

July 27, 2023

Keio University

Keio Museum Commons Exhibition (October 2 – December 1, 2023)
Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation × Keio University
A Journey Through Painting: The Expansive World of Zen Meditation

Keio Museum Commons is proud to present an exhibition of Zen Buddhist art from the Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation collection and Keio University's own collection. Chinese culture was brought into Japan together with Zen Buddhism during the Kamakura period (1185–1333) and was highly esteemed at Zen temples. These influences soon transcended religious frameworks and spread throughout the social climate of Japan at that time, forming the foundation of Muromachi culture (1336–1573). This exhibition provides us an opportunity to imagine the gaze of the Zen monks which transcends time and space, learn about the *shonin* (revered priests) they venerated and admire the picturesque landscapes they envisioned in their hearts, all whilst in a relaxed mental state of *gayuu**.

The Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation (<https://tokiwayama.org/en>) is an organization founded by Japanese industrialist Tsusai Sugawara and holds his collection of art since 1943, a portion of which is entrusted to Keio University. This exhibition, commemorating the 80th anniversary since the establishment of the Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation, will focus on masterpieces of Muromachi paintings from the collection. In addition, works by Ikkyu and Sesshu from the Keio collection will be unveiled for the first time since their donation in 2021.

* *Gayuu*: to lie relaxed and gaze at a landscape painting, thereby picturing oneself playing within the world of the painting

1. Basic information

Dates: Monday, October 2—Friday, December 1, 2023. Closed on weekends and holidays.

Special opening on Saturday,: October 14 and November 25

(Temporary Closing day: Monday, October 16 and Monday, November 20)

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (Mita Campus East Annex)

Open: 11:00–18:00

Admission free

*Some artworks may be replaced during the exhibition period.

*Please check the website for details. <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

2. Exhibition overview

The Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation is an organization founded by Japanese industrialist Tsusai Sugawara and holds his collection of art since 1943, a portion of which is entrusted to Keio University. In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation, the Keio Museum Commons will showcase its masterpieces along with other items from the Keio University collection.

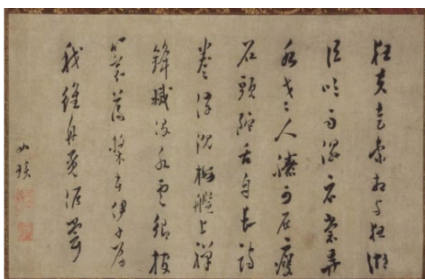
Zen is one of the Buddhist denominations that do not rely on Buddhist scriptures, but instead emphasize ascetic practices such as *zazen* (seated meditation) and *mondo* (dialogue between a disciple and his master). Zen monks gazed with admiration at revered figures such as Bodhidharma, the founder of the sect, as well as other venerable sages who demonstrated the state of enlightenment. Japanese Zen temples also prized imported ink writings and paintings. These foreign artifacts and cultural influences went beyond the framework of religion and permeated the social climate of Japan, eventually forming the foundation of Muromachi culture.

Suiboku-ga (ink wash painting), a representative form of Zen Buddhist art, uses only ink and light coloring while leveraging on blank spaces, sometimes in combination with renowned poetry inscribed on the painting, to create landscapes and worlds that transcend time and space. While remaining in the room physically, visitors will be able to enter the world of painted landscapes, transcending time and space by exercising their imagination freely. This is the experience our exhibition aims to provide – for one to experience and enjoy the state of *gayuu*. We hope this will be an opportunity for visitors to experience and become familiar with Zen Buddhist art.

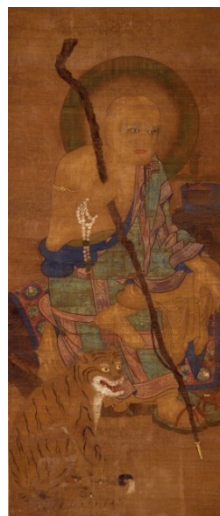
3. Main Exhibits

1. *Buddhist Verse*, by Zhejian Rying, Southern Song dynasty (13th century)
2. *Arhat (Rakan)*, Kamakura period (13th century)
3. *Kannon*, with a willow twig in a vase, Known as *Yoryukannon*, Attributed by Ke Weng, Inscription by Yishan- Yining, Kamakura period (14th century)
4. *Orchids*, by Ikkyu Sojun, Muromachi period (15th century)
5. *Landscapes*, by Sesshu Toyo, Muromachi period (15th century)
6. *Mountain Landscape in Snow*, by Ikei-Shutoku, Inscription by Daigu-Soen, Muromachi period (16–17th century)
7. *A gray starling perching on aronia tree*, by Yushu, Muromachi period (16th century)
8. *Full Moon and a pair of hare*, by Zosan, Muromachi period (16th century)

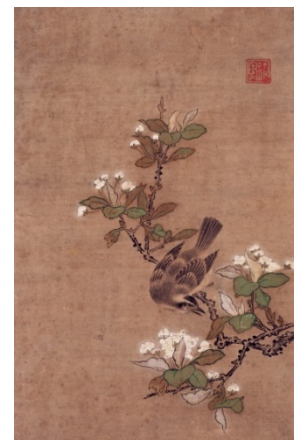
Artworks 1,4,5: Keio University (Century Akao Collection)
 Artworks 2,3,6,7,8: Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation (deposited at Keio University)



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4. Related Programs

Gallery talks will be given by the museum's staff.

Everyone is welcome to attend (free admission, advance reservations required).

Date and time: 10/23 (Monday) 11/24 (Friday) 14:00–14:30

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (Mita Campus East Annex)

*Open to all.

*Please check the KeMCo website for event details. <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

Various programs related to the exhibition are planned. For more information, check the website.

5. Collaborative Event

“Thematic Exhibition

Treasures of the Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation: Commemorating its 80th Anniversary”

Dates: Tuesday, August 29—Sunday, October 22, 2023

Venue: Tokyo National Museum, Asian Gallery (Toyokan), Room 8

6. Venue Access

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo)

Address: 2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 108-8345

Keio University Mita Campus East Annex

Access: Tamachi Station (JR Yamanote Line/JR Keihin-Tohoku Line) 8 minutes on foot

Mita Station (Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Mita Line) 7 minutes on foot

Akabanebashi Station (Toei Subway Oedo Line) 8 minutes on foot



Keio Museum Commons
Exterior of Mita Campus East
Annex

7. Organization and operation

Organized by Keio Museum Commons, Tokiwayama Bunko Foundation

With cooperation from the Keio Institute of Oriental Classics (Shido Bunko)

*Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contacts listed below in advance of any press coverage.

*We have sent this news release to the MEXT Press Club and the social, educational and cultural news departments of other media outlets.

Inquiries regarding this press release:

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