



HARA MUSEUM ARC

Press Release 2013/2/20

Elegant Pastimes – Selections from the Hara Rokuro Collection

March 16 (Saturday) – April 24 (Wednesday), 2013

Kankai Pavilion (Traditional East Asian Art)

Featured in this exhibition are selections of calligraphy and painting from the Hara Rokuro Collection that embody *bunga*, the quality of refinement and elegance found in classical poetry and literature. These include a series of four hanging scrolls, *Landscape of Four Seasons* by Xu Lin (Ming dynasty), one of which depicts the story of Wang Xizhi, the Sage of Calligraphy, accompanied by a seven-character poem on the state of mind of a hermit. *Assembly at the Orchid Pavilion*, a painting in the style of the Kano school, shows Wang Xizhi's famed poetry gathering of distinguished literati at the Orchid Pavilion. *Reiso-dai* is a collection of model handwriting. Such collections, highly popular during the Edo period, consisted of fragments of sutras and poetry (*kohitsu*) dating from before the early-modern period) assembled together in the form of hanging scrolls or folding books. We hope visitors will take this opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of *bunga* through these and other early-modern masterworks from the Hara Rokuro Collection.

[Featured Works] Traditional Art: *Landscape based on an old Chinese anecdote "Assembly at the Orchid Pavilion"* (paintings used for wallpaper and fusuma at Nikko-in Mi'idera temple), attributed to Kano school, four hanging scrolls, Momoyama – Edo period / *Landscape of four seasons*, XuLin, four hanging scrolls, Ming dynasty / *Book of model handwriting, called "Reiso-dai"*, Nara – Muromachi period and others Contemporary Art: Jae-Eun Choi, *Homage to Mozart*, 1988 / Anish Kapoor, *Void*, 1992 and others



From the left: *Landscape based on an old Chinese anecdote "Assembly at the Orchid Pavilion"*(paintings used for wallpaper and fusuma at Nikko-in Mi'idera temple), attributed to Kano school, four hanging scrolls, Momoyama – Edo period / *Wang Xizhi watching a goose* (part of a set of *Landscape of four seasons*), XuLin, Ming dynasty

Exhibition Details

Title: *Elegant Pastimes – Selections from the Hara Rokuro Collection*

Dates: March 16 (Saturday) – April 24 (Wednesday), 2013

Place: Hara Museum ARC (2855-1, Kanai, Shibukawa-shi, Gunma 377-0027) Tel: 0279-24-6585

Organized by: Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

<http://www.haramuseum.or.jp> (official website) <http://mobile.haramuseum.or.jp> (mobile site)

<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 28 and May 2) *Closed temporarily in the event of severe weather.

Admission: General (over 12) 1,000 yen, Children (over 3) 500 yen; 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, Children 900 yen *Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Getting There: 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).

[Upcoming Exhibition]

Flowers, Birds and Animals – Selections from the Hara Rokuro Collection

April 26 (Friday) – May 29 (Wednesday), 2013

Kankai Pavilion (Traditional East Asian Art)

Bird-and-Flower painting is a genre that originated in China but was widely adopted throughout East Asia. It included not only bird and flower motifs, but also insects and animals. Brought to Japan by Zen monks, it was widely adopted during the Momoyama period by the Kano and Hasegawa schools in paintings that decorated the interiors of large residences. The early-modern era saw dramatic development of the genre within idealized representations of the four seasons. The detailed realism introduced by the Chinese painter Shen Nanpin was actively adopted during the 18th century.

At the heart of this exhibition are monochrome-ink paintings in the style of the Kano school which once adorned the Nikko-in Guest Hall at Mi'idera Temple and hanging scrolls done in saturated colors by Shen Nanpin. Selected works of contemporary art share the space to highlight the contrasting techniques and perspectives used in traditional and contemporary treatments of the same motifs. We invite you to view this genre of art which has delighted viewers through the ages.

[Featured Works] Traditional Art: *Tiger in a bamboo grove* (part of paintings used for wallpaper and sliding doors at Nikko-in guest hall in Mi'idera temple), Kano Eitoku, Momoyama period / *Birds and flowers* (part of paintings used for wallpaper and sliding doors at Nikko-in guest hall in Mi'idera temple,) attributed to Kano school, Momoyama - Edo period / *A pair of cranes and an old pine tree*, Shen Nanping, Qing dynasty and others Contemporary Art: Kazumasa Nagai, *SARU, USAGI*, 1991 / Yoshihiro Suda, *Tessen*, 2001 / Kouichi Tabata, *960 fly*, 2003 / Hiroe Saeki, *Untitled*, 2009 and others



From the left: *A pair of cranes and an old pine tree*, Shen Nanping, Qing dynasty / *Tiger in a bamboo grove* (part of paintings used for wallpaper and sliding doors at Nikko-in guest hall in Mi'idera temple), Kano Eitoku, Momoyama period

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