

## Paintings of *the Tale of Genji*

through Works Attributed to Tosa Mitsunobu

*The Tale of Genji* by Murasaki Shikibu (n.d.) has been widely copied and cherished by many since its completion. Inspired by this tale, artists from the Heian period to the present have repeatedly painted its richly lyrical episodes in various ways. The cover illustrations of the Kosetsu Museum's *Genji keizu*, the genealogy of characters in *the Tale of Genji*, represent one such example.

According to *Honchō gaji*, a compilation that includes the genealogy of and list of works by the painters of the Tosa school, Tosa Mitsunobu (1434?–1525?) made illustrations for a set of *the Tale of Genji in Fifty-four Booklets*, which court nobles transcribed at a gathering and the Retired Emperor Gokashiwabara calligraphed the title for each chapter. Mitsunobu ascended as the head of the imperial painting bureau in 1469, establishing the authority of the Tosa school and creating a new style that incorporated elements of traditional *yamato-e* and ink paintings. This exhibition explores how *the Tale of Genji in Fifty-four Booklets*, the covers of which *Honchō gaji* credits Mitsunobu for illustrating, and the Kosetsu Museum's *Genji keizu* may have been closely related.

Featured here will be a wide array of paintings from *the Tale of Genji* by Tosa artists, ranging from smaller works such as pictorial albums and fan paintings to larger formats such as screens. These paintings will be examined within the context of works by Tosa Mitsunobu as well as by his contemporaries, who were influenced by the Tosa school. An overview of materials related to Mitsunobu's paintings also helps to contextualize the Kosetsu Museum's *Genji keizu*. We hope that you will enjoy the rich variety of paintings from *the Tale of Genji*, dated from the Muromachi to Edo period, around the fifteenth to nineteenth century.

### Admission

Adults ¥ 1,100 ( ¥ 900\*)

High school and university students ¥ 700 ( ¥ 500\*)

Elementary and junior high school students ¥ 400 ( ¥ 200\*)

\*For groups of 20 or more



Album of *the Tale of Genji Yūgiri* 1  
Tosa Mitsuyoshi (1539-1613)  
Calligraphy by Karasumaru Mitsuhiro (1579-1638), et al  
Momoyama period, dated 1612  
Kuboso Memorial Museum of Arts, Izumi  
【1/30~2/14】



*Genji keizu* (The Genealogy of Characters in *the Tale of Genji*)  
Cover illustration attributed to Tosa Mitsunobu (1434?-1525?)  
Muromachi period, 16th century  
Kosetsu Museum of Art



*Tansu* (Book Cabinet) for *The Tale of Genji*  
with Design of Autumn Plants  
Edo period, 17th century  
Tsurumi University Library