



KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 159

Special Exhibition
Tōfuku-ji
Monumental Zen Temple of Kyoto



NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023

Special Exhibition
Tōfuku-ji
 Monumental Zen Temple of Kyoto

October 7–December 3, 2023, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

Famed for its spring verdure and autumn foliage, Tōfuku-ji is one of Kyoto's most important Zen temples. It was established during the early Kamakura period on order of the imperial regent and advisor Kujō Michiie (1193–1252). Michiie entrusted the founding to Enni (Shōichi Kokushi, 1202–1280), a priest who had previously traveled to China to study Zen (Ch: Chan) Buddhism. The name "Tōfuku-ji" was taken from the first character of Tōdai-ji and the second character of Kōfuku-ji, both grand, ancient temples in Nara. Tōfuku-ji is especially known for its expansive temple precincts, boasting an array of colossal structures dating back as far as the medieval period.

This exhibition offers the rare opportunity to view a large number of Tōfuku-ji's greatest treasures in a single venue. Notably, the legendary Buddhist painter Minchō's *Five Hundred Arhats*, a set of originally fifty hanging scrolls, is being displayed in its entirety for the first time since its multiyear conservation was completed. Many of the precious cultural properties from Tōfuku-ji in this exhibition somehow survived the fires and destruction of the Ōnin War of 1467–77. These include masterpieces of Buddhist sculpture, painting, and calligraphy befitting the monumental scale of this monastic complex.

Tōfuku-ji's history itself exemplifies the cosmopolitan culture of Zen Buddhism that blossomed through exchanges with the rest of Asia. In exploring this temple's significance within Japanese culture, the exhibition illuminates Tōfuku-ji's enduring appeal from its founding through the present.

(By Mori Michihiko, Associate Curator of Japanese Medieval Painting;
 translation by Melissa M. Rinne and Chloe Pearce)



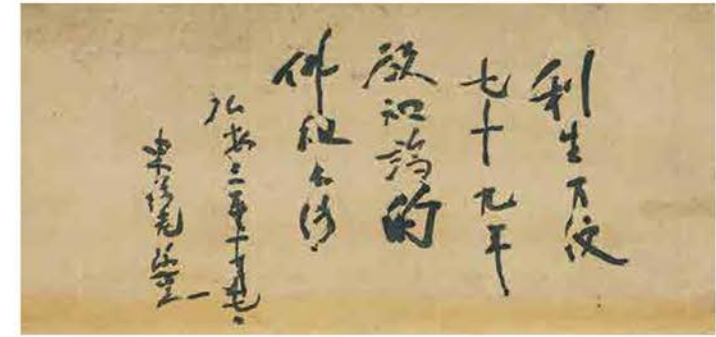
Sanmon (Main Gate, National Treasure)



Tsūtenkyō Bridge



Important Cultural Property
Enni
 Inscription by Enni (1202–1280)
 Hanging scroll; ink and colors on silk
 Manju-ji Temple, Kyoto, on view November 7–December 3, 2023



Important Cultural Property
Death Verse
 By Enni (1202–1280)
 Hanging scroll; ink on paper
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto, on view November 7–December 3, 2023



National Treasure
Imperial Readings of the Taiping Era (Ch: Taiping yulan)
 Book; woodblock-printed ink on paper
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto, this book on view October 7–November 5, 2023



Buddha's Hand
 From the former principal image of Tōfuku-ji Temple
 Wood with lacquer and gold foil
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto



Important Cultural Property
Bodhidharma, Liu Haichen, and Li Tieguai
 By Kissan Minchō (1352–1431)
 Three hanging scrolls; ink and colors on paper
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto, November 7–December 3, 2023



Important Cultural Property
The Five Hundred Arhats, No. 40
 By Kissan Minchō (1352–1431)
 Hanging scroll; ink and colors on silk
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto
 No. 40 on view November 21–December 3, 2023



Standing Tamonten (Vaiśravaṇa) from Four Heavenly Kings
 Wood with lacquer, gold foil, and pigments, rock crystal eyes (*gyokugan*)
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto



Important Cultural Property
Tōfuku-ji Temple Precincts
 Inscription by Ryōan Keigo (1425–1514)
 Hanging scroll; ink and light colors on paper
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto, on view November 7–December 3, 2023



National Treasure
Calligraphy Templates for Zen Temple Plaques and Notice Boards
 By Zhang Jizhi (1186–1266)
 Hanging scroll; ink on paper
 Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto, November 14–December 3, 2023

Upcoming Exhibitions

Feature Exhibition

The Enshrinement of Bronzes in the Yayoi Period

January 2–February 4, 2024, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2



Important Art Object
Dōtaku Ritual Bell with
Flowing Water Design
Bronze
Kyoto National Museum

Feature Exhibition

Rulers of the Heavens Celebrating the Year of the Dragon

January 2–February 12, 2024, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Galleries 2F-2, 3, 4



Rising Dragon in Ink
By Gao Qifeng (1889–1933)
Book; ink on paper
Collection by Suma Yakichirō, Gift of Suma Michiaki
Kyoto National Museum

Feature Exhibition on Completion of Conservation

Shinto Sculptures from Izumi Anashi Shrine

January 2–February 25, 2024, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-1



Important Cultural Property
Male and Female Deities (Seated Amenooshihonomimi no Mikoto and Takuhatachihime no Mikoto)
Wood with pigments
Izumi Anashi Shrine, Osaka

Cover: *White-Robed Kannon (Avalokiteśvara)*, detail. By Kissan Minchō. Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property. On view October 7–November 5, 2023. *The Five Hundred Arhats No. 20*, detail. By Kissan Minchō. Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property. No. 20 on view October 24–November 5, 2023. *Standing Two Heavenly Kings* (one of two). Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property. *Tōfuku-ji Temple Precincts*, detail. Inscription by Ryōan Keigo. Tōfuku-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property. On view November 7–December 3, 2023.

ADMISSION

October 7–December 3, 2023:*

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 junior high school students and other youths age 0–15, 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 20–October 5, 2023:

December 5–24, 2023:

Admission to the Museum Gardens and Outdoor Exhibits

Adult ¥300 Univ. Student ¥150

Admission is free for high school age and other youths age 0–17, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caregiver, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show ID. Guide booklet is provided with adult admission only.

HOURS

October 7–December 3, 2023:

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

September 20–October 5, 2023:

December 5–24, 2023:

9:30 am– 5:00 pm (Entrance until 4:30 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 October 6, and December 25, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

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 Kyoto-kawaramachi Station. Walk east over the bridge to the Keihan Railway Gion-shijo Station. Take Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the Museum.



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