

March 25 – May 21 2023



850th Anniversary Special Exhibition Shinran

The Life and Legacy of the Founder of Shin Buddhism

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 (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.



National Treasure Portrait of Master Shinran, Known as Anjō no goei ("Anjō Portrait"), (Reproduction of 1255 Version), detail Hymns and inscriptions on reverse by Rennyo (1415–1499) Nishi Hongwan-ji Temple, Kyoto (on view March 25–April 2, 2023)



National Treasure On Teaching, Practice, Faith, and Realization (J: Kyōgyōshinshō), Bandō Version By Shinran (1173–1262) Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto



Cherry Blossoms By Mochizuki Gyokusen (1834–1913) Higashi Hongan-ji Temple, Kyoto

June 20 – September 10 2023



Tea Bowls for Chanoyu

In the practice of chanoyu (sometimes called the tea ceremony), the tea bowl is more than simply a vessel for drinking tea. It also serves as an important object of aesthetic appreciation during a tea gathering. A tea bowl is something that can be held in the hands and admired, providing a point of connection between host (teishu) and guests (kyaku). Among the many bowls that have been used to serve tea in the context of chanoyu, those revered as "famous bowls" (meiwan) have an especially rich history. These bowls are marked by their unique style and elegance, and by the countless hands that have held, cherished, and prized them over decades and centuries.



Tenmoku-Type Tea Bowl with Tortoiseshell Markings (Taihi Tenmoku) Kyoto National Museum

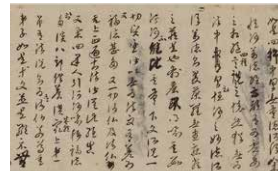
This exhibition highlights a number of famous bowls of distinguished provenance, categorized either as Chinese karamono tea bowls, Korean kōrai tea bowls, or Japanese wamono tea bowls. By highlighting the diverse types, unique characteristics, origins, and stories associated with these exemplary ceramics, we hope to help visitors learn about and reflect on the role of the tea bowl in Japan's culture of tea.

August 8 – September 18 2023



China and Japan: Masterworks of Calligraphy

The cultures of Japan and China are united by their shared use of Chinese characters (J: kanji; Ch: hanzi). Over their long histories, both countries developed rich traditions of calligraphy that celebrate the unique creative energy and expressive forms of the written word. This exhibition features outstanding works of calligraphy from both countries that have been carefully preserved for generations.



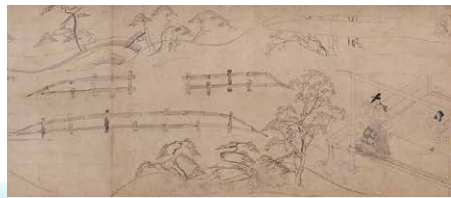
National Treasure Segment of Kongō hanyakyo kaidai (Introduction to the Diamond Sutra), detail By Kūkai (774–835) Kyoto National Museum

June 13 – July 17 2023



New Acquisitions

The Kyoto National Museum regularly purchases art works and other cultural properties for the purposes of exhibition and research. The museum also acquires valuable works that have been generously donated by private individuals and groups. This year's exhibition of new acquisitions will feature a diverse range of approximately forty works acquired during the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years, providing a special glimpse into how the museum's collections are expanding.



Important Art Object Fragment of Illustrated Scroll of the True Form of the Kitano Shrine Deity, detail Kyoto National Museum

October 7 – December 3 2023



Tōfuku-ji Monumental Zen Temple of Kyoto

Tōfuku-ji is one of the most important and influential Zen temples in Kyoto. Founded in the Kamakura period (1185–1333) by the eminent Buddhist monk Enni (Shōichi Kokushi, 1202–1280) after his return from study in China, the temple was named by combining characters from the largest Nara temples Tōdai-ji and Kōfuku-ji to assure that the new temple would achieve the grandeur for which would become famous. As one of Japan's foremost Zen temples, Tōfuku-ji's monumental medieval architecture has long housed a vast collection of artworks and cultural objects. This exhibition brings together enormous Buddhist statues and exceptional works of painting and calligraphy to tell the story of the temple's history and culture. Be sure not to miss the Five Hundred Arhats paintings by the "painter-saint" Minchō (1352–1431), which will be exhibited for the first time since their conservation.



Important Cultural Property Five Hundred Arhats By Kissan Minchō (1352–1431) Tōfuku-ji Temple (Left) Scroll No. 1, on view Oct. 7–Oct. 22; (Right) Scroll No. 45, on view Nov. 21–Dec. 3

January 2 – February 4 2024



The Enshrinement of Bronzes in the Yayoi Period

The technology needed to work with iron and bronze was introduced to the Japanese archipelago almost simultaneously during the Yayoi period (ca. 5th c. BCE–ca. 3rd c. CE). While iron was mainly used for functional purposes such as tools, bronze was reserved for ritual objects. Yayoi culture developed a wide range of bronze bells, swords, spears, axes, and other ritual wares, which are predominantly found in the Kinki and Kyushu regions. This exhibition focuses on the ritual enshrinement and worship of bronze objects, tracing the development of the distinctive bronze culture of the Yayoi period.



Important Art Object Dōtaku (Ritual Bell) with Flowing Water Design Kyoto National Museum

January 2 – February 12 2024



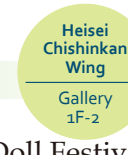
Rulers of the Heavens Celebrating the Year of the Dragon

This annual New Year's exhibition celebrates the zodiac animal of 2024—the dragon, a mythical beast associated with the skies, the rains, and water. This exhibition is designed to be enjoyed by visitors of all ages.



Rising Dragon in Ink By Gao Qifeng (1889–1933) Collection by Suma Yakichirō, Gift of Suma Michiaki Kyoto National Museum

February 10 – March 24 2024



Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival Kokin bina Dolls from Edo and Kansai

The Kyoto National Museum's annual exhibition of Japanese dolls displayed for the Doll Festival (Hina Matsuri) features a variety of Kyoto dolls as well as the lavish palace structures they were often displayed on in the Kansai region. This year's exhibition will focus in particular on kokin bina, the precursor of today's hina dolls, and will look at how their popularity spread from Edo (Tokyo) to Kyoto and Osaka.



Kokin bina Gift of Tamaki Yoshie Kyoto National Museum

* Exhibition dates are subject to change, and visitor numbers may be limited. Please check www.kyohaku.go.jp and the Kyoto National Museum's Twitter feed (@KyotoNatMuseum) for the latest information.