

Museum Collection Exhibitions in
The Collection Galleries

1F-1 Sculpture
Introduction to Buddhist Sculpture
December 22, 2026–March 22, 2027

1F-2 Feature Exhibition
**Layered Histories:
Renowned Tea Utensils and Their Boxes**
December 22, 2026–March 22, 2027

1F-3 Calligraphy
Manuscripts of the Kokin Wakashū Imperial Poetry Anthology
December 22, 2026–January 24, 2027

1F-4 Textiles and Costume
Gold and Silver in Japanese Textiles
December 22, 2026–January 31, 2027

1F-5 Metal-work
Kettles for Tea
December 22, 2026–February 7, 2027

1F-6 Lacquerware
Animals in Makie Lacquers
December 22, 2026–February 7, 2027

Exhibition Schedule

Feature Exhibition
Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival
February 13–March 22, 2027
Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-4

Special Exhibition Commemorating the 130th Anniversary of the
Kyoto National Museum
**The Great Kano School:
Master Painters of Japan**
April 20–July 19, 2027
Part I: Muromachi to Momoyama Periods
April 20–May 30, 2027
Part II: Edo to Meiji Periods
June 8–July 19, 2027
Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Cover: "The Divine Princess at Uji Bridge" (Hashihime) from The Tale of Genji (Genji monogatari emaki), detail. The Tokugawa Art Museum, Aichi. National Treasure. On view November 3–15, 2026. © Tokugawa Museum of Art Image Archive / DNP Art Communications Co., Ltd. Kosode (Kimono) with Hawks, Court Carriages, and Palace Buildings. Kyoto National Museum. On view November 3–29, 2026. Box for Portable Incense Utensil Set with "First Song of Spring" (Hatsune) Motif, from The Tale of Genji, part of the "First Song of Spring" (Hatsune) Wedding Trousseau. By Kōami Chōjū (1599–1651). The Tokugawa Art Museum, Aichi. National Treasure. © Tokugawa Museum of Art Image Archive / DNP Art Communications Co., Ltd. The Uji Princesses, detail. By Matsuoka Eikyū (1881–1938). Himeji City Museum of Art, Hyogo.

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

ADMISSION

October 6–November 29, 2026:
Special Exhibition Admission
Adult ¥2200 (¥2000)
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 8–October 4, 2026 and
December 1–20, 2026:**
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.

December 22, 2026–March 22, 2027:
Admission to the Museum Collection Galleries
Adult ¥700 Univ. Student ¥350

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.

HOURS

October 6–November 29, 2026:
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 8–October 4, 2026 and
December 1, 2026–March 22, 2027:**
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 is also closed December 28, 2026–January 1, 2027.

ACCESS

VIA JR OR SUBWAY
Get off at Kyoto Station. From bus platform D2 in front of the station, take City Bus #86 or #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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NEWSLETTER
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Special Exhibition
The Tale of Genji
Radiant Culture of the Japanese
Imperial Court

Feature Exhibition
Layered Histories
Renowned Tea Utensils and Their Boxes

New Year's Feature Exhibition
Goats and Lambs, Ewes and Rams
Celebrating the Year of the Sheep



Special Exhibition
The Tale of Genji
 Radiant Culture of the Japanese Imperial Court
 October 6–November 29, 2026, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

The Tale of Genji, written more than a thousand years ago during the Heian period (794–1192) and sometimes called the world's first novel, stands as the crown jewel of Japanese literary history. Set against the splendor of the imperial court, the celebrated narrative weaves together the romantic entanglements and human dramas of Hikaru Genji, the “Shining Prince,” and the vividly portrayed women who inhabit his world. Cherished by readers across the centuries, *Genji* has also given rise to a remarkable wealth of artistic creation.

This exhibition brings together a diverse array of paintings and works of decorative art depicting scenes and motifs from *The Tale of Genji*, alongside manuscripts of the text and its commentaries. It also traces the novel's far-reaching influence on the performing arts and popular culture, inviting visitors to discover the timeless appeal of a masterpiece that has enriched Japanese cultural life for over a millennium.

The Tale of Genji has captivated readers for centuries and continues to speak to audiences around the world today. This special exhibition offers visitors an unprecedented opportunity to immerse themselves in the elegance of the Heian court as brought to life through this enduring literary classic.

(By Inami Rintarō, Curator of Japanese Illustrated Handscrolls)



National Treasure
 “Trees Encoiled in Vines of Ivy” (*Yadorigi*) III from *The Tale of Genji* (*Genji monogatari emaki*), detail
 Japan, Heian period, 12th century; one of six handscrolls; ink and colors on paper
 The Tokugawa Art Museum, Aichi (on view November 17–29, 2026)
 © Tokugawa Museum of Art Image Archive / DNP Art Communications Co., Ltd.

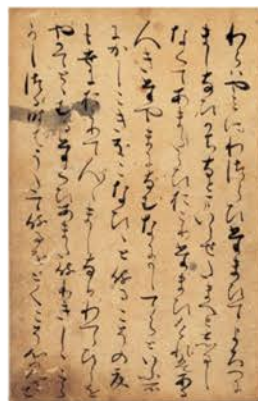
Feature Exhibition
Layered Histories
 Renowned Tea Utensils and Their Boxes
 December 22, 2026–March 22, 2027, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

For generations, the treasured utensils used by tea practitioners have been carefully passed down along with their storage boxes and protective wrappings. The complete set of storage materials accompanying a given object is known as its *shidai*. A *shidai* can have various components, including original custom-made storage boxes (*tomobako*) as well as silk pouches (*shifuku*) specially commissioned each time the object changed hands. Such accessories are traditionally cherished alongside the objects that they preserve. This exhibition presents a selection of outstanding tea utensils—including the National Treasure *Ōido Type Tea Bowl* named “Kizaemon” (Kohō-an Temple, Kyoto)—along with the accompanying boxes and wrappings for each object. We hope it offers an opportunity to encounter the layered histories and contexts that these tea masterworks have accumulated over time.

(By Furiya Tetsuo, Chair of the Department of Decorative and Applied Arts)



Portrait of Murasaki Shikibu
 By Tosa Mitsuoki (1617–1691)
 Japan, Edo period, 17th century
 Hanging scroll; ink and colors on silk
 Ishiyama-dera Temple, Shiga
 (on view October 6–November 1, 2026)



“Little Purple Gromwell” (*Wakamurasaki*),
 from *The Tale of Genji* (Teika Edition)
 Japan, Kamakura period, 13th century
 Book; ink on paper (photo courtesy of Yagi Shoten)



National Treasure
 Ōido Type Tea Bowl, Named “Kizaemon”
 Korea, Joseon dynasty, 16th century
 Glazed stoneware
 Kohō-an Temple, Kyoto



Important Cultural Property
 “Little Purple Gromwell” (*Wakamurasaki*), from *Illustrations and Calligraphic Excerpts from The Tale of Genji*
 By Tosa Mitsuoyoshi (1539–1613) and Chōjirō (n.d.)
 Japan, Azuchi-Momoyama–Edo period, 17th century
 One of four albums; ink and colors on paper
 Kyoto National Museum
 (this scene on view October 6–November 1, 2026)



Important Cultural Property
 Noh Mask, Deigan (ex Konparu Family Collection)
 Seal “Tenkaichi Kawachi”
 Japan, Edo period, 17th century
 Wood with pigments
 Tokyo National Museum



“Leaves of Wild Ginger” (*Aoi*), from *The Tale of Genji* (Moriyasu Version, known as the Phantom Genji Scrolls), detail
 Edo period, 17th century. One of six handscrolls; ink and colors on paper
 Kyoto National Museum (this scene on view October 6–November 1, 2026)

New Year's Feature Exhibition
Goats and Lambs, Ewes and Rams:
 Celebrating the Year of the Sheep
 December 22, 2026–February 7, 2027, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 2F-2

The zodiac animal for 2027 is the sheep. From a global perspective, sheep have a long history as domestic animals, valued for both their wool and meat. In Japan, however, the country's hot, humid climate and limited pastureland have resulted in them remaining relatively unfamiliar until the modern era. Nevertheless, Japan has many artworks depicting sheep and goats (the Chinese character for sheep can refer to either sheep or goats, and Chinese zodiac imagery encompasses both animals). Such works were either imported from China or produced within Japan in imitation of Chinese prototypes. This exhibition invites visitors to compare Japanese depictions of sheep and goats with Chinese examples, while also exploring how Japanese artists represented animals that they knew largely through images rather than direct observation.

(By Ōhara Yoshitoyo, Chair of the Department of Education)



Flowers, Plants, Birds, and Animals, detail
 By Kunii Ōbun (1833–1887) and Mochizuki Gyokusen (1834–1913)
 Japan, Edo–Meiji period, 19th century. One of two handscrolls; ink and colors on silk
 Kyoto National Museum



Kosode (Kimono) with Hawks, Court Carriages, and Palace Buildings
 Japan, Edo period, 19th century. Silk crepe (*chirimen*) with paste-resist white reserve, hand-applied indigo, stenciled “fawn spot” tie-dyeing, and embroidery
 Kyoto National Museum (on view November 3–29, 2026)

Museum Collection Exhibitions in
The Collection Galleries

3F-1 Ceramics
Ceramics of Japan and East Asia
 January 2–March 22, 2027
 (Closed December 22–27, 2026)

3F-2 Archaeological Artifacts
Special Viewing
 Early Inhabitants of Wazuka Valley:
 Discovering Who Was Buried in the
 Harayama Tumulus
 January 2–March 22, 2027
 (Closed December 22–27, 2026)

2F-1 Illustrated Handscrolls
The Karoku Persecution of Pure Land Buddhism: 800 Years Later
 December 22, 2026–January 24, 2027

2F-2 **New Year's Feature Exhibition**
 Goats and Lambs, Ewes and Rams:
 Celebrating the Year of the Sheep
 December 22, 2026–February 7, 2027

2F-3 Medieval Painting
Paintings of the Ami Family, Part I
 December 22, 2026–January 24, 2027

2F-4 Momoyama–Edo Painting
Symphonies of Image and Text
 December 22, 2026–February 7, 2027

2F-5 Chinese Painting
**The Three Friends of Winter:
 Pine, Bamboo, and Plum**
 December 22, 2026–February 7, 2027