



Welcome to the May 2015 edition of Friends of Japan

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Canberra

Beethoven a piano for life - The Complete Piano Sonatas (2015 Canberra International Music Festival)

Dates & Times: Concert I : 1 May 2015(1pm-3pm), II : 1 May 2015(3.30pm-5.30pm),
III: 2 May 2015(10am-12pm), IV: 2 May 2015(2pm- 4pm),
V : 2 May 2015(5.50pm-7.30pm), VI: 3 May 2015(2pm-3.45pm),
VII: 3 May 2015(5pm-7pm)

Venue: Fitters' Workshop (Printers Way, Kingston, ACT 2604)

Tickets: Adult \$55, Concession \$50 (For bookings, visit [here.](#))

Kotaro Nagano, winner of the 2nd Australian International Chopin Piano Competition, will be performing in a Beethoven Sonata cycle at the Canberra International Music Festival. He will be performing in concerts I , IV and VII.

For details, visit [here](#). For enquiries, contact info@cimf.org.au

A Chopin Recital by Kotaro Nagano

Date & Time: 3 May, 2015 (8pm – 9.30pm, doors open at 7.50pm)

Venue: The Larry Sitsky Recital Room, ANU School of Music

Tickets: Adult \$30, Concession/Member of Friends of Chopin Australia \$25 (To purchase, visit [here.](#))

Kotaro Nagano, winner of the 2nd Australian International Chopin Piano Competition, and fresh from the Preliminary Round of the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, and the Beethoven Sonata cycle at the Canberra International Music Festival, will be performing a special recital of the music of Chopin on Chopin's favourite make of piano, Pleyel. In this case, the ANU School of Music's Pleyel from 1847.

Kotaro is a gifted musician and was also the People's Choice winner of the 2nd Australian International Chopin Piano Competition, and he is excited to be re-united with this extraordinary instrument that is already capturing hearts and giving us a glimpse into the unique sound world of Chopin and the 19th century romantic pianists.

A light supper will be available before the recital.

All proceeds from this concert will be going towards the continued maintenance and restoration of the Pleyel to ensure it is heard publicly as often as possible.

Program

Nocturne in B flat minor, Op.9-1
Impromptu in A flat major, Op.29
Mazurka in E minor, Op.41-1
Mazurka in A flat major, Op.59-2
Etude in A flat major, Op.10-10
Etude in G flat major, Op.10-5
Barcarolle in F sharp major, Op.60
-- Intermission --
Nocturne in B major, Op.32-1
Nocturne in E flat major, Op.9-2
Waltz in A flat major, Op.34-1
Prelude in D flat major, Op.28-15
Scherzo in B flat minor, Op.31



For more information, visit [here](#).

Canberra Japan Club Autumn Festival

Date & Time: 17 May, 2015 (2pm – 4pm)

Venue: Majura Community Hall (2 Rosevear Pl. Dickson)

Programme includes:

- *Performances by students learning Japanese at local schools
- *Water balloon / origami making / Japanese calligraphy etc.
- *Food and Drinks (Featuring food stalls from CJC, CJC Preschool and Fuji Japanese Bakery)
- *Live performances in the courtyard (Aikido performance by AuikiLife /Banjo sing-along with Pablo Shopen)

For programme enquiries, contact info@canberrajapanclub.org.au .

Cowra

Kensuke Todo Sculpture and Drawings

Dates: 22 June – 26 July 2015

(Tue-Sat: 10am-4pm, Sun: 2pm-4pm, Mon: By appointment)

Venue: Cowra Region Art Gallery

(77 Darling Street, Cowra 2794)

Admission: Free

This exhibition examines the paradoxical works of Canberra-based sculptor Kensuke Todo. Born in Kyoto, and educated in Japan and Australia, Kensuke Todo extends his bi-cultural perspective to sculptures and drawings that gesture towards imaginary architecture, with rigorously considered in-between spaces that function ambivalently as voids and energy fields. Curated by Peter Haynes, Consultant Curator, Art Writer and Art Historian.

For more information, visit [here](#).



Kensuke Todo, Takashimaya (Takashimaya Department Store, Kyoto), 2007, mild steel, 43.6 x 71 x 16.3 cm. Private collection.

Sydney

Conversations through the Asian collections

Date & Time: On view until 4 October 2015

(10am – 5pm, Closed Good Friday)

Venue: Art Gallery of New South Wales (Art Gallery Road, The Domain, Sydney)

Admission: Free

Dynamic pairings offer new perspectives on art of old and new

Drawn from the Art Gallery of NSW's collection, this exhibition brings together Asian art of the past and present in a major refresh of the Asian galleries.



Left: Rodney Glick, Made Leno, Wayan Darmadi, Dewa Tirtayasa, Christopher Hill Everyone no 83 2009. Indonesia. Right: Lotus-clad Radha and Krishna c1700–10.

Conversations through the Asian collections is a unique chance to see contemporary works beside the historic works that inform and inspire them. It consists of a series of dynamic 'conversations' that allow visitors to look afresh at the historical collection.

Leading off those conversations are 24 renowned contemporary artists, among them Anish Kapoor, Suda Yoshihiro, Shahzia Sikander and Ah Xian. These artists see the past as a deep resource and constant spur to the imagination – their work attests to the live connection it has to the present.

Encompassing almost 300 objects, the exhibition features many icons of the Gallery's collection as well as new acquisitions by Chinese-Australian artist Ah Xian, contemporary Japanese artist Yamaguchi Akira, and a 19th-century Japanese hand-scroll and traditional Japanese garments.

The exhibition runs for a year in both the upper and lower Asian galleries and will be refreshed with new 'conversations' throughout the year. It is the result of a collaborative effort among the Gallery's international and Asian curators, including Justin Paton, head curator of international art; Cao Yin, curator of Chinese art; Khahn Trinh, curator of Japanese art; and Natalie Seiz and Matt Cox, assistant curators of Asian art.

Paton said that the show is about opening up new views of the collection: 'What does the past have to say to the present? What does the present have to say to the past? Far from being the last word on these matters, this exhibition opens the conversation – and invites viewers to join it'.

'Think of the contemporary artists in the show as guides and companions. Their works lead the way into the riches of the historical collection,' said Paton.

Art Gallery of NSW director Michael Brand said, 'Conversations is a wonderful reflection of this Gallery's character as an institution with a longstanding interest in historical Asian art. It also reflects the considerable strengths of our contemporary Asian collection which continues to grow. By bringing together Asian art of the past with that of the present, Conversations also reflects the place of Sydney as a vital multicultural centre in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region.'

The contemporary artists in the exhibition include Yang Yongliang, Gajin Fujita, Liu Jianhua, Yoshihiro Suda, Kevin Lincoln, Rodney Glick, Yamamoto Taro, Shahzia Sikander, Yamaguchi Akira, Nam June Paik, Miyajima Tatsuo, Tim Johnson, Savanhdary Vongpoothorn, Phaptawan Suwannakudt, Montien Boonma, Anish Kapoor, Pushpamala N and Claire Arni, Yamaguchi Ai, Khadim Ali and Liu Xiaoxian.

Among the historic works in the exhibition are historic jade objects, Edo period screens, a special loan collection of Japanese samurai swords and armour, Japanese kimono, Indian miniatures, ceramics by Rengetsu, southeast Asian textiles, an extraordinary array of Chinese porcelain from the Neolithic period through to the 19th century, and a rich array of Buddhist sculpture from China, ancient Gandhara, Japan, Tibet and Thailand.

Photographs of women by women, from the Gallery's collection

Dates: Now showing until 5 July 2015

Venue: Art Gallery of NSW

Admission: Free

Commanding and demanding, this compelling group of works has both a humorous and a dark side. Most have been acquired recently and are being shown for the first time. Artists include Miwa Yanagi, Yvonne Todd and Anne Zahalka, among others.

The exhibition examines the importance of photography as a medium for the construction of personas and the tension between photographic truth and its wilful manipulation.



Miwa Yanagi Yuka 2000, printed 2007 from the series My grandmothers, type C photograph face-mounted on photo base, 160 x 160 cm, purchased with funds provided by Geoff Ainsworth AM 2014 © Miwa Yanagi

Featuring works from Australia and overseas, Loud! also celebrates the 40th anniversary of International Women's Year, 1975.

Exhibition: Japan: Australian Perspectives

Dates & Times: 6 May – 24 May, 2015

(Wednesdays – Sundays: 10am-4pm, Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.)

Venue: Incinerator Art Space (2 Small Street Willoughby NSW)

*日本—オーストラリアの視点から—
Australian architects and designers and Japan
An exhibition curated by Dr Mark Stiles*

This exhibition will present the work of seven Australian designers reflecting the influence the art and culture of Japan has had on their own practice.

Those participating will be Adrian Boddy (photography), Tony Caro (photography), Ro Cook (textiles), Tony Coote (architecture), Diane Jones (architecture), Ayako Saito (sculpture) and Keith Pike (architecture).

The Willoughby Incinerator Art Space, designed as a municipal incinerator in 1934 by Walter Burley Griffin and Eric Nicholls and renovated in 2006 by SJB/GML, is the perfect showcase for the work of these innovative architects and designers.

FLOOR TALKS

Sunday 10 May at 2pm Adrian Boddy and Tony Caro

Sunday 17 May at 2pm Keith Pike

Sunday 24 May at 2pm Tony Coote

For information, visit [here](#) or contact 0401 638 501.

Exhibition: Tokyo Garden

Dates & Times: 6 May – 30 May, 2015

(Monday – Thursday: 10am-8pm, Friday:10am-6pm, Select Saturday: 10am – 3pm <22 & 30 May>, Closed Sundays & Public Holidays)

Venue: The Japan Foundation Gallery (Level 4, Central Park (Access via lifts) 28 Broadway, Chippendale NSW)

Admission: Free

※Opening Reception will be on 8 May 2015, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

(JPF Members, please RSVP with your member number. Public attendance is limited, [RSVP](#) essential.)

Tokyo Gardens takes us on a visual tour of the Japanese capital's gardens, photographed throughout the four seasons in both colour and black-and-white.

The series features 14 gardens spanning 400 years of history, the oldest of which was built in the 17th century. Ijichi's photographs not only captures the tranquil beauty of the gardens, it also evokes the landscape's rich cultural past. Through photography, he attempts to travel back as close as possible to the times these gardens were created and showcase the traditional beauty within them.

Tokyo Gardens reminds us that in a highly modernised and urbanised Tokyo, the city's gardens provide a zen-like refuge and a sense of connection to Japan's rich traditional culture.

For enquiries, contact reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055.

Exhibition: Go East - The Gene & Brian Sherman Contemporary Asian Art Collection

Dates & Time: 14 May – 26 July 2015 (10am – 5pm)

Venue: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales (Art Gallery Rd, The Domain)

Admission: Free

'Everything is art. Everything is politics.' – Ai Weiwei

Go East presents a rare opportunity to view significant contemporary Asian artworks from the private collection of Australian philanthropists Gene and Brian Sherman.

This collection of provocative and compelling works weaves a rich tapestry of different histories, speaking to one another of co-existing, often-times colliding worlds. The works reflect the Shermans' long-standing fascination with art built around text and textiles, and their commitment to works that address issues of social justice.

Featuring artists from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet, and Vietnam, many of the artworks in Go East have never before been seen in Australia. See works by artists such as Ai Weiwei and Lin Tianmiao, as well as the monumental installation Public Notice 2 2007 by Jitish Kallat at the Art Gallery of NSW and Yang Zhichao's Chinese Bible 2009 at Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (SCAF) in Paddington, Sydney.

Go East is presented in partnership with the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney.

For information, please call 1800 679 278.

JETAA NSW Trivia Night

Date & Time: 15 May, 2015 (7pm-10pm)

Venue: AB Hotel (225 Glebe Point Road, Sydney, NSW)

Entry: Free

Join JETAA NSW for an evening of Japanese themed trivia. Entry is completely free and a selection of prizes up for grabs. Finger food will be provided and drinks can be purchased at the bar.

RSVP by May 8th via email to info@jetaansw.org

Melbourne

Lingering Evocations: Music and Dance of Japan

Date & Time: 15 May 2015 (7pm)

Venue: Alan Laurence Theatre, McKinnon Secondary College (McKinnon Road, McKinnon)

Tickets: \$15 (\$10 for under 18 and JCV member)

*For tickets and booking, please contact Toshi Sakamoto at toshi@wadaikorindo.com

Performers:

-Izumi Fujikawa (Koto), Chikuho Fukushima (Shamisen), Yumi Yoshimura (Dance), Ai Susaki (Story teller), Ryokushi Nishizaki (Dance)

Guest Performers:

-Anne Norman (Shakuhachi), Wadaiko Rindo (Japanese Drumming)

For information, visit [here](#).

Japan Festival 2015

Date & Time: 17 May 2015 (10am - 5pm)

Venue: Box Hill Town Hall and TAFE (1000-1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill)

Entry: \$5 (Free for children up to Grade 6, disabled persons +1 attendant, pensioners and senior card holders, persons in kimono or yukata)

This year's Japan Festival will be held on Sunday 17th May at the Box Hill Town Hall and TAFE same venues as the previous years.

It will be the 16th JF and this year's theme is 'Friends (tomo)'. Please come and join us together with your family and friends, and meet many new friends in the festival.

For information, visit [here](#) or contact japanfestival@jcv-au.org.

Japanese Art After Fukushima: Return of Godzilla

Date & Time: Now showing until 30 May 2015 (9am - 5pm)

Venue: RMIT University Gallery

Entry: Free

In light of Japan's nuclear past and present, the threat of atomic annihilation has long influenced Japanese artists.

This exhibition will focus on the work of artists responding to the events at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in 2011 and its environmental implications.

The massive radioactive monster Godzilla looms large in popular culture, originating in a series of live action Japanese (tokusatsu) films in the 1950s, where it emerged from the sea to destroy Japanese cities. The nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were fresh in the Japanese consciousness and the character was seen as a metaphor for nuclear weapons. In the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, when a tsunami tore through the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, the potent image of Godzilla and his anti-nuclear subtext again forces people to question nuclear power.

Japanese Art After Fukushima: Return of Godzilla is part of the Art + Climate = Change 2015 festival celebrating and identifying Australian and international artists working with environmental ideas.

For more details, please visit [here](#).

Brisbane

Aikido Self Defense For Women

Date & Time: 3 May, 2015 (10.30am – 12.30pm)

Venue: Nanzan Dojo (Unit 8/ 747 Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly)

Cost etc: \$35 per person (cash or cheque only) 18 yrs old+

Instructors: George Eaton 8th Dan & Jonathan Wade 4th Dan

Bookings: Call Izumi Walker 2nd Dan on 0421 747 107

Bring: Clothing suitable for exercise and a water bottle

A two hour workshop to learn:

**To be empowered and self-confident*

**The use self defense postures and movements*

**How to make effective escape techniques*

Self-defense is an important life skill that you can use everyday

For information, visit [here](#) or contact enquiries@takemusukai.asn.au

We can make another future: Japanese art after 1989

Date: Now until 20 September 2015 (10am – 5pm)

Venue: Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane

Entry: Free



Sachiko Kazama, Japan b.1972 / *Nonhuman crossing* 2013 / Woodcut, sumi ink on Japanese paper on wood panel, unique edition / Two panels / The Kenneth and Yasuko Myer Collection of Contemporary Asian Art. Purchased 2014 with funds from Michael Sidney Myer through the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: Queensland Art Gallery / © The artist

‘We can make another future: Japanese art after 1989’ surveys the art of Heisei, the current era in the Japanese imperial calendar, through the presentation of around 100 works by over 40 contemporary Japanese artists, drawn from the Queensland Art Gallery Collection. Increasingly cosmopolitan in character and operating with an unprecedented level of international mobility, the art of this period offers a sophisticated reflection on the social conditions behind art’s production in Japan and the anxieties that accompany them.

Beginning in 1989, Heisei has seen significant challenges for Japan, as the country has negotiated the collapse of the ‘bubble’ economy and a social uncertainty exacerbated by a series of man-made and natural disasters within a rapidly changing region. But it has also been the period of ‘Cool Japan’, with widespread international interest in Japan’s contemporary cultural production, while opportunities have emerged for closer engagement with its neighbours in the Asia Pacific. As well as 25 years of Heisei, 2014 also marks 25 years of the Gallery’s public engagement with the contemporary art of Japan through the landmark 1989 exhibition ‘Japanese Ways, Western Means’, the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art series, and other exhibitions, along with the development of a significant collection of works by some of the period’s most important artists.

‘We can make another future’ draws on the specific composition of the Gallery’s Collection to propose several overlapping frameworks for considering this fascinating period in Japanese history through the art of an extraordinary time. The exhibition explores the emergence of an aesthetic of the digital sublime; responses to the rich field of consumer culture and new technologies of representation and communication; and critiques of national and sexual identity, which through figuration and performance attest to the central role of the human body in contemporary social life. Accompanied by a comprehensive exhibition catalogue, ‘We can make another future’ is a view of contemporary Japan from a specific institutional perspective, but one constructed from a deep history of collective research and ongoing engagement.

For more details, please visit [here](#).

Exhibition: Time of Others

Dates & Time: July – October 2015 (10am – 5pm daily)

Venue: Gallery of Modern Art

Admission: Free

'Time of others' is a curatorial collaboration between four of the Asia-Pacific region's leading institutions for collecting, exhibiting, and interpreting contemporary art. An exhibition project evolving as it travels between each venue throughout 2015 and 2016, it is an attempt to create a platform for reflecting on social and cultural relations in the Asia-Pacific today.

The concept of the Asia-Pacific escapes easy definition. The notion of a discreet, homogenous continental or maritime unity is foreign to the region. Endeavours to define geographical borders or identify systems of cultural affinities have therefore been invariably based on political agendas and ideological assumptions. Attempts to enforce such systems have, at various times, created psychic fault lines that remain active today, especially when it comes to histories of conflict and repression. While such traumas remain unresolved, the geopolitical conditions of the region are ever shifting. Engendering both opportunity and disparity at cultural and economic levels, globalisation has accelerated internal contradictions within the Asia-Pacific: while the region arguably remains an unacceptable 'other' to itself, it is also an expanding market and a potential ally.

Curated by Che Kyongfa, Hashimoto Azusa, Michelle Ho and Reuben Keehan, 'Time of others' brings together new works by artists from the Asia-Pacific as well as holdings drawn from the collections of the participating museums. It aims to reveal multiple perspectives, in which differences meet without melting into an artificial unity, but are instead negotiated and used as tools for reflection.

An evolving list of artists includes Ringo Bunoan, Chen Chieh-Jen, Heman Chong, Kiri Dalena, Graham Fletcher, Ho Tzu Nyen, Saleh Husein, Jonathan Jones, Kato Tsubasa, On Kawara, Kim Beom, An-My Lê, Lim Minouk, Basir Mahmood, mamoru, Miyagi Futoshi, Tozer Pak, Pratchaya Pinthong, Bruce Quek, ruangrupa, Shitamichi Motoyuki, Natee Utarit, Vandy Rattana, Võ An Khánh and Danh Vo.

This exhibition was organized as a collaborative project between the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; the National Museum of Art, Osaka; the Singapore Art Museum; the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA); and the Japan Foundation Asia Center.

For information, visit [here](#).

Adelaide

Kodomo no Hi Japan Festival 2015 - Celebrating 20 Years

Date & Time: 3 May 2015 (11am-4pm)

Venue: Cowandilla Primary School (21 Jenkins St, Cowandilla)

Cost: \$2 per person, \$5 per family (Free Parking)

*Come in Japanese costume.



JAJA's Kodomo No Hi Japan Festival is the biggest Japan festival in Adelaide. In 2015, the festival is celebrating 20 years. [Click here to find out how you can participate](#) and make the 20th anniversary something really special.

The day is filled with Japan-related performances, exhibitions, activities, food and stalls.

Kodomo no Hi Japan Festival has won a number of prestigious community awards.

- 2013 WINNER - The City of West Torrens Community Event of the Year Award
 - 2013 WINNER - The Australia Day Council of South Australia Community Event of the Year Award
- Come along for a fun day for the whole family at this unique community event.

For more details, please visit [here](#).

The Koinobori Project (Japanese Carp-streamers Display)

Date & Time: 3 May 2015 (11am – 4pm)

Venue: Kodomo no Hi Japan Festival (21 Jenkins St, Cowandilla)

For more information, visit [here](#).

Perth

Mariko Mori: Rebirth

Date: Now until 29 June 2015

Venue: Art Gallery of WA, Perth

Tickets: Please check prices and more detailed information [here](#).

Tokyo-born, New York and London-based Mariko Mori is one of the most important artists of our time. Through an exploration of themes, such as life, death and rebirth, her work resonates with audiences around the world.

Rebirth is an immersive, contemplative experience composed of installations, glowing LED sculptures, photographs, drawings and videos. Quiet and beautiful, this thoughtful and absorbing exhibition takes us from a sculpture symbolising the eternal cycle of life to the creation of a pulsing white hole - where stars are born. Emanating positivity and generating wonder, Rebirth celebrates our existing balance with nature and gently places you between the earth and the wider cosmos.



Mariko Mori Transcircle 1.1 2004 detail. Stone, Corian, LED, Real time control system, 33.6 cm in diameter: each stone: 110 x 56 x 34 cm. Courtesy of Mori Art Collection, Tokyo. Photo by Richard Learoyd.



Mariko Mori Primal Memory 2004. Lucite, 25 x 126.8 x 129.6 cm. Courtesy of SCAI THE BATHHOUSE, Tokyo and Sean Kelly Gallery, New York. Photo by Richard Learoyd. *Mask* (part of *Primal Memory* installation), 2004. Acrylic plastic, 12.5 x 13.5 x 6 cm. Collection of Tokyo University Museum

AJS Tomodachi Lunch

On the first Thursday of every month, the Australia-Japan Society of WA holds a Tomodachi Lunch. The lunch is held at 12:00pm at Jun Restaurant, 568 Hay Street, Perth. See [here](#) for more details.

Bonsai Society of WA and Bonsai Workshop Inc.

Meetings of the Bonsai Society of WA are held on the last Monday of each month and include demonstrations, lectures, films, advice and a display of members' tree. The Bonsai Society also holds regular workshops and other events. For more information please click [here](#).

Meetings of the Bonsai Workshop Inc. are held on the last Saturday of each month. Members can bring their trees to work on, receive advice and watch others at work. For more information please click [here](#).

Perth Kimono Club

The Perth Kimono Club aims to bring together people living in or visiting Perth who wish to share the joy and beauty of wearing a Japanese kimono. You may have been wearing kimono all your life or you may have never worn one before, either way you are still welcome to join. Click [here](#) to find out more about the club and upcoming events.

Japanese Cultural Trivia

May 5th is Children's Day / Boy's Festival (***Kodomo no Hi***) in Japan - a national holiday to celebrate the growth and health of all children. Families with a boy decorate their houses with miniature samurai armour (***yoroi***), helmets (***kabuto***), samurai dolls (***musha ningyo***) or hoist carp streamers (***koinobori***) in their gardens. Inspired by the old Chinese story of a carp becoming a dragon after swimming up a steep river, people in Japan consider carp as a symbol of success.

On Children's Day, there is a tradition to take a bath containing iris leaves (***shobu buro***) which is believed to have a miraculous preventive power against all diseases and to drive away evil spirits. People also eat rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves (***Chimaki***) or rice cakes wrapped in oak leaves with azuki beans inside (***Kashiwa mochi***) on Children's Day and pray for children's growth.

