# A Shout Out for Art from the Center of Japan

Hara Museum ARC Kankai Pavilion Part I: March 16 (Sat.) - June 12 (Wed.), 2024

#### List of Works

See other side for notes regarding works marked by an asterisk (\*). Photography is allowed with the exception of works marked with (\*).

1 Isamu Noguchi Lady Mirror galvanized steel 149.2 x 43.2 x 43.2 cm 1983

2 - 3
Luisa Lambri
Untitled (Plan Libre Series)
#3
Untitled (Plan Libre Series)
#2
photograph
102 x 72 cm each

1997

Robert Mapplethorpe
Lady Lisa Lyon #5
gelatin silver print
48.5 x 38.5 cm
Lady Lisa Lyon #1
Lady Lisa Lyon #4
Lady Lisa Lyon #3
Lady Lisa Lyon #2
gelatin silver print
38.5 x 38.5 cm each
1980-1982

9 \*
Lin Dengke
Fish and weeds
pair of hanging scrolls
ink on paper
Qing dynasty,
dated 1821, China

10 \*
Sumo match
pair of six fold screens
color and ink on paper
Edo period, 19th century

11 \*
Sesson
Portrait of Lie Zi

Portrait of Lie Zi
hanging scroll
ink on paper
Muromachi period,
late 16th century

12 \*
Kano Tan'yu
Avalokitesvara appearing
from the clam
hanging scroll
light color on silk
Edo period,
early 17th century

1 Items on display include one unnumbered work by Yoshihiro Suda.

4-8 9
9
13
Yoshihiro Suda
narcissus
color on wood
14.5 x 33 cm
1999

14
Gan'ku
Hanshan and Shide
hanging scroll
color and ink on silk
Edo period

15 \*
Scene of mournful
assembly at the death of
Buddh
hanging scroll
color on silk
Momoyama period,
16th century

Nagasawa Rosetsu
A flock of sparrows
hanging scroll
color and ink on silk
Edo period,
late 18th century

Jason Teraoka
Neighbor
acrylic, Ink, and glue on
paper
20 x 16 cm each
33 from a set of 88
2006

#### I Guide to Featured Artists and Works

#### 4-8. Robert Mapplethorpe (1946-1989)

Robert Mapplethorpe began doing photography in the early 1970s. In 1977, he exhibited at Documenta in Kassel. He worked with a variety of motifs, ranging from flowers and still lifes to male nudes, celebrity portraits and self-portraits. His style was precise, unadorned and filled with tension. At times, his work on gay subjects caused a scandal. This work from the Hara Museum Collection is one from a series published in the book *Lady Lisa Lion* in 1983. The model, Lisa Lyon, became famous overnight when she won the first World Bodybuilding Championships in 1979. The series was a result of multiple photo sessions that Lisa Lyon and Mapplethorpe engaged in over a two-year period. Lisa Lyon had a body type that was completely different from that found in pornography geared towards men and from that favored by muscle enthusiasts. Mapplethorpe's emphasis was to convey a sense of bodily presence. This was the same effect that he sought after in his sado-masochism photographs of the late 1970s. He held his first retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1988, but died of AIDS the following year.

#### 9. Lin Dengke, Fish and weeds, dated 1821, Qing dynasty

Fish have long been a favorite motif in Chinese painting. Considered auspicious, fish are widely depicted as symbols of wealth, prosperity of one's offspring, success in the civil service examinations and in life. Fish also feature in the tradition of "gyorakuzu," (literally "fish at play"), a popular subject in literati painting in which fish embody the state of boundless freedom. Because of its artless appearance, this work is thought to have been painted not by a professional artist, but by an amateur for his own amusement. Still, it has a style that is conscientious and a generous and joyful expression unfettered by the actual depiction of the fish or its spatial composition.

### 10. Sumo match, Edo period, 19th century

In this folding screen, an outdoor sumo match is underway and an audience is watching it. Wrestler A has grabbed wrestler B's belt and is lifting him off the ground, while Wrestler B has one leg coiled around his opponent's calf and his right arm around his neck trying to keep from being tossed out of the ring. Both are engaged in a fierce battle of attack and offense on the edge of the ring. Some of the people in the audience are riveted by the action, mouths open with excitement, while others, less attentive, hold whispered conversations with their companions. Such theatrical gestures make these people seem alive. The meticulous depiction using bright colors is impressive,  $(\nearrow)$ 

while the fashion sense of the early Edo period is brought to life through the hair styles (so finely drawn as to show individual strands of hair) and the patterns on the kimonos.

#### 11. Sesson, Portrait of Lie Zi, Muromachi period, 16th century

A Daoist master who lived in China during the Warring States Period, Lie Zi was a master of the supernatural arts who could control the wind with his will. He had reached a state in which it was no longer clear if he were riding the wind or was the wind itself. At first glance, the picture looks static, but a closer look shows the beard on Lie Zi's chin and bamboo flowing up and to the right to convey the dynamism of the blowing wind. This feeling of energy is further emphasized by the unique shape of the sleeves and hem of the robe filled with wind. Sesson varies the thickness of the ink to skillfully depict the hermit's shape, while his expression and gaze makes us wonder about the state of his mind. Sesson, whose year of birth is unknown, is thought to have done this work when he was in his late fifties during a sojourn in Odawara and Kamakura. Though a strong admirer of Sesshu (1420–ca.1506), he was a highly individualistic artist who was able to establish his own unique style.

12. Kano Tan'yu, *Avalokitesvara Appearing from the Clam*, Edo period, 17th century In this painting, a clam floats in the ocean from which the Kannon Bosatsu in white robes emerges. Apparently, there was a tradition that combined the clam with the Kannon, or Avalokitesvara the Goddess of Mercy. It was said that the exhalation of the large clam gave rise to a mirage. From this folk belief arose paintings of beautiful women or the Kannon emerging from a clam, as well as paintings based on the legend of the Emperor Wenzong of the Tang dynasty (808–840), who had a liking for clams. One time as he was about to eat one, the Kannon appeared before him. The Kouri ("clam") Kannon is one of the 33 manifestations of the Kannon Bosatsu, who appears in her many forms in response to calls for help.

## 15. Scene of mournful assembly at the death of Buddha, Momoyama period, 16th century

This painting is a colorful depiction of a scene from the Buddhist scripture: the death of Gautama Buddha (the historical Buddha). In the lower half of the image, the Buddha lies on a jeweled dais surrounded by many creatures that include an elephant and a lion. In the upper part, a grieving Maya (Buddha's mother) has descended to Earth on a cloud with the undulating waves of the River Gandak as the backdrop.