

130th Anniversary Exhibition:

Maeda Seison and the Nihon Bijutsuin (Japan Art Institute)



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Maeda Seison, *Yoshida Shōin in Rendai-ji Temple near Shimoda*,
Yamatane Museum of Art

27 June (Sat.) - 23 August (Sun.) 2015

(Closed on 21 July and on Mondays, but open on 20 July)

Organized by: Yamatane Museum of Art and Nikkei Inc.

Hours: 10am - 5pm (Last admission at 4:30pm)

Admission Fees: Adults: 1,000 [800] yen; university and high school students: 800 [700] yen; middle school and younger children: free of charge

*Figures in brackets are for groups of 20 or more, advance tickets, repeaters with used tickets, and those who are wearing kimono.

*Disability ID Holders and one person accompanying them are admitted free of charge.

Highlights of the Exhibition

Chapter 1: Pioneers of the Nihon Bijutsuin

Hashimoto Gahō, *Kojima Takanori, a Heroic Samurai: Scene from the Taiheiki (Chronicle of the Great Peace)*,
Color on Silk, Meiji Period, c. 1899, Yamatane Museum of Art

Yokoyama Taikan, *Sakumon's House*, Color on Silk with Gold Leaf on the Reverse, Taishō Period, 1916,
Yamatane Museum of Art

Kajita Hanko, *Green Field*, Color on Silk, Late Meiji to Early Taishō Period, c. 1911-13, Yamatane Museum of Art

Shimomura Kanzan, *Ancient Pine Tree and White Wisterias*, Color on Gold-Leafed Paper, Taishō Period, 1921,
Yamatane Museum of Art

Hishida Shunsō, *Cowherd in the Moonlight*, Color on Silk, Meiji Period, 1910, Yamatane Museum of Art

Chapter 2: Seison, Kokei, and Yukihiro: The Nihon Bijutsuin's Second Generation

Kobayashi Kokei, *Maitreya*, Color on Silk, Shōwa Period, 1933, Yamatane Museum of Art

Kobayashi Kokei, *Oxen*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1943, Yamatane Museum of Art

Kobayashi Kokei, *Irises*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1952, Yamatane Museum of Art

Yasuda Yukihiro, *Minamoto no Yoshitsune in Hiraizumi*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1965, Yamatane Museum of Art

Yasuda Yukihiro, *Oda Nobunaga Dancing Before His Departure for the Front*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1970, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Miura Ōsuke*, a Warrior in the Tale of the Heike, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1966, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Yoshida Shōin in Rendai-ji Temple near Shimoda*, Ink and Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1967, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Minamoto no Yoshitsune's Boat in Daimotsu Bay: Scene from the Tale of Gikeiki*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1968, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Strangely Dressed Oda Nobunaga in a Procession*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1969, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Kumagai Naozane at Suma Bay: Scene from the Tale of the Heike*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1969, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Anatomical Dissection*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1970, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Wagtail*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1971, Yamatane Museum of Art

Maeda Seison, *Chinese Citron*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, Yamatane Museum of Art

Chapter 3: Friendly Rivals: Kōjikai Members and the Nihon Bijutsuin's Younger Generation

Imamura Shikō, *Kenreimon-in at Ōhara: Scene from the Tale of Heike*, Color on Silk, Meiji Period, 1909, Yamatane Museum of Art

Kobayashi Kokei, *Fireflies: Scene from the Tales of Ise*, Color on Silk, Meiji Period, 1912, Yamatane Museum of Art

Okumura Togyū, *Himeji Castle*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1955, Yamatane Museum of Art

Hayami Gyoshū, *Dancing in the Flames (Important Cultural Property)*, Color on Silk, Taishō Period, 1925, Yamatane Museum of Art

Hayami Gyoshū, *Natives Engaged in Irrigation Work in Egypt*, Color on Silk with Gold Leaf on the Reverse, Shōwa Period, 1931, Yamatane Museum of Art

Moriya Tadashi, *The Taira Clan's Dedication of the Lotus Sutra Scrolls to Itsukushima Shrine*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1978, Yamatane Museum of Art

Hirayama Ikuo, *Stone Pillar of King Asoka*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1976, Yamatane Museum of Art

Oyama Katashi, *The Island of Amakusa: Praying in the Storeroom*, Color on Paper, Shōwa Period, 1973,
Yamatane Museum of Art

Approximately 60 works in total are to be displayed.

The artist Maeda Seison (1885-1977) made the Nihon Bijutsuin (Japan Art Institute) his center of activity in leading the art world of modern Japan in the Taishō and Shōwa eras. In 2015, to commemorate the 130th anniversary of his birth, the Yamatane Museum of Art will exhibit all the paintings by Seison in our collection, accompanied by paintings by his predecessors in the Nihon Bijutsuin, including Yokoyama Taikan, Hishida Shunsō, and Shimomura Kanzan as well as his contemporaries and members of the younger generation of members of the Nihon Bijutsuin, such as Kobayashi Kokei, Yasuda Yukihiro, Hayami Gyoshū, and Hirayama Ikuo.

Seison, who was born in Nakatsugawa, Gifu Prefecture, in 1885, went to Tokyo at the age of sixteen, having decided to become an artist, and studied with Kajita Hanks, who was then a popular illustrator. The young Seison dedicated himself to his studies there, along with his fellow pupils Kobayashi Kokei and Okumura Togyū. He also participated in the Kōjikai, a study group composed of young artists, where he interacted with Yukihiro, Imamura Shikō, Gyoshū, and others as they explored new directions for Nihonga. Seison intensely studied older paintings, including Yamato-e, acquiring a rich color sense and excellent brushwork. He continued to address a wide range of subjects in his paintings throughout his life. Yoshida Shōin in Rendai-ji Temple near Shimoda, Minamoto no Yoshitsune's Boat in Daimotsu Bay: Scene from the Tale of Gikeiki, Strangely Dressed Oda Nobunaga in a Procession, Anatomical Dissection: Seison's historical paintings, which are on a grand scale, reveal his passionate commitment to research concerning style and to background research.

In his later years, Seison, who had begun teaching at the Tokyo University of the Arts in 1951, was both an artist and an outstanding mentor who is known for the many excellent younger artists he trained.

This exhibition includes all thirteen works by Seison in the museum's collection as well as Green Field by Seison's master, Kajita Hanks, Sakuemon's House by Yokoyama Taikan, a pioneer member of the Nihon Bijutsuin, Ancient Pine Tree and White Wisterias by Shimomura Kanzan, Irises by Kobayashi Kokei and Himeji Castle by Okumura Togyū, his fellow pupils, and Minamoto no Yoshitsune in Hiraizumi by Yasuda Yukihiro. It also includes Hayami Gyoshū's Dancing in the Flames (Important Cultural Property), which is being displayed for the first time in two years. It further explores Seison's influence through The Taira Clan's Dedication of the Lotus Sutra Scrolls to Itsukushima Shrine by Moriya Tadashi, who studied with Seison, and Stone Pillar of King Asoka by Hirayama Ikuo. By including work by the generation who succeeded him, the exhibition reflects upon the achievements of Seison, with his extensive social relations, and the artists in the Nihon Bijutsuin.



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Maeda Seison, *Anatomical Dissection*
Yamatane Museum of Art



Yokoyama Taikan, *Sakueemon's House*
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Hishida Shunsō, *Cowherd in the Moonlight*
Yamatane Museum of Art



Yasuda Yukihiro, *Minamoto no Yoshitsune in Hiraizumi*
Yamatane Museum of Art



Hayami Gyoshū, *Dancing in the Flames*
(Important Cultural Property)
Yamatane Museum of Art



Okumura Togyū, *Himeji Castle*
Yamatane Museum of Art



Shimomura Kanzan, *Ancient Pine Tree and White Wisterias*
Yamatane Museum of Art