

NEWSLETTER















Priest Gyōnen 700th Memorial Special Exhibition

# The Buddhist Legacy of Jianzhen (Ganjin) and His Successors

March 27–May 16, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

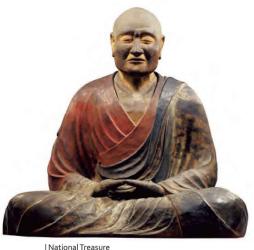
The eminent Tang-dynasty Buddhist cleric Jianzhen (J: Ganjin; 688–763) was a revered master of the Buddhist vinaya (Ch: *lü*, J: *ritsu*)—rules of discipline and regulatory codes relating to precepts and ordination procedures for the Buddhist clergy. At the request of two Japanese monks named Yōei and Fushō, who were dispatched by the Japanese Emperor Shōmu (701–756; r. 724–749), Jianzhen agreed to give up his prominent position in his Chinese homeland and travel to lay the groundwork for the Buddhist precepts in Japan. After making five failed attempts to cross the sea, he finally reached Japanese shores in 753 (Tenpyō Shōhō 5). There, based at the temples of Tōdai-ji and Tōshōdai-ji in Nara, he oversaw the reception in Japan of the orthodox Chinese interpretation of the Buddhist vinaya, which dramatically improved the quality and the legitimacy of Japanese Buddhism.

This year marks the 700-year memorial of the death of the eminent scholar and Buddhist master Gyōnen, whose scholarship is emblematic of precepts studies. To celebrate this occasion, this exhibition honors the legacy of Jianzhen, a leading figure of Japanese Buddhism, and traces the history of the precepts from Jianzhen through the modern period. This exhibition is thus the first large-scale comprehensive exhibition of its kind, entailing the support of many Buddhist schools to realize a full picture of the precepts. It is our hope that this opportunity will encourage renewed appreciation of the relationship between the Japanese people and the teachings of Buddhism.

(By Öhara Yoshitoyo, Chair of the Department of Conservation Administration; translation by
Melissa M. Rinne)



National Treasure Enchin's Ordination Certificate, from Documents Related to Enchin, detail Tokyo National Museum, on view March 27–April 18



National Treasure Seated Jianzhen (Ganjin Wajō) Hollow dry-lacquer with pigments Tōshōdai-ji Temple, Nara



Important Cultural Property
Seated Portrait of Daihi Bosatsu (Kakujō)
By Jōkei (dates unknown); wood with pigments
Tōshōdai-ii Temple. Nara



Important Cultural Property
Box for Ordination Documents
Lacquered wood with gilt bronze fittings
Kongō-ji Temple, Osaka, on view April 20–May 16

# Feature Exhibition

# Olympia Meets Japanese Art

June 5—July 4, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, 1F and 2F

The Olympic games of ancient Greece were events dedicated to the god. Like Greece, Japan is polytheistic. As such, many Japanese art objects feature subject matters related to contests and games dedicated to the gods, the cultivation of physical and mental health, and banquets celebrating victory. This exhibition provides the opportunity to learn more about the ancient Olympic games through the close inspection of antique East Asian works of

(By Nagashima Meiko, Chair of the Department of Education; translation by Melissa M. Rinne)



Gosho (Palace) Dolls, Sumo Wrestlers Wood with shell white (*gofun*), ink, pigments, silk, et al. Kyoto National Museum



Important Cultural Property

Eastern Journey of the Priest Jianzhen (*Töseiden emaki*), Vol. 2, detail

By Rengyō (dates unknown)

Tōshōdai-ji Temple, Nara, this scene on view March 27–April 18



National Treasure

Seated Portrait of Eison (Kōshō Bosatsu)

By Zenshun (dates unknown); wood with pigments

Saidai-ji Temple, Nara, on view April 20–May 16, photo by Morimura Kinji



Important Cultural Property

Doctrines of the Southern Mountain (Ch: Nanshan jiaoyi zhang), Vol. 29 (Transcribed on the Reverse of Volume 21 of Zhiyu's ), detail, by Gyōnen (1240–1321)

Moriya Kōzō Collection, Gift of Moriya Yoshitaka, Kyoto National Museum



Inscription by Shunjō (1166–1227)
Mitera Sennyū-ji Temple, Kyoto

Jiun in Seated Meditation on a Rock
By Hara Zaichū (1750–1837)
Inscription by Jiun (1718–1805)
Köki-ji Temple, Osaka, on view March 27–
April 18





| **The Gion Festival** (right screen) | Kyoto National Museum

# Thematic Exhibitions in

# The Collection Galleries

# 3F-1 Ceramics

Ceramics of Japan and East Asia

June 5-July 4, 2021

# 3F-2 Archaeological Relics

**Special Viewing** 

Yayoi Pottery of Shikoku and Cinnabar and Iron Production in the Yayoi and Kofun Periods

June 5-July 4, 2021

# 2F-1-5

**Feature Exhibition** 

Olympia Meets Japanese Art

June 5-July 4, 2021

# 1F-1 Sculpture

**Feature Exhibition** 

Olympia Meets Japanese Art June 5-July 4, 2021

Japanese Sculpture

June 5-July 4, 2021

#### 1F-2-6

**Feature Exhibition** 

Olympia Meets Japanese Art

June 5-July 4, 2021

\*The Collection Galleries will be closed July 6-December 26, 2021.

# Upcoming Exhibition

# Special Exhibition

NATIONAL TREASURES OF KYOTO Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Japan's Ancient Capital

July 24-September 12, 2021, Heisei Chishinkan Wing



Cover: Jiun in Seated Meditation on a Rock. By Hara Zaichū. Kōki-ji Temple, Osaka. On view March 27–April 18. Buddhist Patriarchs of Three Countries (Sangoku soshiei), detail. Otanu University Museum, Kyoto. On view April 20–May 16. Mt. Koya Landscape with Figures (Kōya senzui byōbu), detail. Kyoto National Museum. Important Cultural Property. On view March 27–April 18. Gosho (Palace) Dolls, Sumo Wrestlers, detail. Kyoto National Museum. Toiletry Case with Pines and Camellias (From the Sacred Treasures of Asuka Shrine), detail. Kyoto National Museum. National Treasure. The Gion Festival, detail. Kyoto National Museum.

# **ADMISSION**

March 27-May 16, 2021:\*

Special Exhibition Admission

Adult ¥1800

Univ. Student ¥1200

High-School Student ¥700

Admission is free for middle school students and other youths age 0–15, visitors with disabilities and one caretaker. Please show I.D.

\*During special exhibition periods, all visitors must pay special exhibition admission.

## May 18-June 4, 2021:

Admission to the Museum Gardens and Outdoor Exhibits

## Adult ¥300 Univ. Student ¥150

Outdoor exhibits only. Admission is free for high school age and below, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caretaker, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show I.D. Guide booklet is provided with adult admission only.

# June 5-July 4, 2021:

Admission to the Museum Collection Galleries

Adult ¥700 Univ. Student ¥350

Admission is free for high school age and below, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caretaker, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show I.D.

# HOURS

March 27–May 16, 2021: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm (Entrance until 5:00 pm)

May 18-July 4, 2021: 9:30 am-5:00 pm (Entrance until 4:30 pm)

CLOSED ON MONDAYS (except on May 3, 2021)

\*The Museum will be closed on May 6, 2021.

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

# VIA HANKYU RAILWAY

Get off at Kyotokawaramachi Station. Walk east over the bridge to the Keihan Railway Gionshijo Station. Take Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the Museum.



# **KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM**

527 Chaya-cho, Higashiyama-ku Kyoto, Japan 605-0931 Tel. (075) 525-2473 https://www.kyohaku.go.jp/