

# National Gallery of Art

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **150 NEW OBJECTS ON VIEW IN EDO EXHIBITION, JANUARY 15-FEBRUARY 15;**

### **EDO EXPERTS PRESENT LECTURE AND SYMPOSIUM, JANUARY 8 AND 9**

Washington, DC -- The beginning of January is the last opportunity to see the first part of the magnificent exhibition Edo: Art in Japan 1615-1868. Since 150 of the works are too fragile to withstand prolonged exposure to light, they will be replaced with an equal number of comparable masterpieces of the Edo period. The show will remain open as the new objects are installed during non-public hours between January 6 and January 14. The second part of the exhibition will remain on view through February 15, 1999. Washington is the sole venue.

The exhibition is made possible by NTT.

Works to be replaced include works on paper or silk, lacquerware, textiles, and woodblock prints. Among the new art treasures will be the legendary, gold-leaf Hikone Screen (c. 1620s-1640s), never before seen outside Japan; Frog in Zen Meditation, one of the best-known Zen scrolls of the Edo period by Sengai Gibon (1751-1837); Kosode with blossoming plum tree, a kimono painted by Sakai Hoitsu (1761-1828) so that the image becomes a three-dimensional work when the wearer moves; two paintings, Buddhist Priest Warding off a Demon by Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), and Gods of Wind and Thunder (an Important Cultural Property) by Ogata Kōrin (1658-1716); a recently discovered pair of six-panel screens, Stone Lanterns by Itō Jakuchū (1716-1800), which are rendered in a meticulous pointillist technique; and two Samurai helmets, one in the form of a gold-leafed turbot shell and the other mounted with giant, erect rabbit ears.

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Sculpture and ceramics, which have been on view since the exhibition opened on November 15, will remain on view through February 15, 1999.

### LECTURE

Friday, January 8

4 p.m. Slide lecture, "Art and Religion in the Edo Period,"

by Robert T. Singer, exhibition curator and curator of Japanese art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art. East Building auditorium.

### ALL-DAY SYMPOSIUM WITH EXHIBITION CATALOGUE AUTHORS

Saturday, January 9, East Building auditorium

10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Introduction, Robert T. Singer, exhibition curator and curator of Japanese art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Forms and Norms in Edo Art and Society, Herman Ooms, professor, department of history, University of California, Los Angeles

Ornament as Style in Edo Period Japan, Nicole Rousmaniere, lecturer, department of world art studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England

2 - 5 p.m.

Arms: The Balance of Peace, Victor Harris, acting head, department of Japanese antiquities, British Museum

Workers of Edo: Ambiance, Archetype, or Individual, Hollis Goodall, associate curator of Japanese art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

City, Country, Travel, and Vision in Edo Cultural Landscapes, Melinda Takeuchi, associate professor, department of fine arts, Stanford University

The Human Figure in the Playground of Edo Artistic Imagination, John T. Carpenter, assistant professor, department of fine arts, Vanderbilt University

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No reservations are required. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis.

**ORGANIZATION AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, and The Japan Foundation.

It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. All Nippon Airways has contributed essential in-kind support.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall at Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (202) 737-4215, or the TDD at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). To receive the Gallery's free bimonthly Calendar of Events, call (202) 842-6662.

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