

Foreword

We are pleased to present the exhibition, *Treasures of the Imperial Household and Akita: Masterpieces from Sannomaru Shōzōkan*.

The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shōzōkan, was opened in 1993 as a facility for the preservation, research, and exhibition of arts and crafts that have been handed down from generation to generation by the Imperial Family. The museum's collection, which now numbers approximately 9,000 items, encompasses a wide range of outstanding works of art from ancient to modern times, from mainly Japan, Asia, Europe, and other regions.

This exhibition introduces artworks with close ties to Akita and masterpieces from these 9,000 items from the Museum of the Imperial Collections in five sections: 1) Edo Paintings Related to the Imperial Household, 2) Splendid Paintings of the Modern Era, 3) Hirafuku Hyakusui and Kinreisha, 4) Arts and Crafts Related to Akita, and 5) Exquisite Crafts of the Modern Era. In addition, visitors can view two different versions of *The Tale of Priest Saigyō*, one by Ogata Kōrin from Sannomaru Shōzōkan, and another by Tawaraya Sōtatsu, owned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, will also be displayed in this exhibition. These timeless masterpieces were created by artists of the Rinpa School, and we invite you to enjoy their beauty.

We invite visitors to take this opportunity to discover the masterpieces of Japanese art and the fascinating connections between the Imperial Family and Akita. By exploring this exhibition, we hope that visitors will gain a deeper appreciation for the rich cultural heritage of Japan and its enduring artistic traditions.

July, 2023
The organizers

About the Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shōzōkan

The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shōzōkan, opened in November 1993 on the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace near the Ōtemon Gate. This institution was established to store, research, preserve and manage a remarkable collection of artworks and other items donated by His Majesty the Emperor Emiritus and Empress Kōjun to the government in 1989. The collection comprises works that have been passed down to the Imperial Household up to the Shōwa Emperor, and Sannomaru Shōzōkan serves as a vital resource for studying and exhibiting these treasures.

The collection includes a wide variety of works that were handed down to the Kyoto Imperial Palace until the early modern period, works that were brought to the Imperial Household after the modern period through various processes such as orders from the Imperial Household, purchases, and donations, as well as artworks from exchanges between the Imperial Family and other countries. In 1996, the collection was further expanded to include works bequeathed from the family of the former Prince of Chichibu, in 2001 with items from Empress Kōjun, in 2005 from the family of the former Prince of Takamatsu, and in 2014 by the family of the Prince of Mikasa, bringing the current total to approximately 9,000 items.

Sannomaru Shōzōkan has organized more than 100 special exhibitions based on research of the museum's curators, and carried out various restoration projects to ensure the stable transmission of its works to future generations. As the numbers of works in the collection has increased, and the scope of the museum's activities has expanded, the current building has become too small, and a new expanded facility is under construction on an adjacent site, which will open in Autumn this year. The museum will continue to pass on the valuable items inherited from the Imperial Family to the next generation, and continue to enhance its activities as a base for introducing the Imperial Family and Japanese culture to the world.

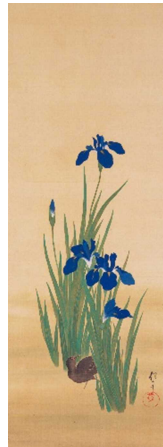


Image of opening in 2028

Main exhibits



Itō Jakuchū
《Phoenixes and the Rising Sun》
[Second]



Sakai Hōitsu
《Birds and Flowers Through the Twelve Months》
[First]



Shimomura Kanzan
《Empress Komyo》
[Second]



Araki Kampo
《Peacocks》 [First]



Hirafuku Hyakusui
《Oak Trees》 [First]



Matsuoka Eikyū and 11 other artists
《Scroll of Contemporary Genre Scenes》 [Second]



《Akita Dog》 [Full]



Namikawa Yasuyuki
《Vase with Design of Birds and Flowers of the Four Seasons》
[Full]



《Bonbonniere》 (out of 10) [Full]