

Journey to masterpieces: Torajiro's Dream, from the collection of the Ohara Museum of Art

The Ohara Museum of Art opened in 1930 as Japan's first private museum dedicated primarily to Western art, and will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary. Over these 100 years, its collection has steadily grown. Today, it is beloved as one of Japan's leading art museums, housing over 3,000 works.

The Ohara collection began with fewer than 100 Western paintings and sculptures. Each piece was carefully selected by the Western-style painter Torajiro Kojima during his travels in Europe, with some being purchased directly from the artists themselves. The acquisitions were made possible by the full financial support of Magosaburo Ohara. "I want to show the Japanese people the real thing" — this shared vision of the two men eventually led to the establishment of the Ohara Museum of Art. Sadly, Torajiro Kojima passed away in 1929 at the age of 47, before he could see the museum come to fruition.

The Ohara Museum of Art opened amidst a deepening economic depression that had spread to Japan from the Great Depression that began in New York the previous year, and during a time when the clatter of military boots was growing louder. The "dream" entrusted to the museum by its two founders, while anticipating the era's march toward war, was not merely about introducing Western art to Japan.

It was rooted in something more fundamental: respect for the dignity of life itself. I believe that engaging with the Ohara Museum of Art's collection, and examining it in a new light, is profoundly important for Japan today.

This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to view Ohara-held masterpieces outside the museum, which is temporarily closed for renovation. Highlights include El Greco's Annunciation, Paul Gauguin's Nave Nave Fenua (Delightful Land), and Claude Monet's Water Lilies—works truly deserving of the title "masterpiece!" Guided by the footsteps of Torajiro Kojima, starting in Belgium, we invite you to enjoy a leisurely journey of your own, exploring these many masterpieces.

Admission

Adults

¥ 1600 (¥ 1400*)

High school and university students

¥ 800 (¥ 400*)

Elementary and junior high school students

¥ 400 (¥ 200*)

*For groups of 20 or more



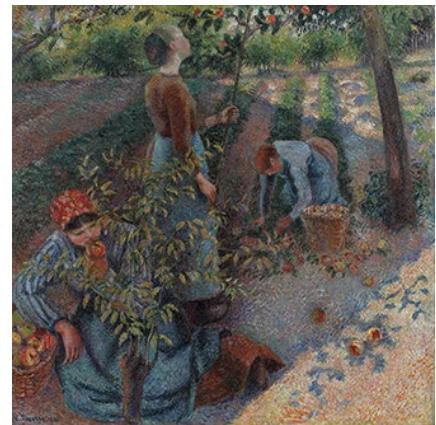
Annunciation

El Greco, c.1590–1603



Water Lilies

Claude Monet, c. 1906



Apple Picking

Camille Pissarro, 1886



Cliffs of Gréville

Jean-François Millet, 1871



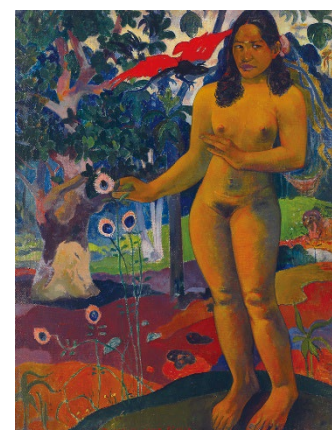
Belgian Girl in Kimono

Torajiro KOJIMA, 1911



Portrait of Jeanne Hébuterne

Amedeo Modigliani, 1919



Delightful Land

Paul Gauguin, 1892