



KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER
JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2014

Grand Opening!

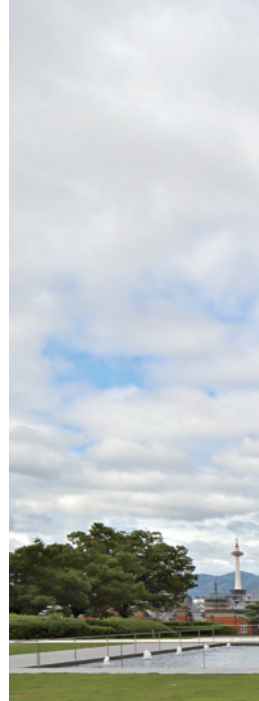
Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Inaugural Exhibition

Kyoto Splendors of the Ancient Capital

Grand Opening! September 13, 2014 KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Thank you for your patience during the construction of our new wing. The Kyoto National Museum proudly announces the opening of the Heisei Chishinkan Wing on September 13, 2014. Designed by the Japanese architect Taniguchi Yoshio, who is internationally renowned for his work on the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Gallery of the Hōryū-ji Treasures at the Tokyo National Museum, this exquisite new exhibition space has a linear theme inspired by the spatial configurations of traditional Japanese architecture. Museum visitors can leisurely enjoy the essence of Kyoto culture through the museum's collections. The natural light streaming into the expansive foyer creates an inviting ambience. The Heisei Chishinkan is also fitted with a seismic isolation system that protects all the exhibition galleries, a lecture hall boasting the latest audio-video equipment, and a restaurant overlooking the garden. Masterpieces from the collections will be showcased in the commemorative inaugural exhibition *Kyoto: Splendors of the Ancient Capital*.



Heisei Chishinkan Wing Inaugural Exhibition **Kyoto: Splendors of the Ancient Capital** ▶ September 13–November 16, 2014

After five years of construction, the long-awaited new wing of the Kyoto National Museum, the Heisei Chishinkan, opens to the public on September 13, 2014. In celebration of this new era in its history, the museum will hold a once-in-a-lifetime commemorative exhibition entitled *Kyoto: Splendors of the Ancient Capital*, Parts I and II.

Kyoto was the capital of Japan for over a thousand years, beginning in the Heian period (794–1185). It was also a fountainhead of Japanese culture throughout Japanese history. From Kyoto came the elaborate aesthetics and refined traditions of emperors and courtiers; the powerful and ethereal tastes of the shoguns, as represented by the Kitayama and Higashiyama cultures; the resplendent Momoyama culture, reflecting the idiosyncrasies of ruler Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598); and the culture of Kyoto's merchants, influenced by the colorful lives of the townspeople. These cultural spheres in each period did not

emerge independently but developed, to a greater or lesser extent, out of traditions inherited from previous generations. In this regard, such cultural developments are perhaps best viewed as part of a single large tree of "Kyoto culture."

Museum visitors will be able to access the essence of Kyoto culture through the exhibition *Kyoto: Splendors of the Ancient Capital*, presenting approximately four hundred works of art in two installments. The exhibition showcases the most significant masterpieces from the Kyoto National Museum's collections of painting, calligraphy, sculpture, decorative arts, and archaeological artifacts, including 50 National Treasures and over 110 Important Cultural Properties. This exhibition, unparalleled in the history of the Kyoto National Museum, will fill the elegant new galleries with treasures epitomizing the culture of the ancient capital.



Important Cultural Property
Dancers, detail
Kyoto City, on view 9/13–10/13



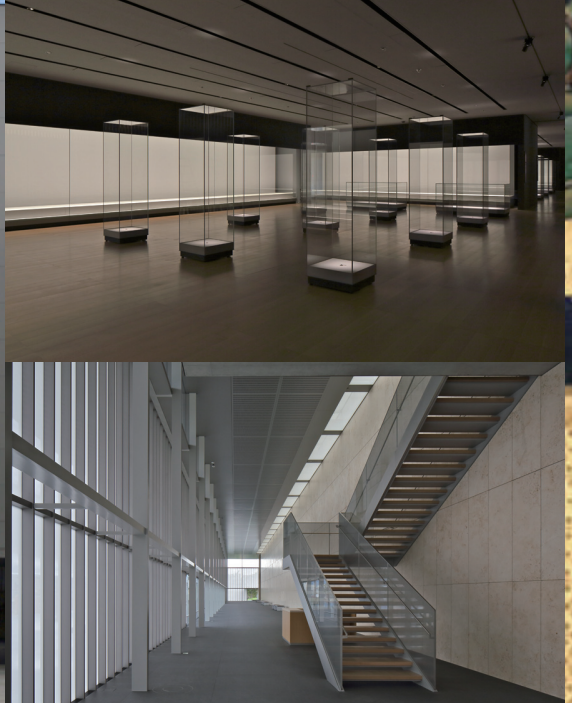


Photo:Toshiharu Kitajima



Portraiture

September 13–October 13, 2014

2F-1 << Heisei Chishinkan

The Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines of Kyoto—the early Japanese capital for over a thousand years—and its surrounding areas have preserved countless portrait paintings of historic figures. The Kyoto National Museum is a treasure house for outstanding painted portraits from many of these temples and shrines. For the first exhibition in the new galleries, a selection of large-size portraits will be highlighted along with those of shoguns from the Muromachi period (1392–1573). All designated National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties, such a rich and varied array of masterful works of early Japanese portraits would be unimaginable elsewhere.

Among these paintings are some of the most celebrated works of Japanese art history such as the portrait of possibly Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147–1199), paired with the portrait of possibly Taira no Shigemori (1138–1179). Further, this exhibition features renowned Kamakura (1185–1333) to Muromachi masterworks including Emperor Toba (1103–1156), the Cloistered Emperor Hanazono (1297–1348), Emperor Gouda (1267–1324), as well as Zen master Enni (posthumously known as Shōichi Kokushi, 1202–1280), and other eminent Japanese and Chinese Buddhist priests. Do not miss the chance to encounter these great historic figures.



National Treasure
Portrait, Possibly Minamoto no Yoritomo
Jingo-ji Temple, Kyoto, on view 9/13–10/13

Thematic Exhibitions in The Collection Galleries

3F-1 Ceramics Kyoto Ware

September 13–December 23, 2014

3F-2 Archaeological Relics Archaeological Treasures in Gold, Silver, and Bronze

September 13–December 23, 2014

2F-1 Feature Exhibition Portraiture

September 13–October 13, 2014

2F-2 Buddhist Paintings Masterworks of Pure Land Buddhist Painting

September 13–October 13, 2014

2F-3 Medieval Paintings The Subtle Beauty of Japanese Ink Painting

September 13–October 13, 2014

2F-4 Momoyama–Edo Paintings Amusements in Kyoto

September 13–October 13, 2014

2F-5 Chinese Paintings Song and Yuan Paintings in Kyoto

September 13–October 13, 2014



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1F-1 Sculpture

Heian and Kamakura Sculpture from Kyoto

September 13–December 23, 2014

1F-2 Illustrated Handscrolls

National Treasure *Emaki*: Japan's Most Cherished Illustrated Handscrolls

September 13–October 13, 2014

1F-3 Calligraphy

Early Works of Calligraphy (*Kohitsu*) and Albums of Exemplary Calligraphy (*Tekagami*)

September 13–October 13, 2014

1F-4 Textiles and Costumes

Capital Style: The Elegance of *Kosode*

September 13–October 19, 2014

1F-5 Metalwork

Buddhist Ritual Utensils

September 13–October 13, 2014

1F-6 Lacquerware

Shinto Offerings and Buddhist Adornments in Lacquer

September 13–October 19, 2014

Upcoming Exhibition

Special Exhibition

Masterpieces of Kōsan-ji Temple: Commemorating the Restoration of the National Treasure *Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans*

October 7–November 24, 2014



The National Treasure-designated *Chōjū jinbutsu giga* (Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans) from Kōsan-ji Temple is beloved in Japan and around the world as one of the most popular *emaki* (illustrated handscrolls). To commemorate the completion of its restoration, which was made possible with the support of the Asahi Shimbun Foundation, this exhibition presents all four handscrolls from this important set. Also on exhibit will be works concerning Kōsan-ji Temple's founder Priest Myōe (1173–1232), the temple's National Treasure-designated *Kegonshū soshi eden* (Illustrated Lives of the Patriarchs of the Kegon Sect), and many other temple treasures.



National Treasure
Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans, detail (Kōsan-ji Temple, Kyoto)

ADMISSION

Adult ¥520 (¥410)

Univ. Student ¥260 (¥210)

(Admission is free for youths of high school age and below)
(Fees in parentheses are for groups of 20+)

HOURS

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

CLOSED ON MONDAY

*When Monday is a national holiday, the museum will be opened on Monday and closed on Tuesday.

*The Museum will be closed June 16 (Mon.) to September 12 (Fri.), 2014.

ACCESS

Via JR or Subway

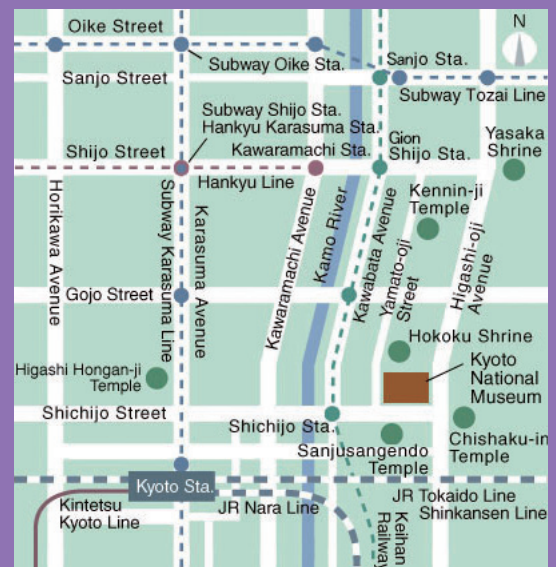
Get off at Kyoto Station. From bus platform D2 in front of the station, take City Bus #206 or #208 to "Hakubutsukan Sanjusangendo-mae" bus stop. One-minute walk to the Museum.

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 Kawaramachi Station. Walk east over the bridge to the Keihan Railway Gionshijo Station. Take Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo Street (about seven minutes) to the Museum.



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