

Treasures of Asia

Hattori Kizo, *Old Pottery* (1934)

Ceramics of various shapes and colors are depicted on the canvas. They are painted with such realism that they give the impression that you could reach out and touch them. The intricate patterns on the pots and plates are rendered in fine detail, along with their realistically glossy surfaces. This imposing sense of realism is characteristic of the work of Western-style painter, Hattori Kizo.

Let’s take a closer look at the ceramics portrayed in this piece. On the far left, a large plate is vividly depicted in red, blue, and green. The plate is displayed upright, allowing its decorative design to be clearly seen: a blooming peony in the center, surrounded by two phoenixes in flight. In China, peonies are considered a symbol of prosperity, while the phoenix is a mythical bird associated with good governance. Both are regarded as auspicious motifs. The plate actually exists and comes from a kiln in Fujian Province, China. It was made during the Ming dynasty and is a type of porcelain decorated with over and underglaze enamels known in Japan as *gosu akae*. Today, it is part of the collection of the Kyoto National Museum, where it is titled *Plate with Pair of Phoenixes, Flowers, and Birds in Cobalt Blue and Polychrome Overglaze Enamels*.

At its front right side stands a pot made at the Cizhou kiln, with a bold grass-and-flower pattern expressed in white clay and iron glaze. To its left is a ceramic pillow with green, yellow, and white glaze, made in southern China and known as Cochin ware. The pot in the middle of the canvas, brightly colored in green and decorated with patterns of cranes and clouds, is a Goryeo celadon. To its right is a pot with black

glaze from the Joseon period, called *kurogorai* (literally, “black Goryeo”) in Japan. Behind it is another pot from the Joseon period: a blue-and-white porcelain vessel made at an official kiln. Blue-and-white porcelain, called *sometsuke* in Japan, is a style of white ceramic decorated with cobalt-blue pigment. The blue-and-white porcelain in the painting features a window-like frame at its center, within which a vast landscape is depicted.

In this manner, old pottery of various shapes, colors, and techniques is gathered and placed on top of the Indian chintz. The places of origin of these ceramic works are also diverse, ranging from China and Korea to India. Together, they create a lively and gorgeous composition, as if the treasures of Asia are sparkling through the painting.

In the early Showa period, when this work was painted, there was growing interest in the history and culture of Asia in Japan. As more people began traveling abroad and Japan’s expansion into Asia intensified, information about ancient Indian and Chinese art also began to circulate widely through photographs and other media. These works were also reevaluated as part of the roots of Japanese art. At the same time, there was a broader social context in which Japan’s attention turned toward Asia amid the wars being waged overseas, as well as the imperialism and accompanying globalization of the period.

A longing for Asia, intertwined with desire. This is a work that reveals a complex gaze toward the region.

— Mori Mitsuhiro
Curator, Kyoto City Museum of Art



Hattori Kizo, *Old Pottery* (1934)

Exhibition Curators :
Mori Mitsuhiro, Kodera Yu, Kageyama Yukie

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Collection Room Fall

京都市京セラ美術館
Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art

Special Display: Museum's Story-The Birth of the Kyoto City Museum of Art

Oct. 9 (Fri.) – Dec. 13 (Sun.), 2026 Main Building (North Wing) 1F



The audio guide is available via the Bloomberg Connects app. Please scan the QR code with your mobile device.

*Due to various reasons, exhibited items may change.
*List order and exhibit order are not intended to match.

List of Works

No.	Inv.no.	Artist	Birth and Death	Title	Date	Material; Shape	Size (cm)	First exhibition	audio guide
Special Display: Museum's Story-The Birth of the Kyoto City Museum of Art									
Gallery 105a									
1	N – 001	SAKAKIBARA, Shiho	1887-1971	Lions	1927	two-panel folding screen; color on silk	170.0 × 366.0cm	6th Kokuten	
2	N – 002	FUKUDA, Heihachiro	1892-1974	Chrysanthemums	1928	two-panel folding screen; color on silk	170.0 × 224.0cm	9th Teiten	
3	N – 003	NAKAMURA, Daizaburo	1898-1947	Piano	1926	four-panel folding screen; color on silk	164.5 × 302.0cm	7th Teiten	 01
4	Y – 001	OKADA, Saburosuke	1869-1939	Memories of Manchuria	1933	oil on wooden board, framed	63.0 × 66.5cm	Inaugural Exhibition	 02
5	K – 001	KIYOMIZU, Rokube V	1875-1959	Taireiji Vase with Peach and Bird Design	1926	porcelain	H 60.5, Diam. 45.0 (body), 28.0 (mouth) cm		 03
6	T – 001	ISHIMOTO, Gyoko (Gyokai)	1888-1935	The Late Mokurai, Zen Priest	1933	plaster	74.0 × 65.5 × 49.5cm	14th Teiten	 04
Gallery 101									
7	N – 006	FUKUDA, Heihachiro	1892-1974	White Plum Blossom	1934	color on paper, framed	134.0 × 130.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
8	N – 008	TOKUOKA, Shinsen	1896-1972	Wheat	1934	color on silk, framed	129.0 × 140.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	 05
9	N – 009	OCHI, Shokan	1882-1958	Sea Breeze	1934	color on silk, framed	69.0 × 87.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
10	N – 010	NAGATA, Shunsui	1889-1970	Cat	1934	color on paper, framed	70.0 × 86.5cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
11	N – 013	KAWAKAMI, Setsui	1901-1976	A Corner of the Studio	1934	color on paper, framed	167.0 × 137.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
12	N – 014	KIKUCHI, Takashi	1911-1982	A Brief Rest	1934	color on paper, framed	132.0 × 107.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
13	N – 015	HAYASHI, Shime	1906-1985	Maiko; an apprentice geisha	1934	color on paper, framed	136.0 × 90.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	 06
14	N – 016	NISHIHATA, Kisako	1904-1969	Morning	1934	color on silk, framed	202.0 × 172.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	

No.	Inv.no.	Artist	Birth and Death	Title	Date	Material; Shape	Size (cm)	First exhibition	audio guide
15	N – 058	TAMAKI, Suekazu	1897-1943	Girl Leaning Back in a Rattan Chair	1934	color on paper, framed	141.0 × 62.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	 07
16	N – 597	NISHIYAMA, Hideo	1911-1989	Spring Rain	1934	color on paper, framed	123.0 × 141.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
17	N – 594	TAKEUCHI, Seiho	1864-1942	Village by the Water	1934	ink on paper, framed	103.0 × 127.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
18	Y – 002	KOISO, Ryohei	1903-1988	Before the Dance	1934	oil on canvas, framed	115.0 × 89.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
19	Y – 003	IDANI, Kenzo	1902-1970	Woman in a Room	1934	oil on canvas, framed	145.0 × 111.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
20	Y – 004	HATTORI, Kizo	1893-1978	Old Pottery	1934	oil on canvas, framed	84.0 × 115.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
21	Y – 005	MIKAMI, Tomoharu	1886-1974	Interior	1934	oil on canvas, framed	51.5 × 63.5cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
22	Y – 098	SUDA, Kunitaro	1891-1961	Early Spring	1934	oil on canvas, framed	165.0 × 230.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
23	K – 007	MINAGAWA, Gekka	1892-1987	Dyed Painting of Wave Patterns	1934	paste resist dyeing on silk, framed	93.0 × 109.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
24	K – 002	TSUDA, Shinobu	1875-1946	Shamo Chicken Ornament, "Hero of the Fighting Spirit"	1934	cast bronze	55.0 × 16.0 × 27.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	 08
25	K – 003	OKUNI, Hakusai	1856-1934	Caldron in the Shape of Buddhist Rosary with Shrimp-Design Lugs	1934	cast iron	H 21.0, Diam. 25.0 (body), 11.0 (mouth) cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
26	T – 004	OSUGA, Tsutomu	1906-2009	Reclining Nude	1934	bronze	20.0 × 27.0 × 13.5cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
27	T – 003	ONO, Takaichi	1896-1981	Cat	1934	wood	43.5 × 60.0 × 19.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
28	T – 002	YOSHIDA, Eiji	1911-1987	Tranquility	1934	plaster	151.0 × 80.0 × 46.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	
29	K – 009	TOKURIKI, Hikonosuke	1905-1996	Table Clock in Streamline Design	1934	<i>maki-e</i> , gold-leafed thin leather, wood	15.5 × 37.0 × 15.0cm	Inaugural Exhibition	

Gallery 102									
30	N – 063	NISHIYAMA, Suisho	1879-1958	Horse	1939	color on silk, framed	166.0 × 188.0cm	3rd Shin Bunten	 09
31	N – 206	TAKEUCHI, Seiho	1864-1942	After Rain Showers	1935	hanging scroll; ink and light color on paper	194.0 × 91.5cm	Goyokai Group Exhibition	 10
32	Y – 018	KANOKOGI, Takeshiro	1874-1941	Portrait of a Widow	1912	oil on canvas, framed	93.0 × 62.0cm	6th Bunten	
33	K – 076	KIYOMIZU, Rokube V	1875-1959	Vase with Chrysanthemums in Underglaze Blue	1930	porcelain	H 54.0, Diam. 40.5 (body), 28.5 (mouth) cm	1st Kyoto Craft Exhibition	
34	N – 146	KIKUCHI, Keigetsu	1879-1955	Girl in Yuzen-dyed Kimono	1933	color on silk, framed	152.0 × 88.0cm	9th Kikuchijuku Exhibition	
35	N – 235	TOMITA, Keisen	1879-1936	Pictorial Scroll of the Uji River: Uji Bridge	1915	scroll; color on silk	50.4 × 526.8cm	2nd Inten	 11

North Hall									
36	K – 005	KIYOMIZU, Rokube VI	1901-1980	Vase with Flowers and Grasses in Underglaze Blue	1934	porcelain	H 34.0, Diam. 30.5(body), 14.5 (mouth) cm	Inaugural Exhibition	 12
37	K – 008	KANO, Shokoku I	1899-1965	Vase with Birds and Flowers in Underglaze Blue	1934	porcelain	H 40.0, Diam. 32.5 (body), 16.0 (mouth) cm	Inaugural Exhibition	

Gallery 104									
38	N – 1083	SAKAKIBARA, Shiho	1887-1971	Hawk on a Chestnut Tree	c.1928	hanging scroll; color on silk	133.1 × 41.9cm		
39	N – 621	TSUCHIDA, Bakusen	1887-1936	Morning Glories	1929	hanging scroll; color on silk	60.2 × 71.2cm		

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Animals in the Art Museum									
Gallery 104									
40	N – 184	TAKEUCHI, Seiho	1864-1942	Valiant Tigers	1940	pair of two-panel folding screens; color on paper	170.0 188.0cm each	Commemorative Exhibition	
41	N – 358	TAKEUCHI, Seiho	1864-1942	Bear	1910	color on paper, framed	135.0 × 172.0cm		
42	N – 157	KATO, Eishu	1873-1939	Autumnal Garden	1927	two-panel folding screen; color on silk	171.0 × 185.0cm	8th Teiten	 13
43	N – 028	IKEDA, Eiko	1901-1992	Foreign Cats	1935	color on silk, framed	144.0 × 146.0cm	1st Shiten (awarded Midori Prize, purchased by Kyoto City)	
44	N – 080	FUKUDA, Suiko	1895-1973	Fight	1938	color on paper, framed	170.0 × 213.0cm	2nd Shin Bunten	
45	N – 203	NISHIMURA, Goun	1877-1938	Sea Lions	c. 1934	color on silk, framed	137.4 × 197.0cm		 14
46	N – 188	YAMAGUCHI, Kayo	1899-1984	Fine Weather After the Snow	1968	color on paper, framed	171.0 × 159.0cm	11th Shin Nitten	
47	Y – 321	SUDA, Kunitaro	1891-1961	Falcon	1940	oil on canvas, framed	72.5 × 91.0cm	5th Shiten	
48	Y – 541	SUDA, Kunitaro	1891-1961	Random Thoughts	1958	oil on canvas, framed	50.0 × 60.5cm	26th Dokuritsu Exhibition	
49	N – 293	YAMAMOTO, Sokyū	1893-1993	Serenity	1970	color on paper, framed	193.5 × 140.0cm	2nd Kaiso Nitten	
50	N – 255	IKEDA, Yoson	1895-1988	Whispering	1972	color on paper, framed	209.0 × 136.5cm	4th Kaiso Nitten	
51	K – 022	YAMAWAKI, Yoji	1907-1982	Tortoise Ornament with Silver Dragon Design	1938	metal engraving on silver	11.0 × 26.0 × 22.5cm	2nd Shin Bunten	
52	K – 045	OKUMURA, Kyuka (Shinkichi)	1898-1945	Dry Lacquer Ornament of an Eagle	1945	hollow dry lacquer	23.0 × 20.0 × 23.5cm	1st Kyoten	
53	N – 1150	HASHIMOTO, Kansetsu	1883-1945	Monkey	Early Showa period	hanging scroll; color on silk	58.6 × 66.4cm		

Autumn Foliage									
Gallery 105b									
54	Y – 072	IDANI, Kenzo	1902-1970	Afterglow of Mt. Yufu	1955	oil on canvas, framed	146.0 × 112.0cm	10th Kodo Group Exhibition	
55	Y – 305	SHIBATA, Ko	1918-2010	Town with Trees	1967	oil on canvas, framed	193.5 × 259.5cm	35th Dokuritsu Group Exhibition	
56	Y – 028	TSUJI, Hisashi	1884-1974	Shiga Highlands in Autumn	1937	oil on canvas, framed	71.5 × 90.0cm	1st Shin Bunten	
57	Y – 084	KITAWAKI, Noboru	1901-1951	Vermilion and Purple	1945	oil on canvas, framed	53.5 × 73.0cm	1st Kyoten	
58	Y – 223	MAKINO, Katsuji	1864-1942	Fallen Leaves	1903	oil on canvas, framed	90.8 × 151.8cm	5th National Industrial Exposition, Osaka	 15
59	N – 120	ISHIMOTO, Sho	1920-2015	Landscape	1948	color on paper, framed	91.0 × 152.0cm	4th Kyoten (awarded Kyoten Prize)	
60	N – 824	INOHARA, Taika	1897-1980	Autumn Leaves	1969	color on paper, framed	205.5 × 134.0cm	1st Kaiso Nitten	
61	N – 808	YAMAGISHI, Jun	1930-2000	Gio-ji Temple, Kyoto	2000	color on paper, framed	192.0 × 150.0cm	32nd Kaiso Nitten	

Outdoor Permanent Exhibit

South West Corner of the Museum									
62	T – 047	TOGASHI, Minoru	1931-2019	Stairs to Sunyata '88- II	1988	granite	1200.0 × 107.0 × 107.0, 1113.0 × 107.0 × 107.0 cm		