

Treasures from across the Sea : Chinese Paintings in the Collection of the Kosetsu Museum of Art

Paintings from China have long been prized in Japan as kara-e (Chinese paintings) and karamono (Chinese things), which adorned the alcoves of Buddhist temples and the residences of shoguns and feudal lords. Murayama Ryōhei (1850–1933), the founder of the Asahi Shimbun newspaper agency and an avid art collector, amassed a wide range of paintings brought to Japan from China as well as the Korea Peninsula. These paintings include Budai (J. Hotei), Xianzi (J. Kensu), and other semi-legendary Chinese Chan (J. Zen) priests of the Tang dynasty (618–907); paintings of birds and flowers depicting such birds as egrets and pheasants and flowers as peonies; and landscape paintings with scenic mountains and figures playing by the waterside. A majority of these works are known as naka watari (literally “the middle crossing”), or Chinese paintings that reached Japan by the Edo period (1615–1868).

This exhibition showcases these Chinese paintings in the Kosetsu Museum of Art, which have never before been exhibited in a comprehensive manner, together with accompanying appraisal certificates and inscribed boxes. Works from the Muromachi period (1336–1573) painted by Japanese artists, who were influenced by Chinese paintings, will also be featured.

Admission

Adults

¥ 1200 (¥ 1000*)

High school and university students

¥ 700 (¥ 500*)

Elementary and junior high school students

¥ 400 (¥ 200*)

*For groups of 20 or more



Heron and Plum Blossoms
By Attributed to Xu Xi (n.d.)
China, Ming dynasty,
15th–16th century



Birds and Flowers
By Attributed to Lu Ji (n.d.)
China, Ming dynasty, 16th century



Layman Vimalakīrti
(J. Yuima Koji)
By Yintuoluo (n.d.)
Inscription by Fumon (n.d.)
China, Yuan dynasty, 14th century

