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# Japan Cultural Expo 2020

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As of October 2020

Office for Promotion of New Arts and Culture Creation, Arts and Culture Division,  
Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

Japan Cultural Expo Secretariat at the Japan Arts Council

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# Japan Cultural Expo Special Performance:

## Japanese Music, Song and Dance

(Recorded program)



- The Japan Cultural Expo's special performance, *Japanese Music, Song and Dance* filmed on March 14, 2020 at the Tokyo National Museum's Heiseikan gallery, was aired on BS Nippon Corporation on June 20th and on NHK General TV on July 19th.
- The first part of the program begins with remarks from the Japan Cultural Expo Official Ambassador, Kuroyanagi Tetsuko, followed by an Ainu ancient ceremonial dance and a 2.5-Dimensional Musical *Touken Ranbu: The Musical*. The second part of the program called *Celebrating the Natural Beauties of Japan* consists of various performing arts, including Kabuki, Noh, Bunraku, Gagaku, Japanese classical dance, and chorus, along with projection mapping.
- The program was broadcasted on Japan's private TV networks official portal site *TVer* for a month, after being aired on BS Nippon Corporation. It was also broadcasted on NHK's broadcasting service *NHK Plus* after being aired on NHK General TV.
- The video of the performances will be compiled for distribution overseas in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, and French, to attract future customers.

Presented by:	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan Japan Arts Council
Special support:	Tokyo National Museum
Artistic direction:	Owada Fumio (Executive Director of the Japan Arts Council (Managing the National Theatre))
Space composition:	Tanigawa Junji (JTQ Inc.)
Film direction:	WOW
Tree installation:	Komatsu Kosei
Music direction & composition:	Shinnai Tagatayuu
Choreography ( <i>Shakkyo</i> ):	Onoe Kikunojo
Technical supervision:	Yokozawa Kohtaro
Art direction / lighting, sound / stage design / stage management:	National Theatre
Production:	Japan Arts Council / National Theatre, National Noh Theatre, National Theatre Okinawa, New National Theatre, Tokyo, Japan Cultural Expo Secretariat

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# Japan Cultural Expo

## Major Exhibits

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## Display of Japan's Masterpieces and Restoration Techniques using Natural Materials

Masterpieces associated with Kyoto from the Heian period to today will be exhibited with the collaboration of Kyoto City, Agency for Cultural Affairs, and the Japan Arts Council, in commemorating the renewal opening of Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art.

- HIROSHI SUGIMOTO – *POST VITAM*  
The Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art (Higashiyama Cube) / May 26 (Tue) – October 4 (Sun), 2020
- 250 Years of Kyoto Art Masterpieces  
The Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art (Main Building's North Wing, 1F) / June 2 (Tue) – December 6 (Sun), 2020

<https://kyotocity-kyocera.museum/en/>

## The Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art Inaugural Exhibition:

### 250 Years of Kyoto Art Masterpieces

This exhibition features masterpieces selected from 250 years history of Kyoto's artistic heritage. Focusing on traditional Japanese-style painters, it will also explore the works of Kōgei artists throughout the ages, as well as Western-style painters and sculptors from the Meiji period, and young artists of contemporary art in the postwar period. Presented in three parts, the exhibition will begin with a journey back in time to a century before the Meiji Restoration of 1868 to the late Edo period, to explore the flourishing Kyoto arts scene of the day through works by artists such as Ito Jakuchu, Yosa Buson, Ike no Taiga, Soga Shohaku, Maruyama Okyo, Goshun, and Nagasawa Rosetsu. The second part will showcase the work of artists who helped the Kyoto art world keep pace with Tokyo from the Meiji (1868–1912) through the Showa (1926–1989) periods, including Takeuchi Seiho, Uemura Shoen, Tsuchida Bakusen, and Murakami Kagaku. The third and final part will cast the spotlight on leading postwar and present-day Nihonga (Japanese-style painting) practitioners, highlighting work by artists, such as Ono Chikkyo, Fukuda Heihachiro, Domoto Insho, and Ikeda Yoson, who put an innovative twist on tradition.

Schedule:                    *250 Years of Kyoto Art Masterpieces – Origins of the Collection:*  
                                        June 2 (Tue) – September 6 (Sun), 2020  
                                        *250 Years of Kyoto Art Masterpieces – From Edo to Today:*  
                                        October 10 (Sat) – December 6 (Sun), 2020

Please note: The *From Edo to Today* exhibition will be held on the first and second floors of the Main Building's North Wing.





Soga, Shohaku. *Immortals*. 1764, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Tokyo. Important Cultural Property.  
Exhibition period: November 10 – 15, 2020



Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art  
© Koroda Takeru



Ota, Chou. *Smallpox Vaccination*. 1934, Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art.



# Special Exhibition: Kōgei 2020 – The Art of Crafting Beauty from Nature

## Along with the Kōgei Dining Program

Tokyo National Museum (Hyokeikan Gallery) / September 21 (Mon) – November 15 (Sun), 2020

*Kōgei Dining* at Ishikawa Pref. and Shizuoka Pref. / October 31 (Sat) and December 4 (Fri), 2020

<https://www.tnm.jp/?lang=en>

Kōgei (Japanese craft arts), created with various natural materials and techniques, has a unique connection to nature. Imbued with a unique view of nature reflecting the Japanese spirit and mindset, Kōgei has been created and developed to express beauty in objects used in daily life.

This exhibition introduces various Kōgei by inviting contemporary artists who make good use of traditional materials and appropriate techniques, and create their works based on their own views of nature and its beauty. The exhibition space is configured around the concept of nature by Ito Toyo, who is one of the leading architects of Japan and the world. By showcasing the Kōgei works in such venue, the exhibition will be an opportunity for discovering the appeals and possibilities of Kōgei. A related program *Kōgei Dining* has also been created as an interactive program where you can enjoy a hands-on experience with Kōgei that has functional beauty.



Murose Kazumi. *Hexagonal covered box with oak leaf design in makie and mother-of-pearl inlay.* 2014



Haruyama Fuminori. *Sound.* 2017



Okuda Sayume. *From Sea to Heaven.* 2018



Imaizumi Imaemon. *Lidded jar with design of snow-covered pines.* 2019



Venue configuration themed around nature by Ito Toyo (image)

Image copyright of Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects



Video contents  
(image)



Interactive program of *Kōgei Dining*  
(image from last year)



Ceramic by Maeta Akihiro with  
Japanese cuisine

**Kōgei Dining** <https://www.kogei-dining.com/>

*Kōgei Dining* is an interactive program to be held related to the *Kōgei 2020 – The Art of Crafting Beauty from Nature* exhibition. This will be a valuable opportunity to enjoy a hands-on experience with Kōgei's functional beauty through dining, which is often undiscovered when merely observing.

# The First of the National Crafts Museum's Grand Opening Exhibitions: Japanese Crafts – Materials, Techniques and Regionalities

National Crafts Museum (Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Pref.) / October 25 (Sun), 2020 – January 11 (Mon), 2021

<https://www.momat.go.jp/english/>

This exhibition commemorating the relocation of the National Crafts Museum from Tokyo to Ishikawa Prefecture, showcases the masterpieces of Japan's contemporary Kōgei from the Meiji period to today. Focusing on the three factors of materials, techniques, and climates, the exhibition introduces how the Kōgei artists from various regions utilized local materials and nature through Japan's modernization, as well as exploring how they reshaped their views of the image of nature through the time, and the various climates of Japan. The exhibition will provide a unique experience of Kōgei, including appreciating details using high-definition images. For details, please see the website.



MATSUDA Gonroku

Ornamental box, yusoku pattern, maki-e and raden inlay

1960 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo



ITAYA Hazan

Vase, Humulus lupulus design, underglaze colors, white porcelain

1929 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

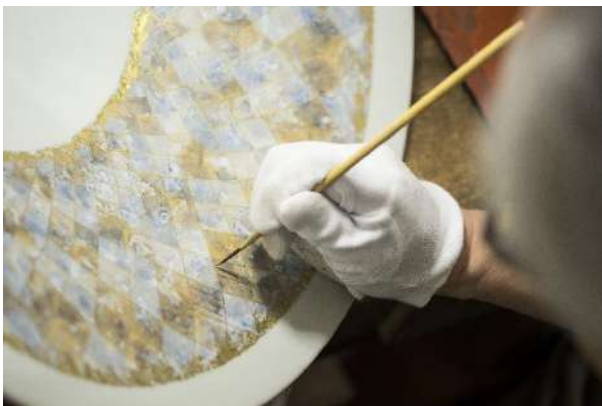
# GO FOR KOGEI

## Realize the Potential of Japanese Crafts in Hokuriku

Kanazawa, Komatsu, Nomi Cities (Ishikawa Pref.); Toyama and Takaoka Cities (Toyama Pref.);  
Echizen and Sabae Cities (Fukui Pref.), etc. / July 2020 – February 2021

<https://goforkogei.com/>

GO FOR KOGEI is a platform for introducing the appeal of Kōgei, including local artists' techniques and more modern art and design, from the major base for Japan's Monozukuri (craftsmanship) in the Hokuriku region. Through producing and distributing video content from 100 workshops in the region, showcasing the appeal of Kōgei through high-resolution videos, this platform aims to transmit today's Kōgei widely and deeply, as well as being a useful guide for those traveling to the Hokuriku region from Japan and abroad to appreciate Kōgei.



Yoshita Yukio. *Kutani Ware* (Kinzan Kiln).



Taki WASHI Factory Co., Ltd. (Traditional Japanese paper)



# The Heritage and Utilization of Japan's Artistic Kōgei and Others, Using the Restoration Techniques and Natural Raw Materials – Locally Presenting the Results of Repairation and Conservation of National Important Cultural Properties (Artistic Kōgei) –

Kyoto National Museum / December 19 (Sat), 2020 –January 31 (Sun), 2021,

Kōzō-ji Temple at Kakuta City, Miyagi Pref. / Schedule TBC,

Nakanoshima Kosetsu Museum of Art at Osaka Pref. / October 31 (Sat) –December 13 (Sun), 2020,

Kumamoto City Museum / December 5 (Sat), 2020 –January 24 (Sun), 2021 (TBC)

Japan's techniques for the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage draws attention around the world. Members from several international museums abroad visit Japan to experience and learn these techniques. The Japanese attitude to conserving works created with fragile materials, through dutifully retouching and adjusting the way they handle according to the season, reflects the Japanese mentality on respecting and coexisting with nature. This exhibition gathers the results of conservation and restoration showcased across Japan. By adding captions and descriptions to those works in multiple languages and promoting them globally, the exhibition aims to introduce the works from various locations in Japan and attract foreign tourists to those regions.

Furthermore, the exhibitions at the Kōzō-ji Temple and the Kumamoto City Museum will include information on recovery from disasters from the perspective of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage. This will showcase artworks which have been restored in recent years after being damaged by natural disasters.



*Portrait of Prince Shōtoku as a Paragon of Filial Piety* (Important Cultural Property). Kamakura Period, Kosetsu Museum of Art.



*Illustrated Life of Prince Shōtoku*. Kamakura to Nanbokuchō period, Kosetsu Museum of Art.



Wood sculpture of seated Tōryō Eiyo Zenji (Important Cultural Property). Preserved at Unganji Temple and managed by Kumamoto City.



Ito, Jakuchu. *Ishi Doro-zu Byōbu* (Folding screen of stone lanterns), left piece. Kyoto National Museum.



Ito, Jakuchu. *Ishi Doro-zu Byōbu* (Folding screen of stone lanterns), right piece. Kyoto National Museum.



A scene of restoration at Kōzō-ji Temple  
in Miyagi Prefecture

#### **Kyoto National Museum**

- Feature Exhibition Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Conservation for Cultural Properties:  
*The Conservation of Japanese Art*  
Exhibition period: December 19, 2020 – January 31, 2021 (TBC)

#### **Kōzō-ji Temple at Kakuta City, Miyagi Prefecture**

- *Public Exhibition Celebrating the Restoration of the Wood Sculpture of Seated Amida Nyorai*  
Exhibition period: TBC

#### **Nakanoshima Kosetsu Museum of Art in Osaka Prefecture**

- Special Exhibition Celebrating the Restoration of the *Portrait of Prince Shōtoku as a Paragon of Filial Piety* and the *Illustrated Life of Prince Shōtoku*:  
*Visions of Prince Shōtoku, Tales Connecting Time and Space*  
Exhibition period: October 31 – December 13, 2020

#### **Kumamoto City Museum**

- Exhibition Celebrating the Conservation and Restoration of the Important Cultural Property – Wood sculpture of seated Tōryō Eiyo Zenji:  
*The Forms of Humans and Worship – The World of Portrait Sculptures* –  
Exhibition period: December 5, 2020 – January 24, 2021 (TBC)

## Thematic Exhibition: Reading and Re-envisioning *The Tale of Genji* through the Ages

Hōsa Library (Nagoya City, Aichi Pref.) in collaboration with the Tokugawa Art Museum

November 8 (Sun) –December 13 (Sun), 2020

<https://www.tokugawa-art-museum.jp/en/>

*The Tale of Genji*, written by Murasaki Shikibu, is a masterpiece of classical literature that has been read and retold for over a thousand years. It has been transcribed numerous times, and had a major impact on Japanese culture, such as visual art, Noh, and Kōdō (“Way of Fragrance”). Its audience continued to expand, especially in the Edo period, and indeed, rich world of art was created with *The Tale of Genji* as a source.

As part of the exhibition, the National Treasure *Diary of Murasaki Shikibu Illustrated Handscroll*, on special loan from the collection of the Gotoh Museum, Tokyo, will be showcased to the public. The exhibition will be a special opportunity to go through the cultural history of *The Tale of Genji* and to unravel its timeless appeal.



Important Cultural Property *The Tale of Genji*,  
known as *Kawachi-bon* Edition.



Chapter "Kiritsubo" from *the Tale of Genji* illuminated  
*Handscroll*.



## Special Exhibition: Higashiyama Kaii and Nihonga Depicting Four Seasons

Yamatane Museum of Art (Tokyo) / November 21 (Sat), 2020– January 24 (Sun), 2021

<https://www.yamatane-museum.jp/english/index.html>

Higashiyama Kaii (1908-1999) is regarded as one of Japan's top artists from the Showa period, known for his portrayals of natural scenery from Japan and around the world, which are full of poetic sentiment. Various retrospective exhibitions have been held in recent years, and his art continued to resonate with people during the change from the Heisei to Reiwa period. This exhibition at the Yamatane Museum of Art showcases Higashiyama Kaii, as well as works by his teachers and contemporaries themed around the key topics of *seasons* and the *beauty of nature*. The exhibition will explore Higashiyama's unique appeal in landscape paintings, and also present Nihonga (Japanese-style paintings) masterpieces artfully depicting the beauty of nature from season to season. The latter mainly focuses on the works by Higashiyama's master Kawai Gyokudo and Yuki Somei, by his classmates from the Tokyo Fine Arts School, Yamada Shingo and Kato Eizo, and by Yamaguchi Hoshun and Sugiyama Yasushi, who Higashiyama worked with decorating the Imperial Palace.



Higashiyama, Kaii. *White Mountain*. 1964, Yamatane Museum of Art, Tokyo.



Higashiyama, Kaii. *Autumn Colors*. 1986, Yamatane Museum of Art, Tokyo.

## Special Exhibition: Momoyama—Artistic Visions in a Turbulent Century

Tokyo National Museum (Heiseikan Gallery) / October 6 (Tue) – November 29 (Sun) , 2020

<https://tsumugu.yomiuri.co.jp/momoyama2020/english.html>

In Japanese political history, the Azuchi-Momoyama period refers to the 30-year period from the 1573 fall of the Muromachi shogunate until the establishment of the Edo shogunate in 1603. Focusing on the Momoyama arts that flourished during these years, the most vibrant and magnificent in Japanese art history, the many masterpieces presented here introduce Japan's shifting aesthetics from the late Muromachi period through the early Edo period.

This exhibition presents approximately 230 superb works to summarize the characteristics of the Momoyama period arts created in the turbulent years from the end of the Muromachi period through the early Edo period. What were the lives of the Japanese like during these chaotic years, what kind of culture did they develop? This exhibition's assembly of art works from this almost century-long period will provide visitors with a chance to consider the “body and soul” of this noteworthy transitional time within the history of Japanese art.



*Amusements under the Blossoms*, By Kanō Naganobu, Edo period, 17th century,  
Tokyo National Museum, National Treasure (Left piece)

(Left piece)

(Right piece)



*Maple Trees*, By Hasegawa Tōhaku, Azuchi-Momoyama period,  
Circa 1592, Chishakuin Temple, Kyoto, National Treasure

## Dialogue with Nature through Food, Clothing, and Housing in Japan

### Special Exhibition: KIMONO: Fashioning Identities

Tokyo National Museum / June 30 (Tue) – August 23 (Sun), 2020 (Exhibition ended)

<https://kimonoten2020.exhibit.jp/english.html>

This exhibition focused on kimono, the traditional garment of Japan. It explored the development of kimono from the Kamakura period to the present, as well as the colors, patterns, and forms developed through nature. Through these, the exhibition showcased Japanese lifestyle and culture and its respect for the seasons and nature.

Various cultural artifacts were displayed, including historically and artistically valuable kimonos and paintings, and pieces from YOSHIKIMONO which is popular among younger generations. Descriptions were available in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean. A global symposium was also held to spread awareness and appreciation for kimono internationally (hosted via video due to the COVID-19 pandemic) with simultaneous interpretation provided. With all of these combined, the exhibition provided an opportunity for audiences to discover the splendid traditional culture of Japan, and its coexistence with nature.



Gallery talk at the Special Exhibition, *Kimono: Fashioning Identities*



Link to video: <https://kimonoten2020.exhibit.jp/special3.html>



## Moriguchi Kunihiro: Yuzen / Design – Crossroads of Creativity

The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto / October 13 (Sun) – December 6 (Sun), 2020

This exhibition is a major retrospective exhibition of Moriguchi Kunihiro, a Living National Treasure of Japan, exploring the connection between Japanese people and nature in aspects of design and kimono. Based on the world of the Yuzen resist-dyeing technique developed through coexistence with nature, Moriguchi's works resonate the melody of nature with the bold geometric patterns as a point of departure. The exhibition will be an enjoyable opportunity to explore Moriguchi's world of Yuzen, freely emerging from various intersections between Yuzen and design, tradition and modernity, and East and West.



MORIGUCHI Kunihiro  
Yuzen kimono, 'Brightness of Snow' 1969  
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto



MORIGUCHI Kunihiro  
Yuzen kimono, Topological geometric  
design on white ground, 'Ripening' 2013  
Isetan Mitsukoshi Holdings



MORIGUCHI Kunihiro  
Yuzen kimono, Scarlet Ridge Pattern 2000

## Special Exhibition: Fashion in Japan 1945-2020

Iwami Art Museum (Shimane Pref.) / March 20 (Sat) - May 16 (Sun), 2021

<http://www.grandtoit.jp/museum/fij2020/>

The National Art Center, Tokyo / June 9 (Wed) – September 6 (Mon), 2021

<https://www.nact.jp/english/exhibitions/2020/fij2020/>

This exhibition follows the unique trajectory of the Japanese clothing, especially during the period of the post-World War II to today. The clothing culture evolved with three factors intertwining – the designers who create and provide clothings, the consumers who wear them, and the media that connect the two. Highlighting these factors, the exhibition offers a comprehensive overview of how creative traits evolved and the social background that brought wider influence. Another special exhibition will be held additionally at Iwami Art Museum, Shimane, that re-examines natural materials such as linen, Japanese Wisteria, and Japanese banana, that were used for ordinary people before cotton was introduced, with a modern perspective. For details, please see the website.



<https://fij2020.jp/>



Mori, Hanae. *Chrysanthemum pajamas*. 1966, Iwami Art Museum.

## Kuma Kengo Exhibition

The Museum of Art, Kochi / November 3 (Tue), 2020 – January 3 (Sun), 2021

[https://moak.jp/event/exhibitions/post\\_418.html](https://moak.jp/event/exhibitions/post_418.html)

Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum / January 22 (Fri) – March 28 (Sun), 2021

<http://www.nagasaki-museum.jp/exhibition/archives/1522>

The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo / June 18 (Fri) – September 26 (Sun), 2021

This large-scale exhibition will explore the work of architect Kuma Kengo (b. 1954). One of Japan's leading modern architects, Kuma led the team that designed the new National Stadium to be used as the main venue for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Among his globally renowned works is the V&A Dundee museum in Scotland, which opened in 2018 and was listed in TIME magazine's World's Greatest Places of 2019. Through his architectural works, Kuma Kengo fascinates the people around the world as a place to gather.

Through showcasing Kuma's works, the exhibition aims to enrich visitors' understanding of the Asian aesthetic sense influenced by nature and environment. Takimoto Mikiya and other artists collaborated on high-resolution videos and other high technology works specially for this exhibition. There will also be an installation created with a unique perspective of towns seen from a cat's eyes with the cooperation of Takram, a global design innovation studio, to raise awareness toward an inclusive society, as well as an interview footage on the current situation of disaster-affected areas.



Kuma, Kengo. *V&A Dundee*. 2018.

© Hufton+Crow



Kuma, Kengo. *Nagaoka City Hall Aore*. 2012.

© Fujitsuka Mitsumasa



## Japanese Architecture: Traditional Skills and Natural Materials

Tokyo National Museum (Hyokeikan Gallery), National Museum of Nature and Science,  
National Archives of Modern Architecture / December 8 (Tue), 2020– February 21 (Sun), 2021 (TBC)

This exhibition on the architecture of Japan showcases intricate Japanese architectural models developed using a wide range of natural materials such as timber, earth, and stone. Displays will feature leading masterpieces from the Asuka period (538–710) to the present day. Visitors from overseas will be able to learn about Japanese architectural culture through scale replicas highlighting the characteristics of various building styles, explanations of wooden architecture techniques, and guided tours. Visitors will also be able to learn about traditional Japanese wooden architecture, which was nominated for the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2018, through informative displays presenting recent efforts to train the next generation of craftspeople, enhance skills, and procure raw materials and tools.



National Treasure. *Bell Tower at Tōdai-ji Temple (scale replica)*. Kamakura period (1185-1333). Tokyo National Museum.



National Treasure. *Kaisan-do Hall at Eihōji Temple (scale replica)*. Muromachi period (1336-1573). Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan.



National Treasure. *Kanchiin Guest Hall (scale replica)*. Edo period (1603-1868). Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan.



*Takashimaya Nihombashi Department Store (scale replica)*. 1933. Takashimaya Company, Limited.



15 *Kyoto Branch of Mitsui Bank (scale replica)*. 1914. Architectural Institute of Japan.



Wright, Frank Lloyd. *Main Building of Imperial Hotel (scale replica)*. 1923. Imperial Hotel, Ltd.

## Exploring the Traditional and Contemporary Performing Arts related to Nature

### Discover Series

## NOH & KYOGEN: The Persimmon Thief and Autumn Foliage Viewing

National Noh Theatre (Tokyo) / October 31 (Sat), 2020

<https://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/schedule/nou/2020/10163.html?lan=e>

*Discover Noh & Kyogen* is a special series of productions of two traditional performing arts; Noh and Kyogen. English explanation is provided for visitors from overseas. The October 31 installment will feature two of Japan's most iconic performing arts, the Kyogen performance of *The Persimmon Thief* and the Noh performance of *Autumn Foliage Viewing*. By presenting these works with a broad appeal, subtitled in multiple languages, the production enables the audience to discover and learn about the appeal of Noh and Kyogen.

Kyogen: *Autumn Foliage Viewing* performed by Okura Noriyoshi of the Okura School

Noh: *The Persimmon Thief* (Onizoroe version) performed by Umewaka Kishyo of the Kanze School



## Discover Series

# Traditional Performing Arts – Omotenashi with Kabuki, Noh, Kyogen, Bunraku, Japanese Classical Dance, Yose, and Gagaku –

National Theatre, National Engei Hall, National Noh Theatre, and  
Traditional Performing Arts Information Centre (Tokyo) /  
August 2020 – March 2021

This section of the Discover series provides *omotenashi* (Japanese hospitality) with various traditional performing arts that Japan prides itself on, from Kabuki, Bunraku (Japanese puppet theatre), Yose (traditional Japanese entertainment), Japanese classical dance, and more. Japan's traditional performing arts have always had a close connection with nature. Through enjoying these arts, the audience can experience the unique approach to admiring nature which Japanese people have fostered since ancient times. For this program, special video contents introducing Kabuki with English subtitles will be produced, replacing a Kabuki performance which was designed for audience from overseas and was canceled due to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Role of Nikki Danjo performed  
by Matsumoto Koshiro



Introductionary video contents for Kabuki,  
*Learning Kabuki with Matsumoto Koshiro*



- Contents: Session 1 – The Elusive Kabuki Performers – The Stage Setting of Kabuki –  
Session 2 – The Eye-catching Kabuki Performers – Makeup, Wigs, and Costumes –  
Session 3 – Biodiversity in Kabuki – Animals, Mononoke, and Sacred Animals –
- Distribution: Session 1 on 10:00AM on August 27 (Thurs) – 10:00PM on September 26 (Sat)  
Sessions 2 and 3 will follow once the productions are completed. These will be distributed in  
Japanese first, and shorter versions with English subtitles will be available separately.
- Price: JPY 1,800 (tax inclu. / per session)



## Discover Series

### Discover BUNRAKU

National Theatre (Tokyo) / September 5 (Sat) – September 22 (Tue) and December 14 (Mon), 2020

[https://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/schedule/kokuritsu\\_s/2020/discover-bunraku1.html?lan=e](https://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/schedule/kokuritsu_s/2020/discover-bunraku1.html?lan=e)

Bunraku, also known as Ningyo Joruri, is a unique form of traditional Japanese stage art which uses dolls (ningyo) and features a combination of chanting and shamisen playing (joruri). Bunraku theatre is used to tell stories and show lifestyles based around nature in Japan. The Discover Bunraku performances at the National Theatre in September and in December are special programs with introductory explanation of Bunraku for beginners. The performances are designed to be easy to understand and enjoy even for those who experience Bunraku for the first time. The video production of the performances with English subtitles is also planned and will be delivered to audience both within and outside Japan.

**Discover 2020 ver BUNRAKU**

**BUNRAKU Performance**

Guidance in English  
**芦屋道満大内鑑**  
The Magician Ashiya Doman  
and the Imperial Mirror

**December 14, 2020**  
7:00 PM

**Tickets**  
(All Seats Reserved, Tax Included)  
Adults ¥4,100  
Students ¥1,600

**Navigator**  
Stuart Varnam-Atkin

**FREE Audio-Guide**  
Providing a translation of the essence of the dialogue and the lyrics

© 2020 Japan Cultural Exchange Foundation and Co-organized by Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, and JACET (JACET for)

**日本文化 大内鑑 beyond 2020**

**国立劇場**  
National Theatre, Tokyo

## Discover Series

# The Beauty of the Ryukyu Dynasty: Passing Down and Spreading

## Kumiodori

National Theatre Okinawa / October 13 (Tue), October 20 (Tue), October 31 (Sat),  
November 21 (Sat), December 12 (Sat), 2020, and March 13 (Sat), 2021

<https://www.nt-okinawa.or.jp/english>

Kumiodori is a comprehensive art consisting of poetry, music, and dance, influenced by various arts and developed around the Okinawan view of nature. This special performance is designed to enable all including those within and outside Japan who are new to Kumiodori, to enjoy the charms of this unique performing art. Free audio guides will be provided, and there will be an introduction on how to enjoy Kumiodori performance at the first part of the program. Furthermore, a series of educational sessions on the performing arts of the Ryukyu Dynasty based on the history of Shuri Castle and the environment will be held. This will involve reproducing the Ryukyu Dynasty's original mechanically operated fireworks, which used to be displayed at Shuri Castle.



Discover KUMIODORI – performance of  
*Nidou Tekiuchi*



Kumiodori session for beginners -  
performance of *Shushin Kaneiri*

# Japan Cultural Expo

## Special Performance at the Imperial Palace (tentative)

Special stage at the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace (Tokyo) / 3 days in mid-March 2021 (TBC)

Along with the Japan Cultural Expo's theme of connection between Japanese people with nature, traditional performing arts will be presented for the first time at the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, centering around a reproduction of Noh theatre plays. This program is part of the activities on utilizing the East Gardens, and will touch on the history of Noh and Kyogen at the Edo Castle during the Edo period (1603-1868), which used to stand where the Imperial Palace is today.

Marking 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake, and praying for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to settle, the Noh program of *Okina* will be performed, which prays for the peace of the land with chanting and dance. Other spectacular and dynamic programs will also be performed, that bring a sense of the season around the Imperial Palace, and are easy to understand for those experiencing Noh for the first time. These include the performing arts of the Ryukyu Islands (where Shuri Castle was recently destroyed by fire) and other disaster-affected areas. Video contents will be produced to introduce these performances in Japan and overseas, with possible distribution online or on television.



Performance of *Okina* by Kanze Kiyokazu



Outdoor stage with the Nijubashi  
bridges in the background



## Japan Cultural Expo in Izumo—Experience the Land where Gods Meet

Izumo City, Shimane Prefecture (Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine and surrounding areas) /  
The Izumo-Kagura performance, workshop, and local sake festival have been canceled.  
Ancient Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine VR/AR contents will be available in November 2020.

<https://ancient-japan-izumo.com/>

This project is to experience in multi-layers the rich nature, history, and culture of Izumo – the land of the Gods – that were inherited from the ancient times. Workshops and a series of outdoor entertainments of Izumo-Kagura were due to be performed, set against the background of the spectacular sunset of the sacred land of Izumo, which is designated as *Japan Heritage*. A local sake festival is also enjoyed annually at Izumo to celebrate the birthplace of sake, but was unfortunately canceled this year. As a new way of enjoying the surroundings of the Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine, its sublime figure of ancient high-rise main shrine building has been restored with VR and AR technologies, and will be distributed on a smartphone app.



High-rise main shrine building of the Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine (1/10th scale model)



Izumo's local sake



Odochi Kagura Hozonkai Kagurakata  
“Evening Kagura Performance”  
(at Inase Beach)

## UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

### Special Exhibition: The World of Traditional Performing Arts —Kabuki, Bunraku, Noh, Kyogen, Gagaku, and Kumiodori

Tokyo National Museum (Hyokenikan Gallery) / Postponed or canceled

<https://tsumugu.yomiuri.co.jp/dentou2020/>

This interactive exhibition was planned to explore five of Japan's most iconic traditional performing arts, all recognized by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: Kabuki, Bunraku, Noh, Gagaku, and Kumiodori. Reproductions of the stages where each artform is performed, along with costumes, musical instruments, and props, were due to be showcased. However, the program has been canceled due to the temporary closure of the Tokyo National Museum as part of the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The preparation of the exhibition at the Tokyo National Museum has been filmed and has been made public. The VR footage can be enjoyed by all as if they are walking inside the venue, standing on the Kabuki theater stage and seeing the splendid costumes.

*Footage of Experience Japan's Traditional  
Performing Arts from Home*



*VR image of Experience Japan's Traditional  
Performing Arts from Home*



# New Opera with Children and an Android “Super Angels”

New National Theatre, Tokyo / Postponed or canceled

This is a special program by the New National Theatre, Tokyo in introducing the appeal of Japan to the world. Exploring the theme of human coexistence with science and technology, *Super Angels: A New Opera with Children and an Android* is a collaborative work on a grand scale, seeking to expand the potential of conventional opera and win the hearts of the audience both in Japan and beyond.

This new kind of opera, *Super Angels*, is produced by Ono Kazushi, the Artistic Director of Opera at the New National Theatre, Tokyo, who will also conduct the orchestra. The libretto is by novelist Shimada Masahiko, with music by Shibuya Keiichiro, the composer behind the operas *THE END* (the Vocaloid Opera starring Hatsune Miku) and *Scary Beauty* (the Android Opera). Ogawa Eriko, the New National Theatre, Tokyo’s Artistic Director of Drama, will direct the production.

At the heart of the opera, a cast of young children performs alongside Alter 3, an android with artificial life. They are also joined by professional opera singers, the New National Theatre Chorus, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the National Ballet of Japan, bringing together elements of opera, dance, and drama for the first time in the history of the New National Theatre, Tokyo. Please look forward to the beginning of a completely new form of opera, incorporating a message to future on human coexistence with science and technology.

Project Supervisor / Conductor: Ono Kazushi  
Libretto: Shimada Masahiko  
Music: Shibuya Keiichiro

Stage Director: Ogawa Eriko  
Creative Art Director: Hariu Shizuka  
Video: Weirdcore

Choreography: Kaikawa Tetsuo  
Choreographic Advisor: Ohara Noriko

Cast: Alter 3 (Supported by mixi, Inc.), Fujiki Daichi, Miyake Rie,  
Narita Hiroyuki, and Koizumi Eiko

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus and others  
Dancers: The National Ballet of Japan  
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

Alter Series hardware and software architecture design and  
programming: Hiroshi Ishiguro, Ogawa Kohei, Ikegami Takashi,  
Doi Itsuki

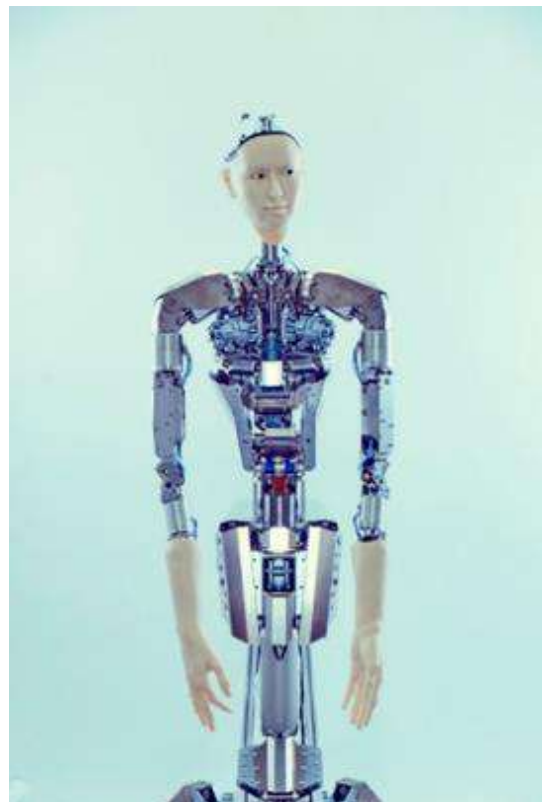
Alter 3 software architecture design and programming: Masumori  
Atsushi, Maruyama Norihiro, ALTERNATIVE MACHINE Inc.

Alter 3 simulator development: mixi, Inc.

Alter 3 presented by: mixi Inc.

Executive producer: Kimura Koki (mixi, Inc.)

Special thanks: The University of Tokyo, Osaka University, mixi,  
Inc., Warner Music Japan Inc., ALTERNATIVE MACHINE Inc.



Alter 3 (Supported by mixi, Inc.)



# NOBODY KNOWS

## Traditional Performing Arts Project Showcasing Japan Heritage

Oyama-Afuri Shrine in Isehara City (Kanagawa Pref.) / September 15, 2020 (Tue)

Tsuruoka City (Yamagata Pref.) / January 2021 (TBC)\*

Takayama City (Gifu Pref.) / February 2021 (TBC)\*

Satsumasendai City (Kagoshima Pref.) / (TBC)\*

\*Subject to change due to the COVID-19

The NOBODY KNOWS project presents video programs mainly at cultural sites such as shrines and temples in four areas across Japan, allowing visitors to enjoy historical culture and the performing arts. The project highlights the *Japan Heritage* recognized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs from the perspective of cultural heritage and the revitalization of local communities, as well as the leading Japanese culture of performing arts. With the concept of passing on the live experience of intangible culture from person to person, the project will present programs suited to each location, collaboratively using various cultural resources.



Oyama-Afuri Shrine in Isehara City,  
Kanagawa Prefecture



Joint performance of Japanese classical dance, Nagauta music,  
and the local festival music at Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture



Old Masuda Residence at Satsumasendai  
City, Kagoshima Prefecture



Shoreisai Festival at Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture

## Show “RAKUZA” 2020

Sendai Toshogu Shrine at Miyagi Pref., Kotohira-gu Shrine at Iwaki City, Fukushima Pref., Onsenji Temple's Yakushido Hall at Toyooka City, Hyogo Pref., Asakusa Toyokan in Tokyo, Tokyo Tower's Club 333 Main Observatory, and the Edo-Tokyo Museum / July 2020 – March 2021

<https://www.geikyo.com/>

This is a collaborative program for the audience to enjoy the culture of laughter engraved in Japanese people's heart. It combines Rakugo, Kamikiri (performance of cutting a piece of paper into a shape), Wazuma (Japanese traditional magic), and various musical performances, from the yose engei (Japanese vaudeville) incorporating the climate, nature, seasonal scenery and events from various locations in Japan. The program will broaden the appeal yose engei to all, traversing nationality, language, age, and disability, with the use of an illustrative subtitles system at Rakugo and more. The performances are localized with attention to the cultural resources (castles, shrines and temples) at Tohoku region (Aomori, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures) and Chugoku and Shikoku regions (Hyogo and Kagawa prefectures). These will surely bring laughter and surprise to all. For details, please see the website.

- Show “RAKUZA” 2020 – Sendai Toshogu: September 19, 2020
- Show “RAKUZA” 2020 – Kotohira-gu Shrine: October 3, 2020
- Show “RAKUZA” 2020 – Onsenji Temple Yakushido Hall: September 27, 2020
- Show “RAKUZA” Asakusa Toyokan: March 2021 (TBC)
- Show “RAKUZA” Tokyo Tower: multiple performances during September 26, 2020 to March 23, 2021
- Show “RAKUZA” Edo-Tokyo Museum: multiple performances until January 24, 2021





## Enjoy Culture in Nature

### National Parks of Japan: Stories to Experience

### Joint-project with the National Parks of Japan: Stories to Experience

National Museum of Nature and Science, etc. / August 25 (Tue) – November 29 (Sun), 2020

<https://www.kahaku.go.jp/english/event/2020/08nationalpark/>

National Parks of Japan are designated and conserved by the Japanese government to protect the wonderful nature and to pass on to the future generations. There are currently 34 National Parks in Japan, with landscapes, environments, and organism representing Japan's nature. The Japanese archipelago stretches from south to north, with various kinds of nature from forests to river and sea. The National Museum of Nature and Science and the Ministry of Environment co-present the wide range of Japan's nature among four seasons and the local cultures through this exhibition of National Parks.

#### Japan's Nature Seen through the National Parks

At National Parks, sceneries representing Japan's nature and a range of organisms remain. Themed around earth, water, and life, the National Museum of Nature and Science showcases about 300 samples of natural history, from animals, plants, rocks and minerals, with high-resolution images of all 34 National Parks. The exhibition will also introduce the lifestyles on coexisting with nature.



Chubu Sangaku National Park

Towada-Hachimantai National Park



Ono, Ryutoku. *Autumn in Oirase Gorge*.

Kosugi Hoan Museum of Art, Nikko.

#### Enjoying National Parks through Paintings

Japan's nature portrayed on canvas is one of the highlights of this exhibition. Paintings played an important role in designating National Parks during the time when travelling and color photos were not yet common. As part of the exhibition, 12 paintings of National Parks housed by Kosugi Hoan Museum of Art, Nikko will be showcased.

Furthermore, Japan International Broadcasting, Inc. will collaborate with the *Visit! National Park* project led by the Ministry of Environment. There will be TV productions and a promotional caravan touring around Japan, offering 8K TV experiences of the National Parks. The project will aim to attract visitors to the exhibition and to the National Parks across Japan.



NHK WORLD-JAPAN. *At One with Nature: National Parks of Japan* (featuring Akan-Mashu National Park).



Promotional caravan



# Meiji Jingu Forest Festival of Art

Meiji Shrine (Tokyo) / March 2020 – March 2021

- Tenkukaikatsu – Meiji Jingu Forest: Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition Meiji Jingu Inner Shrine / March 20 (Fri) – December 13 (Mon), 2020
- Exhibition Shikansuiyo – The Hundred Year Forest and Art Meiji Shrine Museum / July 10 (Fri) – September 27 (Sun), 2020
- Kiinseido – A Genealogy of Sculpture, from Hirakushi Denchu to Kohei Nawa Homotsuden Treasure Museum / Date TBC

<https://jingu-artfest.jp/>

Meiji Shrine celebrates its centennial in 2020. The Meiji Jingu Forest Festival of Art is a celebration of art and culture set in the symbolic sacred forests surrounding Meiji Shrine. With various exhibitions and programs, the festival aims to reacknowledge the connection between nature with culture and arts in Japan, and rediscover Japan's aesthetic sense and to promote this overseas. This project will promote sustainability of sacred forests for the next 100 years, and introduce the heart of praying with events related to the recovery of disaster-affected areas and regional revitalization.



Nawa, Kohei. *White Deer*: 2020, Meiji Shrine, Tokyo.

Photo: Kioku Keizo



Matsuyama, Tomokazu. *Wheels of Fortune*. 2020.

Photo: Kioku Keizo



Part of the exhibition Shikansuiyo – The Hundred Year Forest and Art



Funai, Misa. *Paradise/Boundary – SINME-*. 2020.

Photo: Kioku Keizo



Exhibition Shikansuiyo – The Hundred Year Forest and Art

Photo : Kioku Keizo



# Exhibition Project by Nara Prefecture on the Chronicles of Japan and Fujiwara no Fuhito

Nara Prefectural Convention Center, etc. / May 2020 – March 2021

<http://www.pref.nara.jp/55769.htm>

The year 2020 marks 1300 years from two events - the completion of the *Chronicles of Japan* telling the stories of how ancient Japan was formed, and the death of Fujiwara no Fuhito, who left major footprints on the early development of Japan. With the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games drawing the world's attention to Japan, this project discusses how Japan was established, and introduces the profound history of Nara prefecture and Japan. For details, please see Nara prefecture's website on the Japan Cultural Expo.



Showing the restoration of buildings to public



Showing an excavation site to public

## BIWAKO BIENNALE 2020: Shinrabansho – COSMIC DANCE

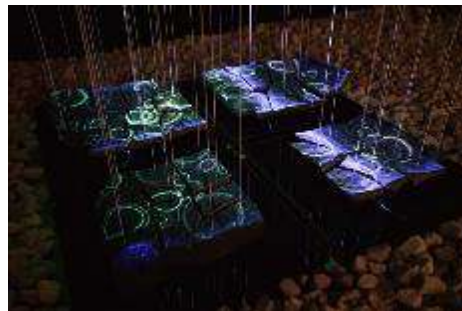
Omihachiman City and Hikone City (Shiga Pref.) / October 10 (Sat) – November 23 (Mon), 2020

<https://energyfield.org/biwakobiennale/en/>

This project is based at historical buildings in the downtown areas of Hikone City and Omihachiman City in Shiga Prefecture, and will showcase around 60 artworks including those by overseas artists. The exhibition venues in Hikone City include the garden of the National Treasure of Hikone Castle, a former public bath, and a chapel built in the traditional Japanese architectural style. Those in Omihachiman City include merchant houses from the Edo and Meiji periods, which are now mainly vacant, and a former sake brewery. The exhibition spaces themselves, which all retain strong local characteristics, will be converted into artworks for this project. For details, please see the website for BIWAKO BIENNALE 2020.



Feuerstein, Thomas. *PSYCHOPROSA*.



CIRCLE SIDE.  
35°8'27.4"N136°5'30.4"E.



Egashira, Makoto. *Blanket is full of roses III*.

## Echigo Tsumari Art Field

Tokamachi City (Niigata Pref.) / April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

<https://www.echigo-tsumari.jp/en/>

The Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale held every three years since 2000 is one of the largest outdoor art festivals in the world. The Tokamachi City of Niigata Prefecture utilizes the unique snow country culture, along with the cultural resources of contemporary art fostered through the Triennale, to create the Echigo Tsumari Art Field as a global art festival. This project will revalue the local resources and introduce the appeals of Japan's traditional village culture during this current period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project of Echigo Tsumari Art Field will showcase seasonal programs and a year-round tour of works jointly produced by people from various regions and generations, including the local residents, artists, and supporters. It will also present local food culture and build a system for preserving the unique traditional village culture, with the joint efforts of a wide-ranging network of supporters. All of these programs will develop and fulfill this cultural and artistic project supported by the strong network of people within and outside Japan.



Echigo-Tsumari Snow Fireworks  
Photo by Yanagi Ayumi



“Tunnel of Light” by Ma Yansong/MAD Architects



## Sado's International Festival Development Project centered around one of its core events, Earth Celebration

Sado City (Niigata Pref.) / April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

<https://earthcelebration.jp/en/>

<https://sado-art.com/?lang=en>

Earth Celebration is an international outdoor festival that has been held every year since 1988 on Sado Island. The festival seeks to foster cultural exchanges within an island setting rich in nature, and to create a new 'earth' culture. The project positions this historical outdoor festival at its core, but also incorporates other cultural programs such as the Sado Island Galaxy Festival, to develop a long-term international festival series across the island.

With the travel restrictions being placed during this time, under the theme "Connect with the World on Sado Island," Earth Celebration brought people from around the world together online. This year, there was an action-packed seven-hour program that was live-streamed across three days from Sado Island.

Also as part of the project, there will be a combined exhibition of the island's historical culture and modern art, as well as fashion shows at historical shrines and temples by top hair and makeup artists from Sado. There will also be a Kyogen performance of *Sado-Gitsune* (*The Sado Fox*) in sign language, and an Art Brut exhibition. With all of these programs promoting cultural art and an inclusive society, based on the island's nature, history, and culture, Japan's largest remote island will introduce its appeal and seek to attract visitors to the area.



Live distribution of the Earth Celebration



Kitazawa Flotation Plant at the historic site of Sado Kinzan Gold Mine (Live distribution of the light up)



Exhibition of a boathouse at the Sado Island Galaxy

## Meet Nature in Media Arts

### MANGA⇔TOKYO

The National Art Center, Tokyo (Special Exhibition Gallery 1E) / August 12 (Wed) – November 3 (Tue), 2020

Oita Prefectural Art Museum (Gallery A at 1F) / November 21 (Sat), 2020 – January 17 (Sun), 2021

<https://manga-toshi-tokyo.jp/>

Japan's manga, animation, games, SFX films (tokusatsu) are reflective of the social change and technological development of the city of Tokyo. This exhibition pursues to represent these depictions through numerous drawings, models and images. How did the characteristics of the real city inspire the direction of fiction? How did these fictions and their characters present us with a new hybrid reality, now multilayered to the real city?

This exhibition does focus on Japanese manga, animation, games, and SFX films (tokusatsu), but through them it also portrays the city of Tokyo, already iconic in a lot of people's mind. It hopes to delve into the meaning and possibilities for Japan's animation, manga and its gaming culture, as they have become tourism drawcards and created what for many enthusiasts is a "sacred pilgrimage" when visiting Japan.



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Illustration by Yoshinari Yoh  
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## Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2020

Achi Village (Nagano Pref.) and Tokyo / August and late September 2020 onward

<https://www.shortshorts.org/2020/index-en.php>

This year marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, which is an international short film festival accredited by the Academy Awards. The festival draws attention to short films which deliver important messages. As part of the project, aesthetic sensibilities from overseas, as well as Japan's unique sense of beauty such as wabi-sabi (the philosophy of a perfectly imperfect life) and iki (aesthetics) will be explored. The SSFF & ASIA 2020 in ACHI, held in the Achi Village of Nagano Prefecture, will present short films themed around the beauty of the world, including the beauty of Japan. The website will be available in Japanese and English, and some of the films will be distributed online.]



Leaflet of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2020



Ceremony of the festival

*Future is MINE – AINU MY VOICE*  
directed by Tomida Daichi (specially  
presented at the SSFF & ASIA 2020 in  
ACHI for the Japan Cultural Expo)

## Picturesque Japan: Japanese Landscape as Seen by the World

National Film Archive of Japan, etc. / Starts October 2020

<https://www.nfaj.go.jp/english/exhibition/unesco2020/>

Silent films housed by the British Film Institute on Japanese landscapes and cultures in the Meiji and Taisho eras, filmed by foreign visitors to Japan, will be presented with live music and lectures. The program will showcase historical footage of famous sites in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, and Yokohama, showing festivals and scenes of daily life which appear like moving postcards and captured the imagination of people from overseas at the time. This program will also revive the lost landscapes and culture on the screen, calling attention to the importance of video and to each of the local areas in Japan.

## Virtual Guide - NAKED SAMURAI & NINJA

Nijo-jo Castle (Kyoto Pref.) and online / October 14 – December 17, 2020

<https://event.naked.works/nijojo-summer2020/en/>

In the current environment, the new way of sightseeing involves not only visiting in person, but being able to access and enjoy tourism from anywhere in the world. With a new event model combining the physical and online, the program will deliver the appeal of Japan and will aim to influence the audience to want to visit Japan one day. This autumn, the Japanese company Naked, Inc. will present the world heritage of Nijo-jo Castle with interactive educational content to explain the history of the castle. The physical part of the program involves visitors protecting the castle as ‘samurai’, while online participants will be able to search for information on the castle as ‘ninjas’. The online program can be purchased by people overseas as well. This special project with popular attractions of samurai and ninja will introduce Japan’s appeal and rich history, to people in Japan and beyond.



VR goggles (image)

AR, VR, sound, and CG direction



© 2020 NAKED, INC.



## Inclusive Society and Coexistence of Cultures

### Appreciating Ainu Culture Project:

#### “The Ainu Together, Together with the Ainu”

Sapporo area (Hokkaido Pref.) / November 2020 (TBC)

<https://ainu-upopoy.jp/en/>

*“Irankarapte (‘Hello’ in the Ainu language)!”* A project to highlight the culture of the indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido will be celebrated in 2020 at the National Ainu Museum and Park (also called Upopoy), which opened in July, and at other locations around Sapporo City. As the title suggests, it will promote the Ainu and various people joining together for the future. This large-scale project will introduce the Ainu culture to Japan and beyond to achieve an inclusive and sustainable society.



## Japan Cultural Expo – Disabled People’s Arts and Culture Festival

Borderless Art Museum NO-MA in Omihachiman City (Shiga Pref.), etc. /

April 1 (Wed), 2020 – March 31 (Wed), 2021

**Other regions in April 2020 to March 2021 include:**

Kyushu (Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Pref.), Tokai and Hokuriku (Joetsu City, Niigata Pref.),

Chugoku and Shikoku (Kurayoshi City, Tottori Pref.), Hokkaido (Iwamizawa City)

<https://artbrut-creation-nippon.jp/>

Culture Festival will be held to spread the idea of “Humanity and Nature in Japan” both within the country and overseas from the perspectives of people with disabilities. The art expressions of disabled people as well as their attitude to life living with disabilities show a strong sense of love and appreciation that the Japanese have had for natural colors and sounds of the changing seasons ever since the Jomon period. This festival will be held in seven different locations in Japan from 2020 to 2021. It will also be distributed online on the official website for everyone in Japan and beyond can enjoy. For details, please see the website.



Art Brut Exhibition: *Humanity and Nature in Japan*



*Iwami Kagura*

(Iwami Welfare Society Performing Arts Club)



Toya, Kiyoshi. *Cities without People*. Around 1994.

Photo by Onishi Nobuo



KIMURA Yusuke "Statue of Buddha" 2001

# Culture and Art Hub Creation Project for Persons with Disabilities – DANCE DRAMA “Breakthrough Journey”

International Communication Center for Persons with Disabilities (BiG-i, Osaka Pref.) /

January 30-31 (Sat-Sun), 2021

<https://www.big-i.jp/contents/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/dancedrama2020/>

The project aims to promote the creation of environments for everyone to enjoy cultural and art activities, with the support of the International Communication Center for Persons with Disabilities (also known as BiG-i). BiG-i will provide accessible facilities, know-how on creating art and cultural activities for all, and the means to interact with a global exchange network of disabled people. As part of the project, leading choreographers from Japan and Asia, professional dancers, and other dancers with disabilities will collaborate to deliver a large-scale dance program based on Japan’s nature and traditional culture. Through such activities, the project aims to achieve in creating a global art and cultural base for disabled peoples, as well as an inclusive society. For details, please see the website and the Facebook page.



Promotional image for DANCE DRAMA



Photo by Ryohei Tomita  
Courtesy of The Nippon Foundation  
DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS



Protional image for DANCE DRAMA