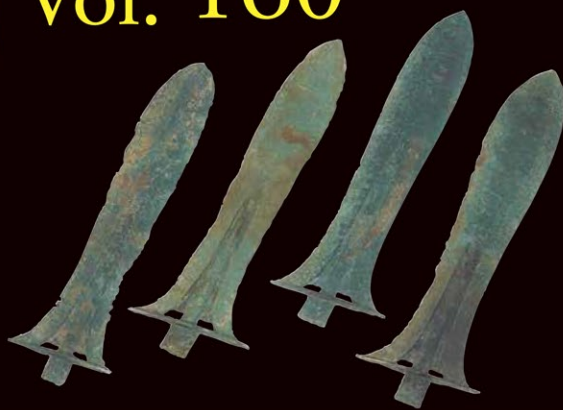


JANUARY TO MARCH 2024

NEWSLETTER

KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 160



Feature Exhibitions

Rulers of the Heavens
Celebrating the Year of the Dragon

The Sacred Function
of Bronzes in the Yayoi Period

Shinto Sculptures
from Izumi Anashi Shrine

Celebrating the
Japanese Doll Festival
Kokin bina Dolls from Edo and Kansai



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

This annual New Year's exhibition celebrates the zodiac animal of 2024, the dragon. Although the dragon is the only mythical creature among the twelve zodiac signs, in the past many people believed in dragons and celebrated them as auspicious animals that might actually appear on rare occasions.

Precisely because artists could not observe actual dragons themselves, they used their imaginations to depict these mythical beasts in various representations, be they powerful, elegant, or whimsical. What is your favorite type of dragon in this exhibition?

(By Mizutani Aki, Curator of Education; translation by Melissa M. Rinne and Chloe Pearce)



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



Dragon Robe
Silk tapestry weave
Nishida Zenzō Collection
Kyoto National Museum



Portable Sewing Box with Dragons, Birds, and Flowers
Wood with *makie* (sprinkled metallic powder) and mother-of-pearl inlay
Kyoto National Museum

Feature Exhibition Marking the Completion of Conservation Shinto Sculptures from Izumi Anashi Shrine

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

Izumi Anashi Shrine, located in the city of Izumiotsu, Osaka, is said to have been established during the mid-seventh century. The shrine long held considerable influence within the region and is listed as an official shrine in the text *Procedures of the Engi Era (Engi shiki)* of 927. Izumi Anashi Shrine houses a total of eighty-three statues of Shinto deities. Of these, eighty were carved during the Heian (794–1185) and Kamakura (1185–1333) periods; they were later collectively designated as an Important Cultural Property. Over time, the statues began to deteriorate from insect damage and pigment loss. In response, the Sumitomo Foundation generously supported the conservation of these wooden sculptures. The conservation process began in 2019 and was finalized four years later. To celebrate the completion of this project, the Kyoto National Museum is exhibiting twenty six of these statues. We hope that you enjoy the newly revitalized beauty of these deity sculptures from Izumi Anashi Shrine.

(By Takeshita Mayuko, Curator of Sculpture; translation by Melissa M. Rinne and Chloe Pearce)



Important Cultural Property
Seated Takuhatachijihime no Mikoto
Wood with pigments and cut gold foil
Izumi Anashi Shrine, Osaka

Feature Exhibition

The Sacred Function of Bronzes in the Yayoi Period

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

The technologies needed to work with iron and bronze were introduced to the Japanese archipelago almost simultaneously during the Yayoi period (ca. 5th c. BCE–ca. 3rd c. CE). While iron was mainly used for functional purposes such as tools, bronze was reserved for ritual objects. Yayoi culture developed a wide range of bronze bells, swords, spears, axes, and other ritual wares, which are predominantly found in the Kinki and Kyushu regions.

While bronze objects originated on the mainland, they underwent unique transformations within Japan, eventually evolving into implements essential for rituals. This exhibition focuses on the use of bronze objects in sacred rituals, tracing the development of the distinctive bronze culture of the Yayoi period.

(By Furuya Takeshi, Curator of Archaeology; translation by Melissa M. Rinne and Chloe Pearce)

Important Art Object
Ceremonial Bell (*Dōtaku*) with Flowing Water Design
Excavated in Kyoto prefecture
Bronze
Kyoto National Museum



Important Cultural Property
Halberds
Excavated from Momijigaoka site, Fukuoka
Bronze
Kyoto National Museum

Museum Collection Exhibitions in The Collection Galleries

3F-1 Ceramics

Ceramics of Japan and East Asia

January 2–March 17, 2024

(Closed March 19–24, 2024)

3F-2 Archaeological Relics

Prayers from the Heian Period: Sutra
Mounds and Sutra Containers

January 2–March 17, 2024

(Closed March 19–24, 2024)

2F-1 Illustrated Handscrolls

Engi-e: Edo-Period Handscrolls of Temple
and Shrine Legends I

January 2–February 12, 2024

Engi-e: Edo-Period Handscrolls of Temple
and Shrine Legends II

February 14–March 24, 2024

2F-2 Buddhist Paintings

Feature Exhibition

Rulers of the Heavens: Celebrating the
Year of the Dragon

January 2–February 12, 2024

Parinirvāṇa: Picturing the Death of the
Buddha

February 14–March 24, 2024

2F-3 Medieval Paintings

Feature Exhibition

Rulers of the Heavens: Celebrating the
Year of the Dragon

January 2–February 12, 2024

Zen Figure Painting

February 14–March 24, 2024

2F-4 Momoyama-Edo Paintings

Feature Exhibition

Rulers of the Heavens: Celebrating the
Year of the Dragon

January 2–February 12, 2024

Maruyama Ōkyo, in Commemoration of
his 290th Anniversary

February 14–March 24, 2024

2F-5 Chinese Paintings

Remembering Su Shi

January 2–February 12, 2024

Five Hundred Arhats of the Late Ming
Dynasty

February 14–March 24, 2024

Feature Exhibition

Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival: *Kokin bina* Dolls from Edo and Kansai

February 10–March 24, 2024, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

The Kyoto National Museum's annual exhibition of Japanese dolls displayed for the Doll Festival (*Hina Matsuri*) features a variety of Kyoto dolls as well as the lavish palace structures they were often displayed on in the Kansai region. This year's exhibition will focus in particular on *Kokin bina*, the precursor of today's *hina* dolls, and will look at how their popularity spread from Edo (Tokyo) to Kyoto and Osaka.

(By Yamakawa Aki, Deputy Chief Curator; translation by Melissa M. Rinne and Chloe Pearce)



Hina Dolls, Edo Style *Kokin bina* Type, detail
By Hara Shūgetsu II
Wood with shell white (*gofun*), ink, silk, etc.

Museum Collection Exhibitions in
The Collection Galleries

1F-1 Sculpture

Feature Exhibition Marking the Completion of Conservation

Shinto Sculptures from Izumi Anashi Shrine

January 2–February 25, 2024

Sculpture of the Heian Period

January 2–March 24, 2024

1F-2

Feature Exhibition

The Sacred Function of Bronzes in the Yayoi Period

January 2–February 4, 2024

Feature Exhibition

Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival:

Kokin bina Dolls from Edo and Kansai

February 10–March 24, 2024

(Closed February 6–9, 2024)

1F-3 Calligraphy

Decorated Sutras: Ornamenting the Buddha's Words

January 2–February 4, 2024

Stories of Kyoto National Museum: 130 Years of History

February 6–March 17, 2024

(Closed March 19–24, 2024)

1F-4 Textiles and Costume

The Beauty and Technique of Woven Textiles

January 2–February 12, 2024

The Reuse of Textiles

February 15–March 17, 2024

(Closed February 14, March 19–24, 2024)

1F-5 Metalwork

Kettles for Tea

January 2–February 4, 2024

Famous Swords of the Ancient Provinces of

Bizen, Bicchū, and Bingo

February 7–March 24, 2024

(Closed February 6, 2023)

1F-6 Lacquerware

Writing Utensils: Adorning Cultivated Lifestyles

January 2–February 4, 2024

Famous Swords of the Ancient Provinces of

Bizen, Bicchū, and Bingo

February 7–March 24, 2024

(Closed February 6, 2023)

**Upcoming
Exhibition**

Special Exhibition

**The Legend of Sesshū
Birth of a Master Painter**

April 13–May 26, 2024

Cover: *Dragon and Tigers*, detail. By Kano Sanraku (1559–1635). Myōshin-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property. On view January 2–February 12, 2024, gallery 2F-3. *Seated Amenooshihomimi no Mikoto*. Izumi Anashi Shrine, Osaka. Important Cultural Property. On view January 2–February 25, 2024, gallery 1F-1. *Halberds*. Excavated from Momijigaoka site, Fukuoka. Kyoto National Museum. Important Cultural Property. On view January 2–February 4, 2024, gallery 1F-2. *Hina Dolls, Edo Style Kokin bina Type*, detail. By Hara Shūgetsu II. On view February 10–March 24, 2024, gallery 1F-2.

ADMISSION

January 2–March 24, 2024:

Admission to the Museum Collections Galleries

Adult ¥700 Univ. Student ¥350

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.

December 5–24, 2023:

March 26–April 11, 2024:

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

January 2–March 24, 2024:

Tue., Wed., Thu., Sat. and Sun.

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

Fri.

9:30 am–7:00 pm (Entrance until 6:30 pm)

December 5–24, 2023:

March 26–April 11, 2024:

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

CLOSED ON MONDAYS

*The Museum will be closed on December 25, 2023–January 1, 2024.

*The Museum will be open on Monday, January 8 and February 12, and closed on Tuesday, January 9 and February 13, 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. 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 Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the Museum.



KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

527 Chaya-cho, Higashiyama-ku

Kyoto, Japan 605-0931

Tel. (075) 525-2473

<https://www.kyohaku.go.jp/>

