhism.

(By Ōhara Yoshitoyo, Chair of the Department of Conservation Administration; translation by Daniel Borengasser)



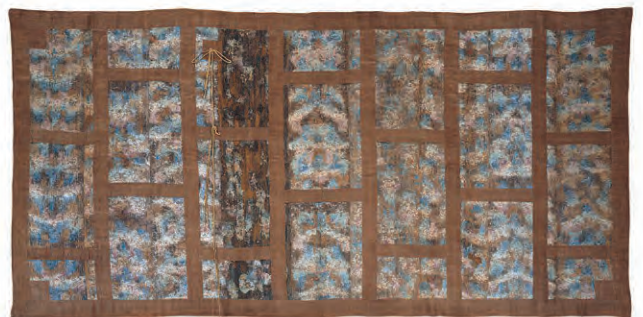
National Treasure
Prince Shōtoku and the High Priests of Tendai Buddhism
Saichō

Ink and colors on silk
Ichijō-ji Temple, Hyōgo, photo courtesy of Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
On view April 12–May 1, 2022



National Treasure
Official Travel Permits for Dengyō Daishi (Priest Saichō)

Ink on paper
Enryaku-ji Temple, Shiga
On view May 3–22, 2022



National Treasure
Seven-Panel Priest's Robe

Associated with Zhanran (711–782) and Saichō (767–822)
Bast fibers and bast fiber plain weave with stitching
Enryaku-ji Temple, Shiga, on view April 12–May 1, 2022



Imperially Sealed Chest (Karabitsu)

Wood with lacquer
Enryaku-ji Temple, Shiga

Bodhisattva, Traditionally Identified as Nyoirin Kannon
(Cintāmanicakra Avalokiteśvara)

Wood with polychromy
Tōmyō-ji Temple, Ehime



National Treasure
The Six Paths
The Unremitting Hell
 Ink and colors on silk
 Shōjuraikō-ji Temple, Shiga, photo courtesy
 of Nara National Museum
 On view May 3–22, 2022



Important Cultural Property
Yakushi Nyorai (Bhaisajyaguru)
 Wood
 Hōkai-ji Temple (Daigo School of the Shingon Sect), Kyoto

Important Cultural Property
Hie-Sannō Portable Shrine (Juge-gū Shrine)
 Wood with black lacquer, forged bronze with chasing and gold plating
 Hiyoshi-taisha Shrine, Shiga

Chinese Painting Gallery

The Lotus: Gentleman among Flowers

June 14–July 24, 2022, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 2F-5

In his poetic essay “On the Love of the Lotus,” the eleventh-century Chinese philosopher Zhou Dunyi celebrates the virtue of the lotus, an aquatic plant that emerges from muddy waters as a beautiful flower. He dubs it “gentleman among flowers.” In Buddhism, the lotus is also regarded as a flower symbolic of purity; its blossoms fill the paradisaical realm of the Pure Land and adorn images of buddhas and bodhisattvas. Unstained by the worldliness of its surroundings, the lotus is revered for its integrity and likened to the character of noble individuals, making it an important motif in Chinese painting.

The painting *Pure Summer in the Lotus Village* by late Ming-dynasty artist Lan Ying portrays a rural, waterside village with lotuses in bloom at the height of summer. Creating a cool and elegant atmosphere through its harmonious balance of light ink and colors, the painting reflects Lan Ying’s study of the style of Zhao Lingrang, a Northern Song painter and scion of the imperial family. Occupying the shoreside studio in the distance, a gentleman gazes out at the surrounding water. For the painting’s early audience, this figure may have called to mind the image of Zhou Dunyi and his love for lotuses. More than a simple landscape, this painting represents an ideal village removed from the profane world and filled with the pure energy of the lotus.

This exhibition brings together Chinese paintings of this sacred flower. We hope that you take your time to admire each work as you decipher the meaning of the lotus.

(By Morihashi Natsumi, Associate Curator of Chinese Painting; translation by Daniel Borengasser)

Important Art Object
Pure Summer in the Lotus Village
 By Lan Ying (ca. 1585–1664)
 Ink and colors on silk
 Gift of Nagaoka Miyuki, Kyoto National Museum



Thematic Exhibitions in

The Collection Galleries

3F-1 Ceramics

Ceramics of Japan and East Asia

June 21–September 11, 2022
(Closed June 14–19, 2022)

3F-2 Archaeological Relics

Special Viewing

Ancient Tumuli of Kumamoto and Miyazaki

June 28–September 11, 2022
(Closed June 14–26, 2022)

2F-1 Illustrated Handscrolls

Hakubyō: Drawings in Monochrome Ink

June 14–July 24, 2022

2F-2 Buddhist Paintings

Arhats: Japanese Paintings of Buddhist Sages

June 14–July 24, 2022

2F-3 Medieval Paintings

Medieval Fan Paintings

June 14–July 24, 2022

2F-4 Momoyama-Edo Paintings

Kano Tan'yū: Commemorating the 420th Anniversary of the Master Painter's Birth

June 14–July 24, 2022

2F-5 Chinese Paintings

The Lotus: Gentleman among Flowers

June 14–July 24, 2022

1F-1 Sculpture

Japanese Sculpture

June 14–July 24, 2022

1F-3 Calligraphy

The Chūson-ji Sutras from Kanshin-ji Temple

June 14–July 24, 2022

1F-4 Textiles and Costumes

Dyed and Woven Motifs: Representations of Water

June 14–July 24, 2022

1F-5 Metalwork

Metalwork from the Muromachi Period III

June 14–July 24, 2022

1F-6 Lacquerware

Festivals and Feasting

June 14–July 24, 2022

Upcoming Exhibition

Special Exhibition

Kanshin-ji and Kongō-ji

Two Temples of Kawachinagano

Esoteric Buddhist Art and the Legacy of the Southern Court

July 30–September 11, 2022, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, 2F and 1F

Cover: *Prince Shōtoku and the High Priests of Tendai Buddhism, Saichō*, detail. Ichijō-ji Temple, Hyōgo, photo courtesy of Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. National Treasure. On view April 12–May 1, 2022. *Yakushi Nyorai (Bhaisajyaguru)*, detail. Hōkai-ji Temple (Daigo School of the Shingon Sect), Kyoto. Important Cultural Property. *Bodhisattva, Traditionally Identified as Nyoirin Kannon (Cintāmanicakra Avalokiteśvara)*. Tōmyō-ji Temple, Ehime. *Hie-Sannō Festival*, detail. Dannōhōrin-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property.

ADMISSION

March 23–April 10, 2022:

May 24–June 12, 2022:

Admission to the Museum Gardens and Outdoor Exhibits

Adult ¥300 Univ. Student ¥150

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.

April 12–May 22, 2022:*

Special Exhibition Admission

Adult ¥1800

Univ. Student ¥1200

High-School Student ¥700

Admission is free for middle school students and other youths age 0–15, visitors with disabilities and one caretaker. Please show I.D.

Admission is reduced by 500 yen for Campus Members (including faculty) able to produce I.D.

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

June 14–July 24, 2022:

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.

HOURS

March 23–April 10, 2022:

May 24–July 28, 2022:

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

April 12–May 22, 2022:

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

CLOSED ON MONDAYS

*When Monday is a national holiday, the museum remains

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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