

August 20, 2020



Great news! Our **Manga Hokusai Manga exhibition** has been extended to **September 18**. Go to our website and [book a visit](#) while there is still time. **This weekend** is the last of the Best of the Toronto Japanese Film Festival. Check out *Fly Me to the Saitama*, a comic fantasy based on a classic manga from the 1980s. There is one more **Online 'Sawakai'** next week. Register now and share your Japanese language teaching experiences with fellow educators. On **September 17**, tune in to our online lecture, **The Many Lives of a Japanese Classic**, to hear about how *The Pillow Book* and its author Sei Shōnagon have been re-imagined and re-interpreted over the centuries. For more JFT news and exciting online exhibitions, festivals, performances, and movies, see [further details below](#) >

Schedule at a Glance

Ongoing	Film Screening	Best of the Toronto Japanese Film Festival
August 21-23	Film Screening	Best of the Toronto Japanese Film Festival: <i>Fly Me to the Saitama</i>
August 26	Teachers' Professional Development	Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers: Sharing teaching experiences

August 29

Teachers' Professional
Development

Marugoto Teaching Material Project: Document
Collection Presentation

September 17

Online Lecture

The Many Lives of a Japanese Classic

JFT NEWS

Film Screening

Best of the Toronto Japanese Film Festival

Friday, July 17 - Sunday, August 23

The Japan Foundation, Toronto is proud to co-present the Best of the Toronto Japanese Film Festival. This special edition features great Japanese films that have graced the big screen during the past 8 years of the festival, which has been postponed until October later this year.

Friday, August 21 - Sunday, August 23

***Fly Me to the Saitama* 翔んで埼玉**

Directed by TAKEUCHI Hideki (2019, 107 min.)

From the director of *Thermae Romae* and *Color Me True* comes a wild comic fantasy based on MAYA Mineo's popular 1982 classic manga.



In a luxurious, kingdom-like Tokyo lives Momomi, the son of the corrupt governor and the possessor of striking feminine beauty. He, like all Tokyoites, looks down on the unsophisticated neighbouring prefectures, especially Saitama. When mysterious student Rei transfers into the private academy, the spark of attraction soon lights the fuse for a war between the prefectures. A lunatic satire of the universal tensions between urban and rural; overflowing with energy, hilarity, and over-the-top action.

[Click here](#) for details and tickets >

Online Teachers' Professional Development

Marugoto Teaching Material Project: Document Collection Presentation

Saturday, August 29, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)

The Marugoto Teaching Material Project aims to create a collection of materials to be used as a reference by teachers in order to make it easier for the Marugoto textbooks to be used in Japanese-language education in Canada. Our aim is that this "Reference Collection" will be useful in both synchronous and asynchronous online classes through bringing together useful digital resources, videos, etc. that can be used with the Marugoto textbooks.

This project meeting will be a presentation of materials collected and/or created for use with the Marugoto Intermediate B1 textbook by the Canadian Japanese-language teachers who were



members of the 1st Marugoto Teaching Materials Project.

[Details >](#)

Online Lecture
The Many Lives of a Japanese Classic

Thursday, September 17, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (EDT)
@Online, registration required

The large corpus of literary works by accomplished and highly educated women writers that emerged during the Heian period (794-1185) in Japan played an important role in the creation of a national literary tradition.



This talk by Dr. Gergana Ivanova (University of Cincinnati) considers the fixed images of Japanese women writers of the distant past and the constructed nature of their writing focusing on one text, *The Pillow Book* (*Makura no sōshi*, early 11th c.). It examines interpretations of the work and images of its author Sei Shōnagon that emerged in the years between the 17th century and the early 20th century and shows that although they were not shaped through references to historical documents and direct interactions with *The Pillow Book*, these views still linger in contemporary scholarship and popular culture.

[Details and registration here >](#)

Online Teachers' Professional Development
JFT Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers

16th 'Sawakai': Wednesday, August 26, 6:00 PM - 6:40 PM (EDT)

Topic: Sharing Teaching Experiences

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required



The JFT Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers is a place where teachers can share with others how their online classes are going. All topics are welcome, including if you have any ideas you would like to try out, anything you feel a little stuck on, etc. Why not take the opportunity to talk with other teachers from across Canada?. (*These gatherings will be conducted in Japanese.)

[Click here for details >](#)

Japanese Language Classes Registration Now Open!

Are you interested in joining a Japanese language class? We offer online courses for everyone from complete beginners (Starter A1) to intermediate speakers (Intermediate B1).

This year we have two formats to choose from:

- [JFT Online MARUGOTO Japanese Language Courses:](#) Term-based Japanese language courses using the textbook series Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture, which was developed by the Japan Foundation. Students will meet once a week, and over the course of the three terms students will cover one level of our textbooks.
- [JFT Online Teacher-Support Japanese Language Courses:](#) Students will have an online meeting three times a term to practice what they have learned with their classmates and instructor, and at the end of each term will be evaluated on what they have learned. During the rest of the term, students will study and complete assignments on their own using the Japan Foundation's online e-learning website [Minato](#).



JFT Library Re-open

The JFT Library is now open with reduced hours and modified services. Visitors are allowed to return or pick-up library items. Please make a request for items you wish to borrow before visiting the library. For more information: [Library Visitor Policy](#).



August New Arrivals

New Arrivals for August! New titles include the English version of the beloved children's book, Bam and Kero Go Shopping by SHIMADA Yuka; the novel and film adaptation of the romantic comedy, The Night is Short, Walk on Girl in both Japanese and English; and many more! They are now available for circulation. Please contact the library at library@jftor.org to place a hold for pick up.



[Details >](#)

Exhibition Re-Opening: By Appointment Only Manga Hokusai Manga

July 23, 2020 - September 18, 2020 <-- Extended date!
Curated by Professor Jaqueline Berndt, Kyoto Seika University



The Manga Hokusai Manga exhibition is back with extended exhibition dates. Visits to the Gallery are by appointment only. Please visit our [website](#) for details.

Before you come to our gallery, take a look at the drawing process of SAMURA Hiroaki, one of the Manga artists introduced in Manga Hokusai Manga exhibition: [Mugen no Junin](#).

Unlike past exhibitions of Hokusai's work, Manga Hokusai Manga approaches the Hokusai Manga from the perspective of contemporary Japanese comics, focusing on genre, pictorial storytelling and participatory culture rather than the integration of word and image or the role of popular characters. And instead of aiming at a historiographic verification of influences, the exhibition invites viewers to ponder their own notions about manga by comparing works from different periods while exploring the diversity therein.

[Details >](#)

Video recording now available!
**From The Portapak to The Aniputer:
Experimentation and Exchange in Early
Japanese Video Art**



Available for one more week!

If you missed our online lecture on Wednesday, June 24, a live recording is now available to watch on our YouTube channel for 2 months. Tune in for Jesse Cumming's presentation on early Japanese video art and transnational cooperation between Canada and Japan.

[Click here to watch >](#)

Photo by YAMAMOTO Keigo

JAPAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTED EVENTS

Virtual Japan Festival CANADA 2020

Saturday, August 29, 7:00 PM (EDT)

This year, Japan Festival CANADA goes virtual!

Japan Festival CANADA has been hosted in one of the multicultural countries in the world, Canada, to introduce and promote genuine Japanese food, culture and technologies.

The concept of Japan Festival CANADA is to contribute in further success of establishing Canada and Japan Diplomatic Relations. Since the first year event in 2016, Japan Festival CANADA has been hosted annually in the summer. Japan Festival CANADA 2019 was successfully hosted welcoming 90,000 attendees.

Japan Festival CANADA is the largest Japanese Cultural Event in North America with the exciting entertainments such as traditional and modern performance, Pop Culture stage performance as well as the tasteful Japanese foods and many more to experience and enjoy Japan.

[Details >](#)



The Toronto Japanese Film Festival Moves Online for 2020



Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre's 9th annual Toronto Japanese Film Festival will be held online from October 3 to 22 and features over 20 films using the SHIFT72 festival platform. Screening will also take place live in Japan during the same period in Tokyo Hibiya Midtown Centre. The festival has now grown into the largest film event of its kind in North America and is recognized by the Japanese film industry as a vital conduit for bringing Japanese film to the world.

[Click here](#) to find out the first wave of films announce for TJFF 2020.

ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Performing Arts Recommendation

BUNRAKU Puppet Theatre: *Kaminari Daiko (Thunder's Drum)*

Recorded at National Bunraku Theatre, Osaka, in July 2019, this contemporary work of Buraku puppet theatre was freshly created as an entertaining piece for which the whole family enjoy together.

Streaming on YouTube until Monday, August 31, 2020

Duration: 45 minutes

No English subtitle



Synopsis:

The Story of Torokichi the thunder and Tora-chan Family: One extreme hot day in summer just before the Tenjin Matsuri Festival, Torokichi the thunder falls on the house of Tora-chan, the only son of a drum craftsman. Torokichi has little skill at playing a drum, but he needs to be the best at the drum contest to be held in the clouds on the day of Tenjin Matsuri Festival. Tora-chan, his father and his mother work together with him to practice the drums and Torokichi is eventually able to produce an excellent sound. Torokichi happily returns to the heavens.

[Click here to watch >](#)

Film Recommendations Fantasia International Film Festival

Thursday, August 20 - Friday, September 4, 2020

Starting tonight, Fantasia International Film Festival will launch its 24th edition of its popular festival and will include 21 films from Japan. These will include feature premieres, classics, shorts and experimental films. This year the festival will be online, and the films will be accessible across Canada.

[Details >](#)



The Japanese Art of Fixing Broken Pottery

BBC REEL, Video by Terushi Sho

2020 (5 min.) Japanese with English subtitles

Japan's ancient art of celebrating broken pottery is rooted in an eastern philosophy of finding beauty in imperfection. Many believe it can help us to accept our flaws - and foster a sense of peace and fulfilment.

[Click here to watch >](#)



Gallery Recommendations Contemporary Theatre Poster 2020 Exhibition

Experience from your home a virtual reality tour of posters from the 1960s angura/avant-garde performances of Japan. Website is in Japanese.

[Click here to view >](#)



SEIKATSU KOGEI: Objects for Intentional Living

Ends August 29, 2020

This exhibition organized by our colleagues at The Japan Foundation, Sydney in Australia explores the Japanese craft movement that began in the 1990s known as Seikatsu Kogei, or lifestyle crafts. Included in this exhibition are some 70 works by 22 currently-active Seikatsu Kogei artists. The objects on display are made from a variety of materials, including wood, ceramics, lacquer, glass, metal, bamboo, paper and clay. The virtual gallery includes artist profiles as well as a



fantastic interview between woodworker and proponent of the movement MITANI Ryuji and YAMAMOTO Tadaomi, of Gallery Yamahon.

[Click here to view >](#)

BORO TEXTILES: Sustainable Aesthetics

3D Gallery Tour Online: Japan Society

Japan Society's exhibition Boro Textiles: Sustainable Aesthetics will let you experience & learn about how these garments express essential principles of Japanese ethics & aesthetics, inspiring generations of artists & designers interested in sustainable practices. Visit the exhibition virtually through their new 3D tour!



You can also experience this exhibit through a video narrated by Director of the Japan Society Gallery KAMIYA Yukie and Assistant Curator Tiffany Lambert in a three part series.

[Click here to view 3D gallery >](#)

[Click here to watch narrated video >](#)

[Click here for exhibit preview >](#)

[Family activity here >](#)

Masterpiece of the Week

Each week, we will feature one of Japan's National Treasure and Important Cultural Properties

Important Cultural Property Manjushri (Monju Bosatsu) on a Lion, and Standing Statues of Attendants

文殊菩薩騎獅像および侍者立像 もんじゅぼさつきしぞうおよびじしゃりゅうぞう

By Kōen 康円 Kamakura period/Bunnei 10 (1273)



Please [click here](#) for an explanatory guide and images of a group shot of all five statues and of individual statues. These images are in high resolution, so please enjoy the details by zooming in.

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