

## Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Exhibition **Uemura Shoen**

July 17 (Sat), 2021 – September 12 (Sun), 2021

As one of its 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary exhibitions, the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art is presenting a retrospective exhibition of Uemura Shoen (1875-1949), a leading Nihonga painter and major figure in the Kyoto modern art scene.

This exhibition, nearly 50 years since the Museum's 1974 retrospective commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Uemura's birth, includes two designated Important Cultural Properties: *Jo-no-mai (Dance Performed in Noh Play)* (1936, Tokyo University of the Arts) and *Mother and Child* (1934, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo), as well as paintings from museums and private collections nationwide. With over 100 paintings, including *Flame of Jealousy* (1918, Tokyo National Museum), *Lady Komachi Washing Away a Poem* (1937, Tokyo University of the Arts), and *Scene from the Noh Play Kinuta* (1938, Yamatane Museum of Art), the exhibition offers visitors a comprehensive overview in Kyoto of the work of this groundbreaking female Kyoto artist, from her earliest to her late paintings.

### Uemura Shoen and the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art

Uemura Shoen's paintings occupy a particularly important position among the large number of modern Kyoto Nihonga paintings in the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art collection. The Museum's 10 Uemura paintings include *The Flowers of Life* (1899) from the artist's early period and her final painting *Evening in Early Summer* (1949).

For the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition in 1974, Uemura Shoen's son Uemura Shoko, also a Nihonga painter, selected forty-seven major paintings as well as sketches and notebooks for showing.



*Jo-no-mai (Dance Performed in Noh Play)*, 1936,  
Tokyo University of the Arts  
Important Cultural Property

Organizer: City of Kyoto, The Kyoto Shimbun, Nikkei Inc.

Support : SunM Color Co., Ltd.

Period : July 17 (Sat.) – Sept. 12 (Sun.), 2021

Part 1: July 17 (Sat.) – Aug. 15 (Sun.) 2021

Part 2: Aug. 17 (Tues.) – Sept. 12 (Sun.) 2021

Venue : Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Main Building,  
1F North Wing

Opening Hours:

10:00 – 18:00 (last admission 17:30)

Museum closed on Mondays, except public holidays

Entrance Fee:

Adults ¥1800 (¥1600)

University and High School students ¥1300 (¥1100)

Elementary and Junior High students, High School  
students residing in or attending school in Kyoto City:  
free of charge

\*Figures in ( ) are rates for advance sales and for groups of over 20 persons

•Entrance free of charge for persons with disabilities and their caregivers  
(certificate required)

### **Advance tickets**

Available through all ticket agencies: Museum official website for online tickets, Lawsons Ticket (L code:55001), Ticket Pia (P code 685-628), E-plus, Seven Tickets, CN Play Guide, Rakuten Tickets, All major convenience stores, etc.



*Evening in Early Summer*, 1949,  
Kyoto City Museum of Art

### ● **Kimono Days!**

A limited quantity of original exhibition merchandise will be given to persons attending the exhibition dressed in kimono or yukata. This will be on a first-come-first-served basis on the following dates: July 17 (Sat.), July 23 (Fri), August 15 (Sun.)

### ●● **Reciprocal Ticket Discount**

*Uemura Shoen Sketches and Drawing: in pursuit of painting gems*  
Shouhaku Art Museum (Nara Prefecture)

This exhibition introduces sketches for *Jo-no-mai (Dance Performed in Noh Play)* and *Flame of Jealousy*, two paintings in the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art exhibition.

Period: Aug. 8 (Sat) – Oct. 24 (Sun)

Discount: ¥100 discount with reciprocal exhibition ticket or ticket stub



*The Flowers of Life*, 1899,  
Kyoto City Museum of Art

## **Uemura Shoen Exhibition Highlights**

### 1. Important Uemura Shoen paintings on view in Kyoto

More than 100 Uemura Shoen paintings, including many previously exhibited at the Bunten (Ministry of Education Art Exhibition), Teiten (Imperial Art Exhibition), and Shin-Bunten (New Ministry of Education Art Exhibition), are gathered in Kyoto from over 50 Japanese national, public and private museum and private collections in locations from Tohoku to Kyushu

- *Long Night*, 1907, Fukuda Art Museum
- *Moonlit*, 1908, Eisei-Bunko Museum  
(Entrusted to Kumamoto Prefectural Museum of Art)
- *Preparing for Dance*, 1914, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
- *Flower Basket (Inspired by Noh-Play)*, 1915, Shohaku Art Museum
- *Evening of a Lunar Eclipse*, 1916, Oita Prefectural Art Museum
- *Yang Guifei, One of the Four Beauties of Ancient China*, 1922, Shohaku Art Museum
- *Twilight*, 1941, Kyoto Prefectural OHKI High School
- *Late Autumn*, 1943, Osaka Municipal Museum of Art

\*paintings exhibited subject to change during the exhibition period

### 2. Newly Discovered Work Unveiled

First public showing of *Sei Shonagon* (1917-18, private collection), a Taisho period masterpiece created between *Flower Basket (Inspired by Noh-Play)* (1915) and *Flame of Jealousy* (1918). Though the existence of this work was known, it had been long lost. It has never previously been exhibited.



*Lady Sei Shonagon*,  
1895, KITANO  
MUSEUM of ART

### 3. Paintings not shown for many years

- *Puppet Master*, a pair of scrolls, 1910, private collection, last exhibited in 1999
- *Three Sisters*, 1903, private collection, last exhibited in 2005
- *Full Bloom*, c. 1899, Nikaido Museum of Art
- *Changing of Spring*, 1938, Reiyukai Myoichi Collection

### 4. Kimura Ihei's Uemura Shoen Photographs

Photographer Kimura Ihei's *Four Japanese Painters*, a book published in English in 1939, features painters Yokoyama Taikan, Kawai Gyokudo, Uemura Shoen and Kaburaki Kiyokata. The *Uemura Shoen* exhibition will display for the first time seven of his Uemura Shoen photos (Tokyo Photographic Art Museum) for this publication.

## Exhibition Part 1 and Part 2 Featured Works:

### *Flame of Jealousy and Jo-no-mai (Dance Performed in Noh Play)*

#### Part 1

*Flame of Jealousy* (1918, Tokyo National Museum)

This painting is inspired by a character in the Noh play *Lady Aoi*. Uemura depicts Lady Aoi, Hikaru Genji's formal wife, possessed by the vengeful spirit of Lady Rokujo, lover of Genji. Her fierce expression, squinting eyes, and strand of disheveled hair in her mouth captivate the viewer. Among Uemura's paintings, this one is perhaps the strongest expression of a woman's inner emotions.

Part 2: *Jo-no-mai (Dance Performed in Noh Play)*  
(1936, Tokyo University of the Arts)  
(Important Cultural Property)

This painting depicts a highly elegant and subdued dance performed with Noh theater chanting. The graceful yet resolute elegance of the performer's cool tension extends through her fingertips to her fan held in an outstretched hand. Presented with minimal and graceful movement, this beautiful figure is a rare Uemura's rendition of a modern woman.



*Flame of Jealousy*,  
1918, Tokyo  
National Museum

## Uemura Shoen

Uemura Shoen (1875-1949)



Uemura Shoen was born in Kyoto. Her real name was Uemura Tsune. She attended the Kyoto Prefectural Painting School where she studied under Suzuki Shonen who later introduced her to Kono Bairei. After Bairei's death, she studied with his successor Takeuchi Seiho. She gained acclaim early on, receiving the first prize at the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Industrial Exhibition in 1890, showing in Bunten (Ministry of Education Art Exhibition), and active in the Kanten (Government Sponsored Exhibition). With her background in traditional painting, she broke ground in presenting the image of women from the unique perspective of a singular female painter. In 1948, she was the first woman to receive the Japanese Order of Culture Merit.



## Featured Paintings

### Part 1 July 17 – Aug 15



*Mother and Child*, 1934  
The National Museum of  
Modern Art, Tokyo, Important  
Cultural Property



*Lady Komachi Washing  
Away a Poem* 1937,  
Tokyo University of the Arts



*Scene from the Noh Play  
'Kinuta'*, 1938  
Yamatane Museum of Art

### Part 2 August 17 – Sept 12



*Long Night*, 1907  
Fukuda Art Museum



*Yang Guifei, one of the Four Beauties of  
ancient China*, 1922, Shohaku Art Museum



*Late Autumn*,  
1943  
Osaka Municipal  
Museum of Art

## Audio Guide (Japanese only)



Popular voice actor Kamio Shinichiro introduces Uemura Shoen's paintings

Rental fee: ¥600 (including tax)

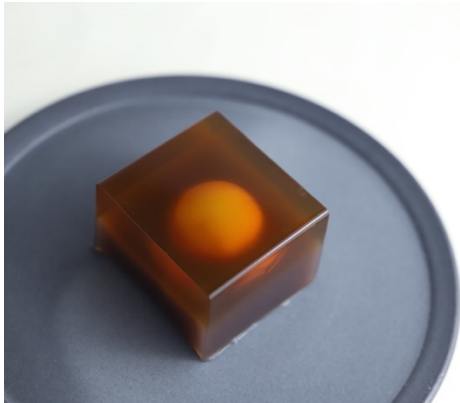
Duration: around 30 minutes

(narration for Part 1 and Part 2 differ in accordance with exhibit changes)

Kamio Shinichiro is affiliated with 81 Produce. He was born in Hokkaido. His major roles include *This World is Filled with Wants*

(narration), *Ensemble Stars!* (as Kuro Kiryu), *Hypnosis Mic-Alternative Rap Battle* (as Rio Mason Busujima) and many others. He is active in TV, games, theater, and singing. This is his debut as an art exhibition audio guide narrator.

## Special Menu and Merchandise



The Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art Café ENFUSE will be offering a special menu during the period of the exhibition. There will also be plenty of souvenir merchandise available.

Kyoto Confectionery Kanaya Masahiro, founded in 1857, is creating a special Japanese sweet inspired by Uemura Shoen's *Waiting for the Moon*. This sweet was also offered during the 2020 *Summer Collection* exhibition.

## Learning Programs: In-Person at the Museum and Online

Programs in planning include lectures by Uemura Atsushi (Nihonga painter, grandson of Uemura Shoen), curator led gallery tours, and many other opportunities allowing visitors to become familiar with Uemura Shoen's paintings and Kyoto culture.

Details will be noted on the Museum website.

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\*Content may be subject to change due to conditions related to COVID-19.