

April 12 – May 22 2022

Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Special Exhibition

Commemorating the 1200th Anniversary of Saichō's Death

Buddhist Art of the Tendai School

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 venue for this must-see exhibition of the treasures of Tendai Buddhism.



Bodhisattva, Traditionally Identified as Nyoirin Kannon (Cintāmanicakra Avalokiteśvara) Tōmyō-ji Temple, Ehime



National Treasure Saichō, from Prince Shōtoku and the High Priests of Tendai Buddhism Ichijō-ji Temple, Hyōgo Photo courtesy of Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties [on view: April 12–May 1, 2022]

June 14 – July 18 2022

Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Feature Exhibition

Picturing Bashō's Narrow Road to the Deep North

A Newly Discovered Handscroll by Yosa Buson

The eighteenth-century artist Yosa Buson (1716–1783) revered the poet Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694) and produced many paintings based on his famous travel diary *Narrow Road to the Deep North* (*Oku no hosomichi*), a work of prose and haiku poetry. Among Buson's homages to Bashō were several versions of illustrated handscrolls that combined the fully transcribed text of Bashō's work with paintings of various scenes. Until recently, only four examples of these scrolls have been known to survive.

This exhibition introduces a newly discovered fifth version of Buson's illustrated *Narrow Road to the Deep North*. This long-lost scroll is the earliest of the five versions and served as the starting point for his later compositions. 320 years after the original publication of Bashō's masterpiece, this exhibition debuts the newfound scroll alongside related works from the museum's collection.

July 30 – September 11 2022

Heisei Chishinkan Wing (2F, 1F)

Special Exhibition

Kanshin-ji and Kongō-ji, Two Temples of Kawachinagano

Esoteric Buddhist Art and the Legacy of the Southern Court

The city of Kawachinagano in southern Osaka prefecture long prospered as a crossroads connecting travelers from Kyoto with roads leading to the sacred Mount Kōya. This area is home to the ancient temples Kanshin-ji and Kongō-ji, centers of Shingon Esoteric Buddhism that reflect the region's abundant religious and cultural history. During the years of contested imperial rule known as the Nanbokuchō period (1333–1392), the area was also the temporary residence of Emperor Go-Murakami and the Southern Court's loyalist forces, including the famous warrior Kusunoki Masashige.

Between 2016 and 2020, the Kyoto National Museum conducted extensive surveys that inventoried the collections of these two temples. Building on the museum's findings, this exhibition introduces a wide range of well-known masterpieces as well as newly re-discovered temple treasures that shed new light on the richly layered history and culture of Kawachinagano.



National Treasure Sun and Moon Landscapes of the Four Seasons, right screen. Amanosan Kongō-ji Temple, Osaka



Important Cultural Property Seated Buddha Traditionally Known as Hōshō (Ratnasambhava) Kanshin-ji Temple, Osaka Photo by Kanai Morio, courtesy of Bijutsuin.



Narrow Road to the Deep North (Oku no hosomichi) By Yosa Buson

October 8 – December 4 2022

Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Special Exhibition

Chanoyu Tea in the Cultural Life of Kyoto

The aesthetic and culinary culture of tea drinking was originally introduced to Japan from China, but over time tea practices changed in accordance with Japanese tastes and conventions. In medieval Japan, warriors became the primary connoisseurs of tea wares and other precious cultural objects imported from China, while weary pilgrims and travelers began drinking tea served from stalls outside shrines and temples.

These and other local customs led to the development of "chanoyu," the ritualized practice of preparing whisked powdered green tea, which has come to be recognized the world over as a symbol of Japanese culture. This exhibition introduces masterworks relating to the history and customs of tea with a special focus on objects closely connected to Kyoto, the capital of Japan for more than a thousand years and center of the living culture of chanoyu.



Important Cultural Property Returning Sails off a Distant Shore Attributed to Muqi Kyoto National Museum



Apple-Shaped Tea Container, Named "Hōzuki Bunrin"



National Treasure Ido Tea Bowl, Named "Kizaemon" Kohō-an Temple, Kyoto



National Treasure, Kyōgyō shinshō (Teaching, Practice, Faith, and Realization), Bandō version By Shinran. Shinshū Otani-ha, Kyoto

January 2 – 29 2023

Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Feature Exhibition

Hoppy New Year!

Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit

This annual New Year's exhibition celebrates the zodiac animal of 2023: the rabbit. Featuring a wide range of art objects from the museum's collection, this exhibition should delight visitors of all ages.

Kosode (Kimono) with Horizontal Bands and Mound Designs, detail. Kyoto National Museum



February 4 – March 5 2023

Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Feature Exhibition

Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival

This exhibition features hina ningyō (Girls' Day dolls) and various other Kyoto dolls in elegant palace displays.



Kyōho hina Dolls, known as Ōuchi hina Kyoto National Museum

March 25 – May 21 2023

Heisei Chishinkan Wing

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 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 (*myōgo*), 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.

*In order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, 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 (@kyohaku_gallery) for the latest information.

*Works on view are subject to change without notice.