



## The Power of Ink - Kano School Partition Paintings

[Part I] March 10 (Saturday) – April 25 (Wednesday), 2018

[Part II] April 27 (Friday) – June 24 (Sunday), 2018

Kankai Pavilion (Traditional East Asian Art)



[1] *Tiger in a bamboo grove*, Kano Eitoku, hanging scroll  
Momoyama period (Part II)

The Kano was the largest school of painting in Japanese history. It dominated Japanese painting for 400 years, from the Muromachi era to the Edo era. In the Hara Rokuro Collection is a series of hanging scroll paintings by Kano school artists collectively referred to as *Paintings used for wallpaper and fusuma (Japanese sliding door) at Nikko-in Mi'idera Temple*. These works were originally partition paintings (*shohekiga*) that decorated the Nikko-in guest hall at Mi'idera (Onjoji) Temple in Shiga prefecture, the site of the Mii no Bansho (evening bell at Mi'idera Temple), one of the famed Eight Views of Omi (*Omi Hakkei*).

We hope you will enjoy *Landscape with horses* by Eitoku Kano and other selected partition paintings by the Kano school in which the beauty and expressive power of ink are on full display.

### ■ Hara Rokuro and Mi'idera Temple

Hara Rokuro acquired the Nikko-in guest hall and moved it to his estate in Gotenyama (present-day Kitashinagawa in Shinagawa ward, Tokyo) in 1892. The partition paintings in the guest hall were converted to hanging scrolls and folding screens at that time. Early in the Showa era this building was donated and relocated to Gokokuji temple (in Bunkyo ward, Tokyo) where its name was changed to Gekko-den. This building has now been designated an Important Cultural Property.

### ■ Tiger

The tiger was often depicted in Japanese art as an auspicious symbol for wealth, status and fecundity. Representations of tigers were placed at entrances to impress visitors. Eitoku Kano (1543-90), believed to be the painter of this image, established the gorgeous, monumental style of Momoyama-period painting. Few of his paintings have survived the flames of war, making this one all the more precious.

### ■ Dragon among clouds

The dragon, one of the Eight Legions (guardians of the Buddhist teachings), was thought to have the power to make clouds appear and rain to fall. For this reason, many paintings were made featuring the dragon-among-clouds motif. The portrayal of the landscape is noted for its conspicuous use of empty space and painterly touches. With respect to its unique brushwork and composition, one can see many characteristics that are shared with *Landscape with horses*.



[2] *Dragon among clouds*, Kano school,  
pair of hanging scroll, Momoyama-Edo  
period (Part I)



[3] *Wild horses and horsemen*, Kano school,  
four hanging scrolls Momoyama-Edo period  
(Part II)

### ■ *Landscape with horses*

This is one of two masterpieces in the Hara Rokuro Collection that takes as their subject wild horses running through a field (each consisting of four scrolls). Here, the forms are captured using delicate lines and light sumi ink gradations. Though the ink is light in tone, the horses, each with a different coat of fur, are depicted with a sense of great dynamism.

### Featured Works

**[Part I & II] Traditional Art:** *Landscape of Yodo River*, Maruyama Okyo, Edo period / Tier of boxes decorated with design of squirrels in vine scrolls, Edo - Meiji period

**Contemporary Art:** David Smith, *Tri-Construction*, 1941 and others

**[Part I]** *Landscape based on an old Chinese anecdote "Assembly at the Orchid Pavilion"*, Kano school, Momoyama-Edo period / *Tiger in a bamboo grove*, Kano Eitoku, Momoyama period / *Dragon among clouds*, Kano school, Momoyama-Edo period

**[Part II]** *Wild horses and horsemen*, Kano school, Momoyama-Edo period / *Landscape based on an old Chinese anecdote "Assembly at the Orchid Pavilion"*, Kano school, Momoyama-Edo period / *Tiger in a bamboo grove*, Kano Eitoku, Momoyama period

### ■ Hara Rokuro and the Kankai Pavilion



[4] Installation view of Kankai Pavilion

The Kankai Pavilion was built in 2008 as part of an expansion of Hara Museum's annex, Hara Museum ARC, that took place to mark the 20th anniversary of its founding in 1988. Its purpose is to provide a showcase for the Hara Rokuro Collection of traditional East Asian art. At present, about 120 works comprise the collection, including a number of works designated National Treasure or Important Cultural Property.

Rokuro Hara (1842-1933) was a prominent Meiji industrialist and the great-grandfather of the present Hara Museum director Toshio Hara. He acquired a great number of artworks that now comprise the Hara

Rokuro Collection. The Kankai Pavilion has made possible the regular display of the collection, making Hara Museum ARC a unique institution that functions both as a museum of contemporary art and a venue for the display of traditional Japanese art with from a unique point of view.

The design of the Kankai Pavilion (by Arata Isozaki who also designed Hara Museum ARC) incorporates features of the Japanese *shoin* (drawing room). It thus offers the viewer a new spatial experience that lies at the intersection between the traditional and the modern.

This year is the 30th anniversary of Hara Museum ARC and the 10th anniversary of the Kankai Pavilion. To mark these two milestones, *My Favorites: Toshio Hara Selects from the Hara Museum Collection*, an exhibition currently on at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, and *Art on the Road: Three Traveling Exhibitions from the Hara Museum*, a concurrent exhibition in Hara Museum ARC's contemporary art galleries, are being presented to offer visitors a rare chance to look back over the past activities of both venues and their respective trajectories.

### Hara Museum ARC

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<http://www.art-it.asia/u/HaraMuseum> (blog) <http://twitter.com/HaraMuseumARC> (Twitter)

**Hours:** 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (last entry at 4:00 pm)

**Closed:** Thursdays (except March 29 and May 3) \*Subject to temporary closure in the event of severe weather.

**Admission:** General 1,100 yen, Students 700 yen (high school and university) or 500 yen (elementary and junior high), Free for Hara Museum members, 10% discount for a group of 20 or more, Combination ticket for Hara Museum ARC and Ikaho Green

Bokujo (except during Golden Week): General 1,800 yen; Students 1,500 yen (high school and university) or 1,400 yen (junior high), 800 yen (elementary), half price for those over 70, discount for groups of 20 or more

\*Visitors to the Kankai Pavilion can view the on-going exhibition in the contemporary art galleries as well.

\*Children must be accompanied by an adult.

\*For residents of Gunma Prefecture: Free admission for elementary and junior high school children every Saturday during the school term/200-yen-discount on admission for up to five persons upon presentation of the Guchoki Passport.

**Directions:** By train: Take the Joetsu Shinkansen to Takasaki, change to the Joetsu Line, and disembark at Shibukawa. From Shibukawa, ARC is 10 minutes away by taxi or 15 minutes by bus (take the Ikaho Onsen bus to "Green Bokujo Mae"). By car: 8 kilometers (about 15 minutes) from the Kan-etsu Expressway Shibukawa Ikaho Interchange (in the direction of Ikaho Onsen).

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