

A Guide to Enjoying the Exhibition

# Sokuō's Cherished Treasures



Hatakeyama Issei  
(Sokuō, 1881–1971)

## Who was Hatakeyama Sokuō?

His real name was Hatakeyama Issei, and he was an industrialist who founded the Ebara Corporation in 1912. He was also an avid practitioner of Noh theater and chanoyu, and was known by the sobriquet of Sokuō in cultural circles. The many art objects he collected over fifty years form the basis of the Hatakeyama Memorial Museum of Fine Art.

## Enjoyment for All

Collector's seals identify an artwork's owner.

Sokuō engraved his seal with the words “Yōshū aigan,” meaning “Cherished Pleasures, Offered to the People.” Sokuō wanted all people to enjoy the artworks in his collection.



愛與即  
玩衆翁

Sokuō collected artworks and antiques from Japan, China, and Korea. These can be grouped into three categories: Noh, Chanoyu (Tea), and Rinpa

Chanoyu  
(Tea)

Noh

Rinpa

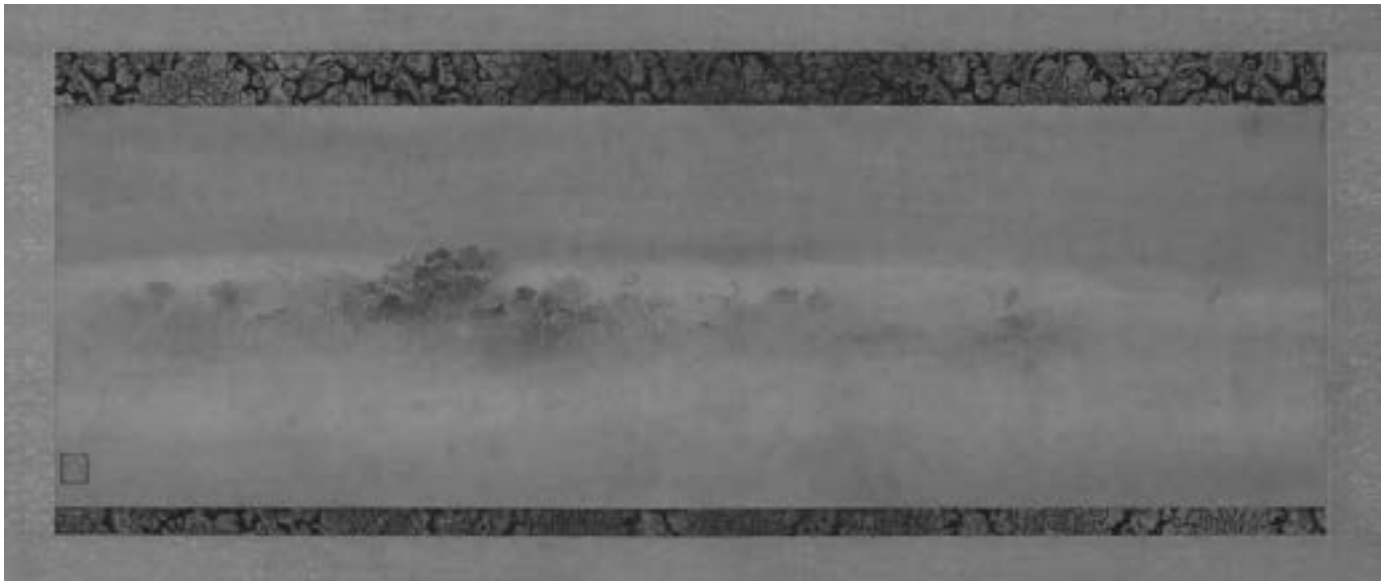
Let's take a look at some works representing each of these themes.



Sokuō

## Chanoyu

Chanoyu is the refined enjoyment of drinking powdered green tea (matcha) in the company of guests. The hosts of tea gatherings not only prepare the instruments for making and consuming tea, but also paintings and objects that decorate the space of the tea room.



### Can You Hear the Ringing of the Bell?

This painting depicts one of eight famous views of the Xiao and Xiang Rivers in China. Lightly brushed ink evokes a moment at dusk when mist descends and a temple bell rings in the distance. Works by Muqi (n.d.) greatly influenced later Japanese ink painting.

National Treasure **Evening Bell from a Mist-Shrouded Temple**, attrib. Muqi . China, Song Dynasty, 13th c. Hatakeyama Memorial Museum of Fine Art (on view Nov. 9–Dec. 5)

This painting was once owned by transformative military leaders like Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, Oda Nobunaga, and Tokugawa Ieyasu!



### Teabowls Sought by Samurai of the Warring States Period

Ido tea bowls were made in Korea for everyday use but became treasured in Japan for enjoyment in chanoyu. This bold yet elegant tea bowl named “Hosokawa” is one of three famous pieces known as the “Three Ido Under Heaven.”



This tea bowl was once owned by Matsudaira Fumai, an Edo-period chanoyu practitioner whom I greatly admired.



Important Cultural Property **Ido Tea Bowl, Named “Hosokawa.”** Korea, Joseon Dynasty, 16th c. Hatakeyama Memorial Museum of Fine Art (on view throughout exhibition)

# Noh

Noh is a theatrical art form with ancient roots. Expressive masks and extravagant costumes are worn by performers who enact dramatic stories through chanting, music, and dance.

During the Edo period, my hometown of Kanazawa was the center of the Kaga domain, which was controlled by the Maeda clan. Because Noh was practiced widely among commoners and Maeda lords alike, many traditions have been preserved to this day.

I'm also quite skilled at Noh chanting. I collected many Noh masks and costumes from Kanazawa.



**Noh Mask, Okina (Hakushiki Jō)**, attrib. Fukurai.  
Muromachi period, 15th-16th c.  
Hatakeyama Memorial Museum of Fine Art  
(on view Oct. 9–Nov. 7)

## A Mask that Preserves Old Forms of Noh

This mask was worn in a special type of Noh play called Okina that was developed before the classical form of Noh was fully established. It probably dates to the Muromachi period (1392–1573), when Noh first became popular. The designs of Noh masks at this time were still being formulated, and this is reflected in this mask's magnanimous expression.

This mask may have been owned by the lord of Kaga domain.



## The Power of Life and Bountiful Harvest Expressed in Costume

This splendid Noh robe called a *karaori* features snow-covered camellias against a brilliant crimson ground with gold clouds. It seems to have been modeled on a robe owned by a family trained in the Hōshō school of Noh that was popular in Kaga.

This was once owned by the lord of Kaga domain.



Edo-period writing on its wrapping paper notes the types of Noh plays for which this robe was appropriate.



**Karaori with Snow-Laden Camellias over Clouds**, formerly owned by Maeda clan.  
Edo period, 1814. Hatakeyama Memorial Museum of Fine Art  
(on view Nov. 9–Dec. 5)

# Rinpa

The Rinpa tradition drew inspiration from the works of past artists and began with the seventeenth century figures Tawaraya Sōtatsu (n.d.) and Hon'ami Kōetsu (1558–1637). Works in the Rinpa style are bold and colorful, and range from large-scale paintings to small crafts for everyday use.

## Painting or Calligraphy: Which Takes the Lead?



Important Cultural Property **Kokin wakashū (Collection of Ancient and Modern Japanese Poems)** over **Underpaintings of Plants and Flowers of the Four Seasons**. Calligraphy by Hon'ami Kōetsu and Painting by Tawaraya Sōtatsu. Edo period, 17th c. Hatakeyama Memorial Museum of Fine Art (on view Nov. 9–Dec. 5)

Research on Rinpa was booming around the time I was collecting artworks.

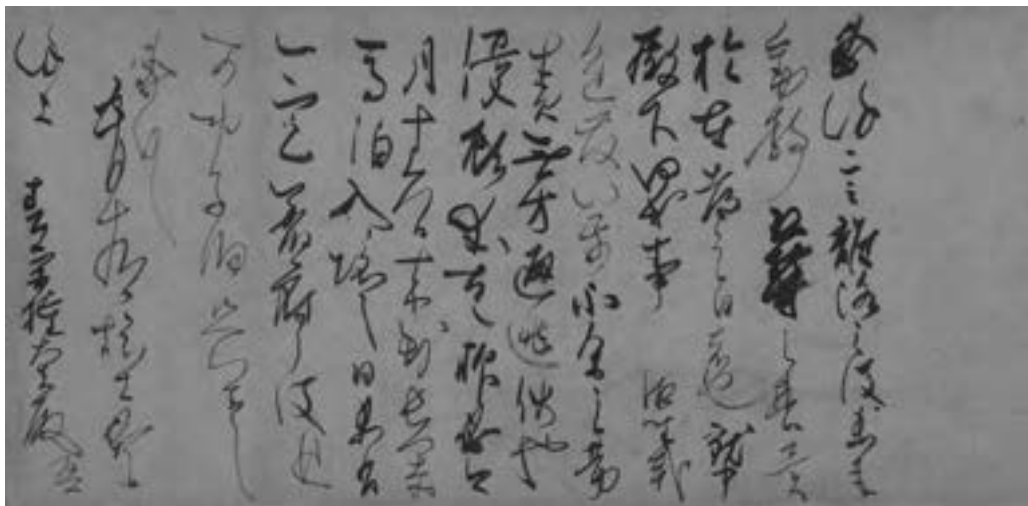


Just as an older generation of art lovers was collecting Rinpa works, I became enthralled by their charm.

Poetry is calligraphed by Hon'ami Kōetsu over Sōtatsu's gold and silver paintings of flowers and grasses. Notice how Sōtatsu varied the density of his painting and use of blank space. Kōetsu calibrated his calligraphy to these underpaintings, likewise adjusting the weight and placement of his brush. Play between painting and calligraphy creates an elegant rhythm.

## In Pursuit of Beautiful Things

Objects in Sokuō's collection extend beyond the categories of “Chanoyu,” “Noh,” and “Rinpa.”



National Treasure **Letter upon Departing from the Capital**, by Fujiwara Sukemasa. Heian period, 991. Hatakeyama Museum of Fine Art (on view Oct. 9–Nov. 7)

One of the three masters of calligraphy of the Heian period (794–1185), Fujiwara no Sukemasa (Sari, 944–998) brushed this letter to his nephew after forgetting to say farewell to a superior prior to departing from the capital. Shifting in tempo from calm to increasingly rushed, his masterful brushwork belies the fact that it was written in a moment of distress in the midst of travel.

How bold and magnificent! There are some works that anyone can appreciate, but I'm also drawn to those that break from established forms.

