



# KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 156

NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY TO MARCH 2023



Handwritten Japanese text in a vertical column, likely a calligraphic inscription or poem.



Feature Exhibition

# Hoppy New Year! Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit

January 2–29, 2023, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. Have you ever heard of the rabbit in the moon? Instead of the man in the moon familiar to Western stargazers, an ancient Chinese legend told of a rabbit that lived on the moon. Throughout East Asia, we also see frequent depictions of the moon and the rabbit together in the visual arts.

Rabbits are also paired with images of autumn wildflowers and grasses. This is because of the association between the rabbit and the moon, which is at its brightest in autumn.

What other kinds of rabbits are found in East Asian art?

(By Mizutani Aki, Curator of Education; translation by Daniel Borengasser)



**Folding Fan with Rabbit**  
By Genkyū (dates unknown)  
Seal: "Genkyū"  
Folding fan; ink on paper



**Tray with Rabbits in the Moon**  
Ritsuō style; lacquered wood with *makie* (sprinkled metallic powder) and mother-of-pearl, lead, and ceramic inlays



**Osmanthus Tree and Rabbit under Autumn Moon**  
By Chen Xing (dates unknown)  
Hanging scroll; ink and colors on silk  
Kyoto National Museum

Feature Exhibition

# Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival

February 4–March 5, 2023, Gallery 1F-2

The Japanese custom of displaying *hina* dolls on the third day of the third month began in the Edo period (1615–1868). The Doll Festival is a time when people pray for the health and happiness of girls, but it originated as a day of purification, when the accumulated defilements from the daily lives of actual people would be transferred onto surrogate figurines. Dolls were eventually linked with children's playthings and came to be displayed formally in the home.

This exhibition traces the history of *hina* dolls and their display, which at times incorporated elaborate palace structures. In addition, this year's exhibit uses costume dolls (*ishō ningyō*) to consider the themes of human interactions and travel, which are once again becoming a part of our daily lives. We hope that the wide variety of dolls in this exhibition, including palace (*goshō*) dolls and *kamo* dolls, will open your eyes to Japan's rich culture of dolls and its development in the ancient capital of Kyoto.

(By Aki Yamakawa, Curator of Textiles, Costume, and Japanese Dolls; translation by Daniel Borengasser)



**Ishō (Costume) Doll with Palanquin**  
Irie Hakō Collection. Gift of Irie Yūichirō  
Kyoto National Museum



**Hina Dolls, Kyōho bina Type, known as Ōuchi bina**  
Wood with shell white (*gofun*), ink, silk, et al.  
Kyoto National Museum

**Papier-Mâché Dog-Shaped Boxes (Inuhariko)**  
Paper, ink, pigments, et al.

**Hina Doll Furnishings, Tray Tables**  
Lacquered wood with *makie* (sprinkled metallic powder)  
Irie Hakō Collection. Gift of Irie Yūichirō. Kyoto National Museum

850th Anniversary Special Exhibition

# Shinran

The Life and Legacy of the Founder of Shin Buddhism

March 25–May 21, 2023, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

2023 marks the 850th anniversary of the birth of the priest Shinran (1173–1262), founder of the Shin (Jōdo Shinshū) school of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism. Shinran's dramatic life story has long captured the imaginations of people in and outside of Japan. Born in Kyoto, Shinran first trained at the nearby Buddhist center of Mt. Hiei and studied under the Pure Land master Hōnen Shōnin (1133–1212) before being exiled to Echigo province in current Niigata prefecture. He thereafter traveled to the Kanto region before eventually returning to Kyoto, where he died at the age of ninety. This exhibition tells the story of Shinran's remarkable life and teachings through objects preserved for centuries in temples belonging to various branches of Shin Buddhism. It features a wide range of works, including Shinran's writings, self-inscribed icons in praise of the buddha Amida's name (*myōgō*), portraits, and illustrated handscrolls. The ancient capital of Kyoto, where Shinran began and ended his long and storied life, is a fitting venue for this tribute to the legacy of one of the most influential figures in the history of Japanese Buddhism.

(By Uesugi Tomofusa, Associate Curator of Buddhist Manuscripts; translation by Daniel Borengasser)



Important Cultural Property  
**Illustrated Life of Shinran (Hongan-ji Shōnin denne)**, Kōei Version, Volume 1, detail  
Painting by Kōrakuji Enjaku (dates unknown); calligraphy by Kakunyo (1273–1351)  
Handscroll; ink and colors on paper  
Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto. On view May 5–21, 2023



**Cherry Blossoms, from Cherry Blossoms; Pine and Wisteria**  
By Mochizuki Gyokusen (1843–1913)  
Single-panel screen; ink, colors, and gold foil on paper  
Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto

**Seated Shinran**  
Wood with lacquer and gold foil  
Senju-ji Temple, Mie  
On view March 25–April 16, 2023



National Treasure  
**Portrait of Shinran (Copy of Anjō no Goei)**, detail  
Inscription by Rennyō (1415–1499)  
Hanging scroll; ink and colors on silk  
Nishi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto. On view March 25–April 2, 2023



National Treasure  
**Kyōgyōshinshō (Teaching, Practice, Faith, and Attainment) (Bandō Version)**  
Book; ink on paper  
Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto



## 3F-1 Ceramics

### Ceramics of Japan and East Asia

January 2–February 26, 2023

## 3F-2 Archaeological Relics

### Special Viewing

### Kumamoto and Miyazaki in the Kofun Period: Stone Figures and Shell Bracelets

January 2–February 26, 2023

## 2F-1 Illustrated Handscrolls

### The Illustrated Biography of Kōbō Daishi Kūkai:

### Commemorating the 1250th Anniversary of His Birth

January 2–February 5, 2023

### Illustrated Biographies of Ji Shū Patriarchs

February 7–March 5, 2023

## 2F-2 Buddhist Paintings

### Twelve Devas Screens and the World of Esoteric Buddhist Ritual

January 2–February 5, 2023

### Parinirvāna: Picturing the Death of the Buddha

February 7–March 5, 2023

## 2F-3 Medieval Paintings

### Famous Chinese Landscapes: The Jiangnan Region and West Lake

January 2–February 5, 2023

### Famous Chinese Landscapes: The Eight Views of the Xiao and Xiang Rivers

February 7–March 5, 2023

## 2F-4 Momoyama-Edo Paintings

### Scenes in and around the Capital: *Rakuchū rakugai zu*

January 2–February 5, 2023

### Kano School Painters of Kyoto: Kano Sanraku

February 7–March 5, 2023

## 2F-5 Chinese Paintings

### Zhang of the South and Pu of the North:

### Zhang Daqian and Pu Xinyu – Two Masters of Modern Chinese Painting

January 2–February 5, 2023

### Chinese Finger Painting

February 7–March 5, 2023

## 1F-1 Sculpture

### Buddhist and Shinto Sculpture of Kyoto

January 2–May 5, 2023

## 1F-2 Feature Exhibition

### Hoppy New Year! Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit

January 2–29, 2023

### Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival

February 4–March 5, 2023

## 1F-3 Calligraphy

### Ink Traces: Calligraphy by Zen Priests

January 2–29, 2023

### Masterworks from the Matsumoto Collection

January 31–February 26, 2023

## 1F-4 Textiles and Costumes

### Kimono Modern

January 2–February 26, 2023

## 1F-5 Metalwork

### Decorating Swords II

January 2–February 26, 2023

## 1F-6 Lacquerware

### Cosmetic and Toiletry Implements

January 2–February 26, 2023

\*Galleries 3F-1, 3F-2, and 1F-3–6 will be closed  
February 28–March 5, 2023.

## ADMISSION

### January 2–March 5, 2023:

Admission to the Museum Collection Galleries

**Adult ¥700 Univ. Student ¥350**

Admission is free for high school students and other youths age 0–17, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caregiver, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show I.D.

### March 7–23, 2023:

Admission to the Museum Gardens and Outdoor Exhibits

**Adult ¥300 Univ. Student ¥150**

Admission is free for high school students and other youths age 0–17, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caregiver, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show I.D. Guide booklet is provided with adult admission only.

### March 25–May 21, 2023:\*

Special Exhibition Admission

**Adult ¥1800 Univ. Student ¥1200**

**High-School Student ¥700**

Admission is free for junior high school students and other youths age 0–15, visitors with disabilities and one caregiver. 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.

## HOURS

### January 2–March 23, 2023:

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

### March 25–May 21, 2023:

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

## CLOSED ON MONDAYS

\*Except January 2 and January 9.

\*The museum will be closed on December 26, 2022–January 1, January 10, and March 24, 2023.

## 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 Street (about seven minutes) to the Museum.

### VIA HANKYU RAILWAY

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

Cover: *Portrait of Shinran (Copy of Anjō no Goei)*, detail. Nishi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto. National Treasure. On view March 25–April 2, 2023. *Cherry Blossoms, from Cherry Blossoms; Pine and Wisteria*, detail. Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto. *Osmanthus Tree and Rabbit under Autumn Moon*. Kyoto National Museum. *Folding Fan with Rabbit. Tadami shū from Anthology of Poems by The Thirty-Six Immortal Poets*, detail. Nishi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto. National Treasure. On view May 2–21, 2023.

## KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

527 Chaya-cho, Higashiyama-ku

Kyoto, Japan 605-0931

Tel. (075) 525-2473

<https://www.kyohaku.go.jp/>

