

Upcoming Exhibition

Feature Exhibition

Serpentine Delights: Celebrating the Year of the Snake

January 2–February 2, 2025, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

Every January, the Kyoto National Museum presents a New Year's exhibition featuring the Chinese zodiac theme of that year. In honor of the Year of the Snake, the zodiac sign for 2025, the galleries will showcase a variety of snake-themed artworks. This exhibition is designed to be enjoyed by visitors of all ages.

(By Mizutani Aki, Curator of Education)



Textile with Lions, Snakes and Flowering Plants, detail
Cotton plain weave; painted, mordant and resist dyed
Kyoto National Museum



Deep Vessel with Perforated Rim
Earthenware
Kyoto National Museum



Important Cultural Property
Catalogue of Early Chinese Characters (Ch., Zhuanli wenti), detail
Handscroll, ink on paper
Bishamondō Temple, Kyoto



Cover: *Illustrated Biography of Master Hōnen (Hōnen Shōnin e-den)*, Volume 6, detail. Chion-in Temple, Kyoto. National Treasure (on view October 8–20, 2024). *Amida's Western Paradise and Hell*, detail. Konkai Kōmyō-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property (on view October 8–November 4, 2024). *Imperial Presentation of the Posthumous Name "Great Master Enkō" to Master Hōnen (Zō Enkō Daishi gō ekotoba)*, detail. Chion-in Temple, Kyoto (this scene on view November 6–December 1, 2024).

English translations written by Melissa M. Rinne, Senior Specialist, and Chloe Pearce, Research Fellow.

ADMISSION

October 8–December 1, 2024:

Special Exhibition Admission

Adult ¥1800 (¥1600)

Univ. Student ¥1200 (¥1000)

High-School Student ¥700 (¥500)

Fees in parentheses are for groups of 20+.

Admission is free for visitors under age 15, junior high school students, and for visitors with disabilities and one caregiver. Please show ID.

Admission is reduced by 500 yen for Campus Members (including faculty) able to produce ID.

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

September 10–October 6, 2024, and

December 3–28, 2024:

Admission to the Museum Gardens and Outdoor Exhibits

Adult ¥300 Univ. Student ¥150

Admission is free for visitors under age 17, high school students, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caregiver, and Campus Members including faculty. Please show ID. Guide booklet is provided with adult admission only.

HOURS

October 8–December 1, 2024:

Tuesdays–Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays

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

Fridays

9:00 am– 8:00 pm (Entrance until 7:30 pm)

September 10–October 6, 2024, and

December 3–28, 2024:

Tuesdays–Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays

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

Fridays

9:30 am– 8:00 pm (Entrance until 7:30 pm)

CLOSED ON MONDAYS

*When Monday is a national holiday, the museum remains open on Monday and closes the following day (Tuesday).

*The Museum will also be closed on December 29, 2024 to January 1, 2025.

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. Walk about one minute 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 Kyoto-Kawaramachi Station. Walk east over the bridge to the Keihan Railway Gion-Shijo Station. Take an Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the museum.

KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

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KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 163

Special Exhibition
Hōnen and
Pure Land Buddhism

Special Exhibition Hōnen and Pure Land Buddhism

October 8–December 1, 2024, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

The Japanese priest Hōnen (also known as Hōnen-bō Genkū, 1133–1212) was the founder of the Jōdo Shū, Japan's first Pure Land school of Buddhism. He lived amid a turbulent era spanning from the end of the Heian period (794–1185) to the beginning of the Kamakura period (1185–1333). During this age of upheaval, Hōnen gained widespread support by advocating that anyone, regardless of their rank or circumstances in life, has the potential to attain salvation and be born into the Pure Land paradise of Amida (Amitābha) Buddha after death. Hōnen taught that the means of achieving this is to repeatedly chant the prayerful invocation *Namu Amida Butsu* ("I take refuge in Amitābha Buddha"), known as the "nenbutsu."

This exhibition celebrates the 850th anniversary of the founding of Jōdo Shū through an exploration of the history of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism, beginning with Hōnen's founding of the school and extending through to the creation of various denominations by his disciples and the establishment of their respective doctrines. The exhibition also examines how Jōdo Shū grew and expanded significantly through the patronage of the Tokugawa shogunate during the Edo period (1615–1868). This historical journey will be traced through precious artworks, including numerous National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties associated with this school of Pure Land Buddhism.

(By Inami Rintarō, Curator of Japanese Illustrated Handscrolls)



National Treasure
Welcoming Descent of Amida (Amitābha) and Twenty-five Bodhisattvas, Known as Haya Raigō (the "Rapid Welcoming Descent")
Hanging scroll; ink and colors on silk
Chion-in Temple, Kyoto
On view November 6–December 1, 2024

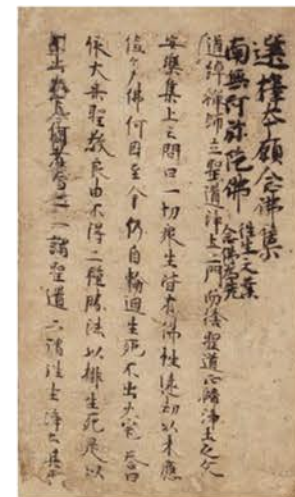
Important Cultural Property
Amida's Western Paradise and Hell
Pair of two-panel folding screens; ink and colors on silk
Konkai Kōmyō-ji Temple, Kyoto
On view October 8–November 4, 2024



Important Cultural Property
Seated Portrait of Master Hōnen
Wood with pigments and rock crystal eyes
Taima-dera Oku-no-in Temple, Nara
On view October 8–November 4, 2024



National Treasure
Taima Mandala, detail
Hanging scroll; silk tapestry weave
Taima-dera Temple, Nara
On view November 12–December 1, 2024



Important Cultural Property
Passages on the Selection of the Nenbutsu in the Original Vow (Senchaku hongan nenbutsu shū), Rozan-ji Version
Book; ink on paper
Rozan-ji Temple, Kyoto
On view October 8–November 4, 2024



Important Cultural Property
Thousand Jizō (Kṣitigarbha) Bodhisattvas in Portable Altar
Lacquered wood
Hōon-ji Temple, Kyoto



National Treasure
Illustrated Biography of Master Hōnen (Hōnen Shōnin e-den), Volume 6, detail
One of forty-eight handscrolls; ink and colors on paper
Chion-in Temple, Kyoto, this scroll on view October 8–20, 2024



Important Cultural Property
Standing Jizō (Kṣitigarbha) Bodhisattva
Wood with pigments and cut gold leaf, rock crystal eyes
Saikō-ji Temple, Aichi



Standing Amida (Amitābha) Buddha
Wood with lacquer and gold foil, rock crystal eyes
Hyakumanben Chion-ji Temple, Kyoto