

The Dreams of Priest Myōe and Kōsan-ji Temple

This exhibition, *The Dreams of Priest Myōe and Kōsan-ji Temple*, explores the visions of Priest Myōe (1173–1232), the founder of Kōsan-ji, who was a truly unique Buddhist master. During the Kamakura period, Priest Myōe, received land in the mountains of Togano, in northwestern Kyoto, to establish a temple where he could devote himself to study and practice. He was not only an extremely devoted scholar monk, he was also a seeker of the truth. He is known to have cut off his right ear during his practice to prove his devotion and attempted two pilgrimages to India, the birthplace of Shakyamuni Buddha, who he yearned like a father, though he never made it. Most interesting and unprecedented perhaps are the journal of his dreams, which he recorded for nearly forty years, from the age of 19 to 58. Moreover, he had many devoted disciples and his influence continues to this day.

Myōe's *Dream Diary* (J. *Yume no ki*) offers insights not only to the dreams he had in his sleep but to the visions while he meditated and practiced. Reading this voluminous diary is key to deeply understanding Myōe as an individual. Most of this record belongs to Kōsan-ji Temple, though some parts have been dispersed to other collections. Kōsetsu Museum's Murayama Collection has a handscroll of the *Dream Diary*, which covers a month around the New Year of 1204. The connection between Kōsan-ji Temple and Murayama Ryōhei (1850–1933) is one of the hidden themes of this exhibition.

Another highlight of this exhibition includes the National Treasure-designated *Scrolls of Frolicking Animals* (J. *Chōjū giga*), which were completely restored by the generous support of the Asahi Shimbun Foundation. This masterpiece, belonging to Kōsan-ji Temple, represents one of the many wondrous cultural artifacts that were assembled around Master Myōe.

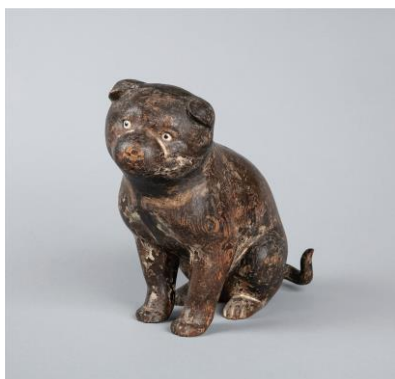
Admission

Adults	¥ 1,300 (¥ 1,100*)
High school and university students	¥ 800 (¥ 600*)
Elementary and junior high school students	¥ 400 (¥ 200*)

*For groups of 20 or more



National Treasure Scroll of Frolicking Animals (J. *Chōjū giga*), Volume 1 Heian period, 12th century



Important Cultural Property Puppy
Kamakura period, 13th century



Important Cultural Property Sacred Deer
Kamakura period, 13th century