



Airbus and its 55,000 employees around the world are delighted to continue our rewarding partnership with the National Gallery of Art by supporting the exhibition *Colorful Realm: Japanese Bird-and-Flower Paintings by Itō Jakuchū (1716-1800)*.

We are honored to be a part of bringing Jakuchū's magnificent scrolls to Washington, D.C., where they will be displayed in their entirety for the first time ever outside of Japan. Among Japan's most celebrated cultural treasures, these scrolls come to our nation's capital at an important moment: as we honor the centennial of Japan's gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the United States.

Like many of my Airbus colleagues, I greatly admire the Japanese tradition of finding beauty and functionality in the simplicity of nature. Jakuchū's scrolls provide a pictorial survey of flora and fauna, both mythical and actual, painted according to the highest standards of artistic and technical accomplishment in Japanese art. *Colorful Realm* depicts each of its 30 subjects in wondrously meticulous detail and, when viewed in its entirety, serves as one of the most dynamic and meditative expressions of the natural world in all of Japanese art.

Much as Jakuchū found inspiration in observing and imagining the natural world, Airbus believes the study and imitation of nature's best ideas – "biomimicry" – can help solve human challenges like making aircraft smarter and more efficient. In fact, ever since Leonardo da Vinci began sketching aircraft some 500 years ago, aeronautics engineers like me have looked to nature to inspire innovation. Protection of the diversity of life on Earth is a primary reason our company is committed to helping create the sustainable aviation industry of tomorrow.

What a unique opportunity we have to experience the world through the eyes and imagination of Itō Jakuchū, the brilliant Japanese artist of three centuries ago. We invite all visitors to the National Gallery to be inspired – and to enjoy!

Barry Eccleston
President and Chief Executive Officer
Airbus Americas, Inc.