



KYOTO
NATIONAL
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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014

Special Exhibition

Masterpieces of Kōsan-ji Temple

Feature Exhibition

Momoyama: The Age of Hideyoshi

Special Exhibition

Masterpieces of Kōsan-ji Temple ▶ October 7–November 24, 2014

Commemorating the Restoration of the National Treasure *Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans*

Among the most beloved and recognizable of all Japanese artworks is the delightful four-volume set *Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans* (Chōjū giga), owned by the temple of Kōsan-ji (also known as Kōzan-ji). This National Treasure—frequently referenced as being the first example of manga (Japanese comics)—underwent extensive conservation between 2009 and 2013 under the auspices of the Asahi Shimbun Foundation. In addition to refreshing and stabilizing the scrolls, this conservation process revealed significant new information about the third scroll: the second half of the scroll in its existing form was originally mounted on the back of the first half of the scroll. The current arrangement in which the first half and second half are mounted side by side is the result of a later remounting.

The ancient temple of Kōsan-ji was established by Myōe (1173–1232), a Kamakura-period priest of the Kegon sect and one of the most famous figures in Japanese Buddhism. Myōe was admired for a wide range of cultural, literary, and religious activities. In addition to his scholarly achievements, he also produced *Dream Diary* (Yume no ki) and commissioned the set of handscrolls *Legends of the Kegon Sect* (also known as *Illustrated Biographies of the Kegon Sect Patriarchs*) as a memorial to the Silla Korean priests Uisang (J: Gishō, 625–702) and Weonhyo (J: Gangyō, 617–686).

This exhibition brings together all four volumes of the newly conserved *Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans* along with a rich assortment of the most famous treasures from Myōe's temple of Kōsan-ji.



Feature Exhibition

Momoyama: The Age of Hideyoshi ▶ October 15–November 16, 2014

2F-1 Heisei Chishinkan

Kyoto has been a bustling center of Japanese culture since the beginning of the Heian period (794–1185). Evidence of its long and storied history can be found in many places around this ancient capital, including in and around the Kyoto National Museum. The massive stone wall girding the west side of the museum was once part of Hōkō-ji, a temple for which the ruler Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598) commissioned a colossal Great Buddha statue, even larger than those that still stand today in Nara and Kamakura. Surviving parts of Hōkō-ji as well as the Toyotomi family memorial, Toyokuni Shrine, are still located on the northwest side of the museum.

This exhibition acknowledges the close relationship between the Kyoto National Museum's location and Hideyoshi

through a presentation of objects associated with this historic figure, including portraiture, handwritten letters, and elaborate costumes. This assemblage of works, combining art and history, should provide deeper understanding of Hideyoshi, not only as a ruler with a grandiose vision, but also as a devoted parent and family man.



Important Cultural Property
Jinbaori Surcoat with Bird and Animal Designs
Kōdai-ji Temple, Kyoto



Important Cultural Property
Katana (long sword) blade remade from a naginata
known as Honebami Tōshirō
Toyokuni Shrine, Kyoto
On view 1F-5, Metalwork



Important Cultural Property
Portrait of Toyotomi Hideyoshi
Saikyō-ji Temple, Shiga



National Treasure Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans, detail (Kōsan-ji Temple, Kyoto, on view 11/5–11/24)

Lacquer-ware

Japanese Export Lacquers: *Nanban* and *Kōmō* Wares

November 26, 2014–January 12, 2015

1F-6 Heisei Chishinkan

During the Momoyama period (1573–1615), Catholic missionaries and traders arriving in Japan on Spanish and Portuguese ships became captivated by the country's durable but exquisite lacquers, which they commissioned for church furnishings as well as for commercial trade goods. These export lacquerwares often had dense patterns covering their surfaces, executed in simple *hiramakie* (smooth *makie* patterns made by sprinkling gold and other metallic powders into wet lacquer) and mother-of-pearl inlay. In reference to their *nanban* ("southern barbarian," a term meaning *foreigner*) clientele, these works became known as *nanban* lacquers.

Later in the Edo period (1615–1868), Japan closed itself off from almost all foreign commerce, but it did allow the Dutch to trade in Japan, albeit under highly restrictive conditions. The new styles made for these fairheaded European clients were called *kōmō* ("red-haired") lacquers and featured high-relief *takamakie* patterns on black lacquered backgrounds.



Folding Lectern with IHS Insignia and Linked Hexagrams in *Makie* and Mother-of-Pearl Inlay
Kyoto National Museum

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

Momoyama: The Age of Hideyoshi

October 15–November 16, 2014

Illustrated Handscrolls

Otogi Zōshi: Illustrated Stories

November 18–December 23, 2014

2F-2 Buddhist Paintings

Masterworks of Esoteric Buddhist Painting

October 15–November 16, 2014

Engi-e: Illustrated Legends of Temples and Shrines

November 18–December 23, 2014

2F-3 Medieval Paintings

Transcendent Beauty: Colorful Bird-and-Flower Painting

October 15–November 16, 2014

Elegant Pursuits of the Chinese Literati

November 18–December 23, 2014

2F-4 Momoyama–Edo Paintings

Master Painters of the Momoyama Period

October 15–November 16, 2014

Ike no Taiga: Master of Nanga Painting

November 18–December 23, 2014



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**2F-5
Chinese Paintings**

Ming and Qing Paintings in Kyoto

October 15–November 16, 2014

Modern Chinese Painting

November 18–December 23, 2014

1F-1 Sculpture

Heian and Kamakura Sculpture from Kyoto

September 13–December 23, 2014

1F-2 Illustrated Handscrolls

The Faith and Aesthetics of the Aristocracy

October 15–November 16, 2014

Feature Exhibition

Swords from the Naga Fujikazu Collection I

November 18–December 21, 2014

1F-3 Calligraphy

Decorative Elegance: Calligraphy Papers

October 15–November 16, 2014

Calligraphy by Eminent Priests

November 18–December 23, 2014

1F-4 Textiles and Costumes

Shinto and Buddhist Textiles

October 21–November 16, 2014

Luxurious Imported Textiles:

Buddhist Robes and *Meibutsugire*

November 19–December 23, 2014

1F-5 Metalwork

Hideyoshi's Favorite Swordsmiths:

Yoshimitsu, Masamune, and Yoshihiro

October 15–November 16, 2014

Swords from the Naga Fujikazu Collection II

November 18, 2014–January 12, 2015

1F-6 Lacquerware

Kōdai-ji *Makie* Lacquer: Gems of Momoyama Culture

October 21–November 24, 2014

Japanese Export Lacquers: *Nanban* and *Kōmō* Wares

November 26, 2014–January 12, 2015

Upcoming Exhibitions

Special Feature

An Ancient Temple of the San'in Region:

The Treasures of Gakuen-ji Temple in Shimane

January 2–February 15, 2015

Special Feature

***Hina Matsuri* and Japanese Dolls**

February 21–April 7, 2015

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+)

*These fees are for admission to the Collections Galleries only.
Special Exhibitions require separate admission fees, which include admission to the Collections Galleries.

HOURS

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

*During the special exhibition, these hours are extended until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday–Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, and until 8:00 p.m. on Fridays. Admission ends thirty minutes before closing time.

CLOSED ON MONDAY

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

*The Museum will be closed December 24 (Wed.) to January 1 (Thu.), 2015.

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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