

# Osaka Museum Trip



Administrative Agency for Osaka City Museums

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## The Treasures of Osaka are revealed for all to see

Six major museums in Osaka will hold a joint *OSAKA-HAKU* to coincide with the official 2025 Osaka/Kansai World Expo. The six are, the: Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts, Osaka Museum of Natural History, Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, Osaka Science Museum, Osaka Museum of History, and Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka. Both ancient and modern, collected and handed down over generations, the *Treasures of Osaka* reflect the city's prosperity. One hundred twenty will be selected as representative works and presented on special display for the *OSAKA-HAKU*, allowing visitors to experience the charms of Osaka through the

history of the collectors and how they passed down these *Treasures of Osaka*. A variety of content will be presented to ignite intellectual curiosity, including a *Treasures of Osaka* online exhibition, museum tours, and the offering of tourist information. This *OSAKA-HAKU* is being organized by the museums for both residents and visitors to the city to celebrate these treasures. This booklet introduces the highlights of the six museums. We hope you can feel and enjoy the power infused in Osaka as a city of culture through your own direct encounter with its preserved treasures.

### Icons Used in this Guide

- Address
- Ticket info
- Child-friendly
- Phone
- Voice guidance
- Website
- Hours
- Barrier-free access
- Social Media
- Days closed
- Changing Stn
- Access
- Cafeteria

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Post-renovation virtual rendering

Tennoji is a district in Osaka that generates excitement just hearing the name. It offers a rare mix of attractions both ancient and modern. Shitennoji Temple, in existence since the sixth century, provides a weighty sense of history, while the Shinsekai area offers a retro experience with its colorful entertainment district roots. And nearby, visitors can also marvel at the hyper-modern chic of the Abeno Harukas tower.

Tennoji Park occupies a corner of this area and is home to the Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts, a building with an

atmosphere that takes visitors back to the 1930s. The museum was built on land that had been owned by the Sumitomo family and donated for the purpose. The powerful family also donated the Keitakuen landscape garden that stands beside the museum, designed by the master gardener known for his Kyoto gardens, Jihei Ogawa VII. Nearby is the Tennoji Zoo, which features a natural expanse one would never think could exist in the middle of Osaka.

Before being built, the museum faced construction delays that lasted for several years, due in part to the Great Depression and successive natural disasters; it finally opened in 1936. Inside, the marble interior of the central hall harkens back to the ancient temples of Greece. The museum's collection features precious artifacts from distant lands and treasures closer to home in Asia. Its ancient Asian art consistently enchants visitors.

In addition to exhibitions, the museum building itself is a registered tangible cultural property. The museum has about 8,500 works on display in its permanent collection along with pieces on loan from Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines shown at special exhibits. The museum also values its role as a place for residents to encounter Japanese art, thereby contributing to the advancement of Japanese art.

Outside the museum is a spacious grassy area dubbed Ten-Shiba. The area is lined with restaurants where you can enjoy a nice meal or refreshments, rounding out a day of appreciation of Osaka's vibrant art and culture. Why not spend some afternoon time there?



## A Curator Speaks *Museum Column*



Japanese Medieval and Early-Modern Paintings

Satoru Chinen, Curator

### Discovering an artist-monk almost by chance

I've always loved the fine arts, but becoming an art historian of Japanese art and a curator was a path that seemed to come to me through my teachers at university, or perhaps it was just timing, rather than something I specifically chose to pursue. Basically, I feel as though fate has brought me to where I am today.

Tracking down the person who created this *byobu*—the folding screen shown below—was one of those fortuitous turns of events. I have now been a curator for more than 30 years, and around the time I started thinking about end-of-life planning, I was reviewing the artwork we had in storage for the art museum's renovation. I ran across a *byobu* with the signature "by Dokucho," yet the origin of the work was listed as unknown in the museum's records and the name of the artist had been left blank. It is not unusual for museum pieces to have insufficient documentation or research done related to them. So, at the time I merely thought, "I suppose one day someone will be able to shed light on works like this." But to my surprise, just a few days later, while putting some papers into a cardboard box, I noticed the name "Dokucho" on one of the papers. It turned out to be a thesis that revealed the existence of the Rinzaï Zen monk and painter Dokucho Shokyo and his artistic activities. I immediately went to visit the temples in possession of Dokucho's works and confirmed that the creator of the folding screen we owned was indeed painted by Dokucho Shokyo.

This discovery set my heart racing. It seemed like a twist of fate that in my 30-plus years as a curator I had just made a new discovery. And though it was not earth-shattering and would not upend the art history world, I had been given the chance to at least update the artist's name in the museum's accession register for the first time in 43 years.



By Dokucho Shokyo, *Chinese Starlings in Bamboo*, six-panel screen  
Edo period, 17th century (Taman Collection)



## Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts



	1-82 Chausuyama-cho, Tennoji-ku, Osaka 543-0063 (in Tennoji Park)
	06-6771-4874
	9:30AM-5:00PM (last entry 30 minutes before closing)
	Mondays (or the following weekday if Monday is a national holiday), New Year holiday
	About 400 m to the northwest of these Stns/ exits: JR Tennoji Stn. Central Gate; Tennoji Stn on the Osaka Metro Midosuji Line/ Tanimachi Line, Exits 15 and 16; Osaka-Abenobashi Stn on the Kintetsu Line, West Gate; Tennoji-ekimae Stn on the Hankai Uemachi Line
	<a href="http://www.osaka-art-museum.jp/">www.osaka-art-museum.jp/</a>
	Insta/X: @ocmfa_since1936

Closed: September 26, 2022 – Spring 2025



### About the Museum's Renovation <sup>\* Virtual rendering</sup>

This will be the art museum's biggest renovation since it opened in 1936. When it reopens around the spring of 2025, it will feature an adjacent café that has a panoramic view of Keitakuen Garden that will surely delight visitors!





The Osaka Museum of Natural History is located in Nagai Park, which became known to the world during Osaka's hosting of the 2002 FIFA World Cup. The museum offers the chance to explore the history of life, with roughly 10,000 items on display that tell stories of the natural ecosystems of Osaka, Japan, and the world.

The museum's impressive centerpiece, as one enters the building, is a display of three massive whale skeletons—a finback, humpback, and sperm whale—enormous, grand specimens. In the museum foyer, named *Naumann Hall*, you will stand face to face with a Naumann's Elephant, transporting you back to the Ice Age in Japan. Learn how people have lived with nature across history by interacting with exhibits that explore this important relationship that resonates to this day.

You may then explore the diversity of the natural environment of the city of Osaka starting in the exhibit hall named *The Natural World Around Us*. Here, you will learn about the problem of invasive species—how organisms and plant seeds, often mistakenly or unintentionally brought into Japan on ships or airplanes, have an unexpected impact on people's lives. In addition to hands-on exhibits that allow you to touch the leg bone of a dinosaur or a large shell, for example, the three upstairs exhibit rooms, *Evolution of Life*, *Gifts from Nature*, and *The Lives of Living Things*, illuminate the planet's ecosystem and remind us of the role that all living species play in it, including the human species.

The natural history museum is also a hub for popular educational events that include nature walks

and workshops, which foster intellectual curiosity about nature. Special exhibitions and lectures are held regularly in pursuit of and to share knowledge; the museum plays a key role in promoting the importance of nature conservation. Moreover, efforts to rescue valuable specimens in areas hit by natural disasters have solidified the museum's ties to the local community.

The Osaka Museum of Natural History is an oasis of nature in an urban environment. Come and enjoy a unique journey of exploration that can only be experienced here in this extraordinary museum.



## A Curator Speaks *Museum Column*



Plant Ecology **Masashi Yokogawa, Curator**

Will go anywhere to find plants—across seas, over cliffs...

Flora research is a field of study dedicated to the identification of plants, particularly what types grow in which areas. As the plants that grow in an area will change over time, it is useful to conduct fieldwork in various locations to collect plant specimens and study them as part of the research. This entire series of steps in doing research is something I love. I will jump at the chance to trek up high mountains or perch on steep cliffs to survey the flora, and when I see specimens collected intact from roots to leaves, I lose all track of time.

The cattail pictured below is a specimen I happened upon while in Hokkaido on Okushiri Island looking for a different plant. Just as I climbed over a concrete wall, I saw it by chance. People are generally familiar with cattails, but this species, *Typha laxmannii*, known as the *graceful cattail*, is mysterious in that we are not sure whether it is native to Japan or an alien species. Another plant researcher had suggested the theory that it existed in Hokkaido, so when I found it, I couldn't believe my eyes. I was ecstatic. I collected it immediately, and later, after investigating the existing literature and searching specimen repositories around Hokkaido, I reported it as a new species found on Okushiri Island. It may look like just another plant to most people, but to flora researchers, it is a major discovery. Since plants that are kept as research specimens are listed with the name of the collector along with the discovery date and location, I was thrilled just thinking that some researcher in the future might imagine, "Some guy named Yokogawa found this *Typha laxmannii*. He must have been so excited to find it!"



The specimen of *graceful cattail* collected by Yokogawa



## Osaka Museum of Natural History



	1-23 Nagai Park, Higashi-sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka 546-0034
	06-6697-6221
	9:30AM-5:00PM (closes at 4:30PM from Nov. to Feb.) (last entry 30 minutes before closing)
	Mondays (or the following weekday if Monday is a national holiday), New Year holiday
	About 800 m from Nagai Stn on the Osaka Metro Midousuji Line, Exit 3; about 1 km from JR Nagai Stn, East Exit
	Adults: 300 yen, High school and college students: 200 yen, Junior high school students and younger: free * Separate admission fees apply for special exhibitions
	<a href="http://www.omnh.jp/">www.omnh.jp/</a>
	Facebook: <a href="https://facebook.com/osakashizenshi/">facebook.com/osakashizenshi/</a> X: @osaka_shizenshi Insta: @osaka_shizenshi_koho



### Highlight

The museum has a dazzling collection of exotic insects and butterflies found across the globe, which not only demonstrates the variety of forms they take but also the adaptations they have evolved according to their habitats.



# The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka



The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, will take your breath away. Opened in 1982, this museum has one of the best collections of ceramics in the world, which includes 144 beautiful Chinese works from the Eastern Han to the Ming dynasties, and 793 exquisite Korean works from the Goryeo to the Joseon dynasties. These masterpieces, part of the famed Ataka Collection, were once in danger of being sold off but were saved by the Sumitomo Group offering to donate the entire priceless collection to the city of Osaka.

Over time, the collection was further expanded through donations that focused on Chinese and Korean ceramics, namely the Rhee Byung-Chang Collection of Korean ceramics. The museum's collection has now expanded to 5,732 items. In response to feedback from visitors, the museum acquired and was gifted a number of Japanese works in the early '90s, which now form a valuable part of the collection, the most notable being works by Mingei folk movement proponent and living national treasure, Hamada Shoji.

Around 300 works are on exhibit, organized by

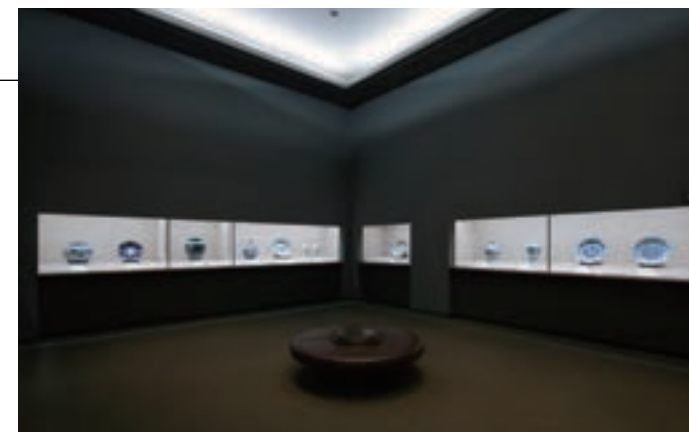


era and technique for greater appreciation; they include two national treasures and 13 important cultural properties. The museum also has a contemporary ceramics section, infusing fresh vitality into the world of ceramics through the works of contemporary artists. Backstage, the museum is also active in research on ceramics.

The majestic Chinese ceramics are displayed in bright rooms to show off their vibrant coloring, while the Korean works by contrast are displayed in a room with a low ceiling under subdued lighting to create a more tranquil setting. The Japanese ceramics display room has pieces placed closer to floor level to emulate the viewing comfort of a tatami mat room. The display cases housing the museum's fine celadon are set in rooms uniquely designed to allow in natural light, and the pieces look especially beautiful in soft sunlight. In the world's first exhibition that utilizes natural sunlight, visitors can marvel at the delicate hues that alternate between ash grey and turquoise blue. Another highlight is the collection of 1200 Chinese snuff jars from the Oki Shoichiro Collection.

The museum has excellent English explanations, on par with the Japanese, introducing people from around the world to beautiful ceramics that transcend time and space, born from the fusion of earth, water, and fire.

Take the opportunity to refine your sensibilities in this unique space weaving together art and history. Prepared to be inspired at the Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka. Come visit!



## A Curator Speaks *Museum Column*



Ceramics **Masashi Moriya,**  
Curator and Director

Immersed in ceramics every day, I'm fascinated by the relationship between two historic kilns

As a student I loved archaeological research and had planned to get a PhD in the field, but fate brought me to the Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, where I have been a curator for more than 30 years. While working on countless exhibitions, I have come into contact with ceramics of all kinds from different periods and from all over the world.

In fiscal 2022 I became the museum's director, and my days are filled with blissful immersion in the world of ceramics that includes handling national treasures as part of an unparalleled museum collection. I am particularly fascinated by the relationship between the Ding kilns and Jizhou kilns that extended over time from the Northern Song to the Yuan dynasties. Jizhou potters produced daily necessities for commoners, but they wanted to imitate the beautiful white porcelain favored by the aristocrats that came from the Ding kilns, so they applied white slip to the body of their pieces. However, because their techniques and materials were inferior, they had to change their approach. So they applied black slip over the white slip and then carved patterns by scraping away the black slip. This became hugely popular among commoners. The Ding potters observed that popularity and decided "what's good for the goose is good for the gander." So, they adopted the scraped slip technique and incorporated Jizhou-style patterns into their own pottery, imitating their imitators. In comparing the two, the Jizhou kiln ware appears high-grade at first glance, but upon closer examination, the less visible parts near the base reveal a rough carelessness. In contrast, the Ding kiln potters applied their attentive craftsmanship to every last detail, so while the same techniques were used, the differences are on clear display. Discovering such human stories behind the works is a reward that makes me appreciate these ceramic works of art even more.



Bottle, porcelain with sgraffito peony scroll design carved through underglaze iron-brown slip



The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka



	1-1-26 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0005
	06-6223-0055
	9:30AM-5:00PM (last entry 30 minutes before closing)
	Mondays (or the following weekday if Monday is a national holiday), exhibition changeovers, New Year holiday
	Approximately 400 m from Yodoyabashi Stn on the Osaka Metro Midosuji Line and Keihan Main Line, Exit 1, and Kitahama Stn on the Osaka Metro Sakaisuji Line and Keihan Main Line, Exit 26; very near Naniwabashi Stn on the Keihan Nakanoshima Line
	Admission may vary by exhibition; junior high school students and younger: free
	<a href="http://www.moco.or.jp/">www.moco.or.jp/</a>
	Insta: @moco_press

Closed: February 7, 2022 – Spring 2024



## About the Museum's Renovation

After the renovation, the entrance to the Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka will feature seven-meter-high glass walls without pillars in the four corners; a central spiral staircase will support the roof. This new entrance, with its open design, will be available to everyone around the spring of 2024. It should be exciting!





## Osaka Science Museum



📍	4-2-1 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0005
☎	06-6444-5656
🕒	9:30AM-5:00PM (Tickets and admission to the exhibition hall are available until 4:30PM; the last planetarium show starts at 4:00PM)
🗓	Mondays (or the following weekday if Monday is a national holiday), New Year holiday, and other occasional closings
🚶	About 500 m west from Higobashi Stn on the Osaka Metro Yotsubashi Line, Exit 3; about 400 m southwest from Watanabebashi Stn on the Keihan Nakanoshima Line, Exit 2
💰	Exhibition hall: Adults: 400 yen, High school and college students: 300 yen, Junior high school students and younger: free * The planetarium has a separate admission fee
🌐	www.sci-museum.jp
📱	X: @osaka_kagakukan, @gakugei_osm Insta: @osakasciencemuseum

### A Curator Speaks *Museum Column*



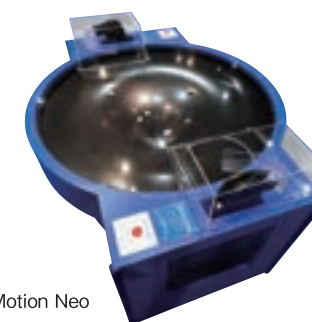
**Astronomy** Chiharu Ishizaka, Curator

A truth that connects everything in the universe and the miracle of our being alive.

I have enjoyed gazing up at the twinkling stars in the night sky since I was a boy. I would wonder what strange worlds existed out there beyond the darkness. I fantasized about traveling in space. That fascination transformed into a pursuit of learning.

Even today in my work as a curator, I still get excited by the unsolved mysteries of the universe. The thing that catches my attention in particular is the invisible phenomenon of gravity. Everything that exists in the universe is connected by gravitational forces. We are bound to this planet by gravity; the Earth is held in tow by the Sun; the Sun is pulled by galactic forces as are other stars; and the galaxy itself moves through space based on the forces exerted by other galaxies. There are no exceptions. Also, the birth of the Earth, the Sun, and the Milky Way were all due to the effects of gravity. When celestial bodies are drawn together by gravity, the closer they get to the center, the faster they move, creating a vortex. This is called *Keplerian motion*. The Earth, the Sun, other stars in the galaxy, and the galaxy itself are all rotating due to gravitational effects. The existence of gravity penetrates all of space as a universal truth. For every star like the Sun, there are countless others, and thousands of planets have been discovered orbiting around those stars. Yet, we have not been able to find another planet like our own that has given birth to life.

Meanwhile, for life to have emerged on Earth and led to humanity in the present day would seem to have required a mind-boggling series of miracles. I want people to think about this truth of gravity that connects us to the universe when they look up at the sky, and consider the miracle that we are here at all. It is with this wish that I provide commentary at the planetarium shows.



Kepler Motion Neo

model of the first robot ever made in Asia, named Gakutensoku. The groundbreaking research and theoretical work on mesons done by Dr. Hideki Yukawa, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physics, is also brought to life here.

Visitors should not miss the world-class planetarium here, renovated in 2022. The planetarium allows visitors to recline in specially designed seats and gaze up at the Milky Way projected onto a dome 26.5 meters in diameter. There are hourly shows with changing content that is sure to dazzle. A staff member also provides live commentary on the city's night sky projected onto the dome, so you can know what stars are up in the sky tonight.

After the full use of your five senses, take a break and relax at the science museum's café. You will also find souvenirs and many original goods at the museum shop.

Osaka Science Museum is a place that will captivate you with science. It is one of a kind and definitely worth a visit.



The Osaka Science Museum is a rewarding learning center for science in Osaka. It is much more than a museum where you take a quick look around with hands in pockets. It is a treasure house that fosters the dreams and intellectual curiosity of future scientists. The museum was opened to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city of Osaka in the Nakanoshima area, with its Western-style buildings and art museums. It is a place for hands-on discovery that children and adults alike will enjoy and gain direct insight from regarding scientific phenomena.

The fourth floor is a space for discovering the secrets of the universe. Touching the cool surface of a meteorite with your fingertips or feeling the weight of an apple on the moon are experiences that will surely stay with you longer than any classroom lesson. A three-dimensional model of the sun gives you a feel for its size and how the solar system works.

The third floor focuses on the amazing properties of ordinary things in our daily lives—substances of all kinds, plants, naturally occurring chemical components, and medications. As you spend time in this fascinating place, you will gain a new perspective on familiar occurrences at home or school, in the workplace, or on the street. You are sure to discover new value hidden in ordinary things.

The exhibition area on the second floor is filled with exciting scientific experiments that you conduct yourself. The sight of kids pressing buttons or pulling levers with great anticipation of what will happen tells you that this is more than just an exhibition space; it is a laboratory for playing and learning.

The science museum also presents the history of scientific achievements in Japan. On display is a

Closed: November 6, 2023 – Summer 2024



### About the Museum's Renovation

Osaka Science Museum is currently being renovated and will reopen in the summer of 2024. The stated aim of the renovation is "to create a unique, delightful space for everyone to enjoy science." Be ready for this newly evolved science museum when it opens!





The Osaka Museum of History is located in a tall building across from Osaka Castle Park, with its lush greenery, and Naniwa Palace Site Park. The museum presents the rich history and culture of the city of Osaka from ancient to modern times.

From the entrance hall, you take an elevator to the 10th floor where you will find yourself standing in a replica of the seventh-century main hall of Naniwa Palace, reconstructed in actual size—Daigokuden Hall. The hall has rows of huge vermilion-lacquered pillars 70 cm in diameter, with mannequins dressed in imperial court costumes representing the government officials of the day. The windows on this top floor also offer superb views below of both Naniwa Palace Site Park and Osaka Castle Park, making it a popular photo spot. And tours are available of the remains of the palace ruins preserved at the basement level.

Taking the escalator down to the 9th floor, you will arrive at Osaka during the time when the Hongan-ji Temple fought against Nobunaga. In the Edo Period zone, enjoy a tour of “The Water City” with a Bunraku puppet “Naniwaya” as your guide. Here, bustling town life is recreated in 1/20th-scale miniature models, depicting how the townspeople of Naniwa lived.

The Naniwa Archaeological Resource Centre is on the 8th floor. Against the backdrop of a full-scale replica of an archaeological excavation site, you can learn how archaeological surveying is actually performed and how to think about archaeological remains and artifacts. Fun programs such as puzzles involving pottery or geological strata are also popular.

Finally, the 7th floor exhibit details the history of modern-day Osaka with a nostalgic flavor of decades past. Walk through a realistic reproduction of the

bustling streets of Shinsaibashi-suji and Dotonbori at the end of the Taisho Period and beginning of the Showa Period. Suburban residences, backstreet workshops, and the Dotonbori Kadoza theater are reproduced at full scale with plenty of atmosphere. Your stroll through this thriving modern metropolis of Osaka is accompanied by video footage documenting the period.

We invite you to discover for yourself the depth and unique charm of Osaka through its history at the Osaka Museum of History.



## A Curator Speaks *Museum Column*



Folklore Studies **Kazuma Tawara, Curator**

Walking through countryside and city, listening to people talk; unforgettable stories and scenes are inspired by people's lives.

Folklore studies is the academic discipline that examines people's lifestyles and their history through products of culture or civilization handed down across generations, which can take the form of folk customs or materials. It involves researchers doing fieldwork by visiting the localities being studied, using their senses to experience such things as food culture, traditional events, beliefs, and customs, and to reflect on them. In Japan, at first glance it seems that folk customs are only still existing in remote villages, but in fact, if you walk around the streets of Osaka, you will find plenty of lore in all sorts of places.

Pictured below is a replica of Mizunomi Jizo that is on display on the 7th floor. The real roadside shrine currently stands in Uchikyuhojimachi in Chuo-ku, Osaka, though it has been moved there. Even in its new location, it continues to be revered by locals. Mizunomi Jizo is a guardian deity believed to have miraculous powers to fight beriberi, for which people used to visit the shrine and pray. Written on the hanging lanterns is “Kawachi-no-kuni Jusan Toge,” which refers to Jusan Pass, located in Kodachi, Yao City in present-day Osaka Prefecture, indicating that the enshrined deity was moved from this other shrine. At the mountain pass where it originally stood, there was an underground spring with miraculous waters believed to cure beriberi and other illnesses, hence the name Mizunomi Jizo, which means “fountain deity,” explaining the devout following it has. From such a small roadside shrine one can sense the connection of the big city of Osaka with other places that extends beyond space and time. This is the enchantment of folklore studies. Just one step outside the museum and you are already surrounded by folklore.



Mizunomi Jizo



## Osaka Museum of History



📍	1-32 Otemae 4-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka 540-0008
☎	06-6946-5728
🕒	9:30AM-5:00PM (last entry 30 minutes before closing)
🗓	Tuesdays (or the following day if Tuesday is a national holiday), New Year holiday
🚶	Tanimachi 4-chome Stn on the Osaka Metro Chuo Line/Tanimachi Line, Exits 2 and 9
💰	Adults: 600 yen, High school and college students: 400 yen, Junior high school students and younger: free * Separate admission fees apply for special exhibitions
🌐	<a href="http://www.osakamushis.jp/">www.osakamushis.jp/</a>
📱	X: @naniwarekihaku Insta: @osaka_museum_of_history

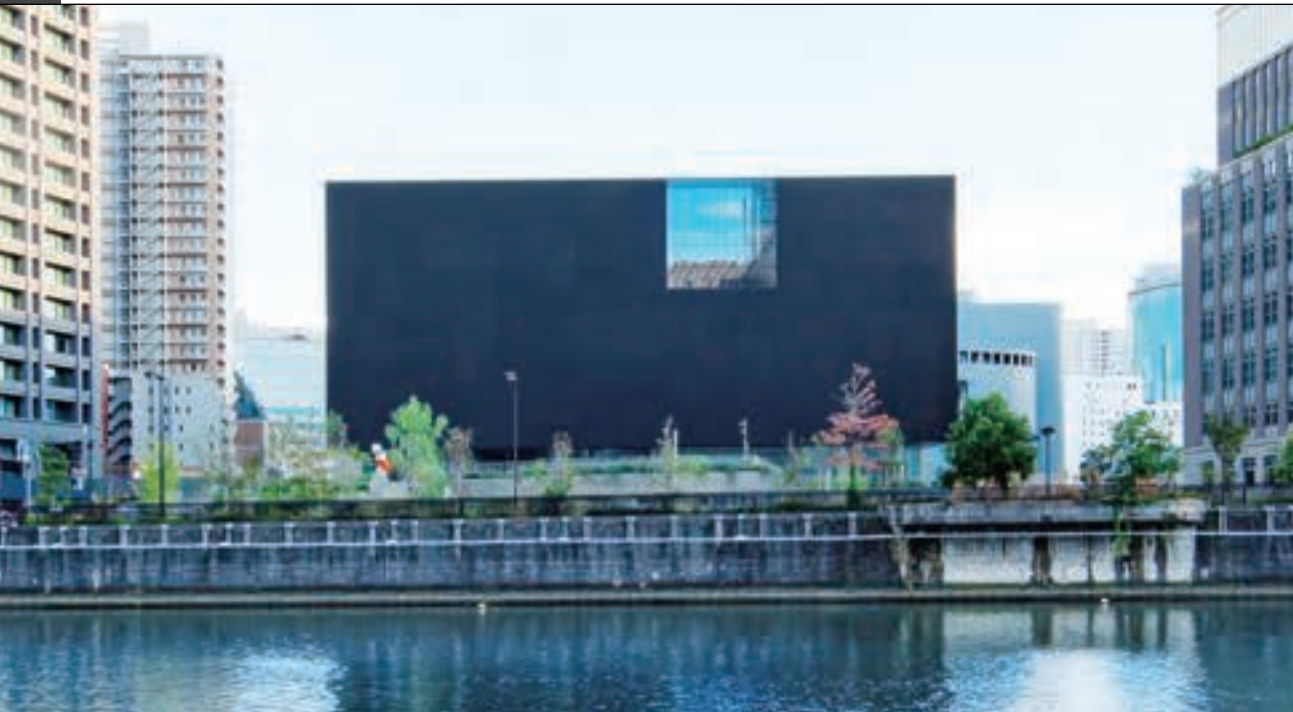


## Highlight

Osaka was a center of theatrical entertainment, along with Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto, and this scale-model diorama on the 9th floor depicts a “Kado no shibai (corner theater)” performance and lively street scene in January 1838.



# Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka

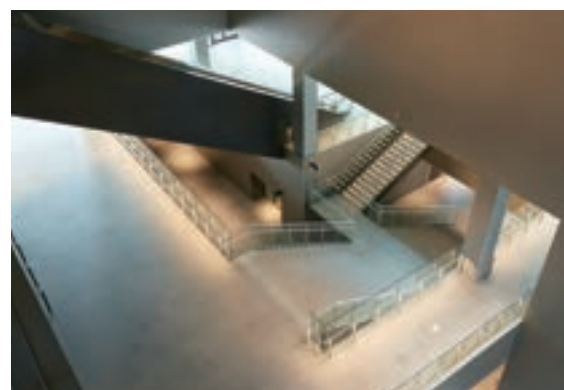


Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, opened in February 2022 in Nakanoshima, the heart of Osaka. It is a new art spot with an eye-catching, modern exterior. The idea at the heart of the architecture is the “passage,” which in French refers to an enclosed or covered pathway that is freely accessible to pedestrians. The passage is designed to be a comfortable indoor space welcoming to people of all ages, not just to museum visitors and art lovers. The five-story building features intricately connected floors and a large atrium. The design allows in natural light from the ceilings and windows to accentuate a three-dimensional effect; the design offers many joys in exploring the museum as if wandering the city’s lanes and alleys. The building has entrances in multiple directions, and the passages on the first and second floors are accessible walkways open to all passersby. They serve as a space where people walking through this part of Osaka can encounter art, bringing a new flow of people to Nakanoshima.

The art museum hosts a variety of exhibitions on the 4th and 5th floors that include major exhibitions featuring the finest works from Japan and abroad, unique content from the Nakanoshima Museum of Art collection, and thematic exhibitions that spotlight the Osaka art scene. The museum’s collection comprises over 6,000 works from all over the world that are representative of their respective eras or artistic movements, ranging from the late 19th century to the present day. Genres include Japanese painting, oil painting, sculpture, watercolor and drawings, prints, photography, video, graphic design, and product design.

To achieve its aim to be “collaborative and co-educating,” the art museum actively teams up with third party organizations and promotes learning programs. The facilities include a 300-seat hall, workshop rooms, and an outdoor lawn area that can be used for a variety of purposes such as gatherings and receptions. The museum also values interaction with the local community, providing local residents a place at which to relax and enjoy themselves, including hosting a *marché* on the lawn in season or providing winter illumination. Such activities allow the art museum to be more than just a place for exhibitions and take on the vital role of a cultural exchange hub that boosts the appeal of Osaka.

Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, is a place where beauty, architecture, and community converge. Spend time immersing yourself in a one-of-a-kind cultural experience that is sure to bring fulfillment.



## A Curator Speaks *Museum Column*



**Design** Maki Kitahiro,  
Curator

What I saw in the life and works of Saeki Yuzo, who died at age 30

Although my specialty is design, for the Saeki Yuzo exhibition in 2023 I became involved in editing the catalog, which includes images of the artist’s works, an exhibition history, chronology, etc. My job was to update all of the information we had about Saeki Yuzo. Reviewing his life and artwork, I was again struck by his unique talent. What caught my eye in particular were his dynamic brush strokes and how the lines seem to dance on the canvas. A common subject of his paintings was a building depicted from directly in front, yet the contours are painted with vigor and even the thin, delicate lines seem to be drawn without the slightest hesitation. His depictions of brick show remarkable gradations of color, evidence of his liberal use of paint.

Having moved to Paris at a young age with his family, Saeki painted prodigiously, even after being dismissed by the painter Maurice de Vlaminck as “Too academic!” *Yellow Restaurant*, shown below, is believed to be his final work painted outdoors, as he was suffering from physical and mental illness during his second stay in France. We can only wonder what he was experiencing as he painted on the streets of Paris at the end of his short four-year painting career before passing away at age 30. The more I look at his paintings, the more new things I discover.

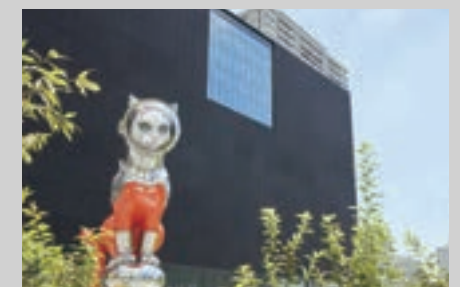
Saeki Yuzo  
*Yellow Restaurant*  
1928  
\* Not on permanent exhibition



## Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka



📍	4-3-1 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0005
☎	06-6479-0550
🕒	10:00AM-5:00PM (last entry 30 minutes before closing)
🗓	Mondays (or the following weekday if Monday is a national holiday) During exhibition changeovers and New Year holidays
🚶	5 min. walk to the southwest from Watanabebashi Stn on the Keihan Nakanoshima Line, Exit 2; 10 min. walk to the west from Higobashi Stn on the Osaka Metro Yotsubashi Line, Exit 4; and 10 min. walk to the south from Fukushima or Shin-Fukushima Stn on the JR line, Exit 2
💰	Admission fee varies by exhibition
🌐	<a href="http://nakka-art.jp/">nakka-art.jp/</a>
👍	Insta/X/Facebook: @nakkaart2022



## 📌 Highlight

The art museum offers many ways to enjoy its presence besides an active schedule of diverse exhibitions—including seasonally held *marché* (markets) and night illumination events. The museum’s “guardian” sculpture, SHIP’S CAT (Muse), welcomes visitors outside by the lawn on the second level. The first and second floors are freely accessible for passage.