

V. Delighting in Tales and Poetry

This exhibition introduces the Murayama Collection through the themes of tales (*monogatari*) and Japanese poetry (*waka*), which have been deeply connected to Japanese art since ancient times. Early Japanese stories and poems have not only been spread through manuscripts and printed books, but they have been pictorialized and cherished in various forms such as illustrated handscrolls (*emaki*), folding screens (*byōbu*), and poem cards (*shikishi*).

Court literary works such as *Tales of Ise* and *The Tale of Genji* as well as folktales have shaped a rich realm of Japanese art through illustrations. Japanese poems have also been appreciated as works of art for the highly decorative papers and the calligraphy used to inscribe them, making them closely tied to painting. Artists have long captured the meaning and content of poems in the form of paintings and portraits of poets. Explore the delicate and rich works of art that convey the beauty of nature and the changes of the seasons.



Poem by Akazome Emon
Ikeda Koson (1803-1868)
Japan, Edo period, 19th century
Hanging scroll
Colors on silk



Playing Cards of Ogura Hyakunin Isshu
(Poems by One Hundred Poets)
Japan, Edo period, 19th century
Colors on paper