

December 3, 2020



The **38th Annual Japan Film Festival** is happening next week with 2 heartwarming contemporary Japanese films: *Koshien* and *A Long Goodbye*. On **December 12**, tune in to our live co-presentation on ukiyo-e artist **KATSUSHIKA Oei** with the Japan Society. Then, on **January 7**, join us for another online talk on **STEAM education of Japanese youth**. Valuable **Teachers' Professional Development** workshops are available for **December**, and we are already looking ahead to **January** for more **'Sawakai'** opportunities. **Another Book Club Online** is coming in **February!** Pick up a copy of OGAWA Yoko's *The Memory Police* and start reading now. For more JFT events, community news, and online resource recommendations, see **further details below >**

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

<b>December 8</b>	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	3rd Online Nihongo Salon: "Discuss in Japanese! Japanese 'common sense' that you found surprising."
<b>December 10-12</b>	FILM SCREENING	38th Annual Japan Film Festival
<b>December 12</b>	ONLINE TALK	KATSUSHIKA Oei: A Woman Artist in the Floating World
<b>December 16</b>	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	24th 'Sawakai': Thank you very much for your hard work this year!
<b>December 17</b>	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Online Network for Heritage Language Education 4
<b>January 6</b>	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	25th 'Sawakai': Happy New Year!
<b>January 7</b>	ONLINE TALK	Cultivating the Next Generation of STEAM Thinkers
<b>February 11</b>	LIBRARY	JFT Book Club Online

**JFT NEWS**



## 38th Annual Japan Film Festival

Co-presented by the Canadian Film Institute, Embassy of Japan in Canada and The Japan Foundation, Toronto

**Thursday, December 10, 00:00 AM - Saturday, December 12, 11:59 PM (EST)**

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

One of the Canadian Film Institute's longest-running annual festivals, the Japan Film Festival, has showcased the best in contemporary filmmaking in Japan. Despite the pandemic, we are proud to continue this cinematic tradition online to film lovers all across Canada.

Presented with the generous support of and in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan and The Japan Foundation, Toronto.

[Details >](#)



### *A Long Goodbye* 長いお別れ

Directed by NAKANO Ryota

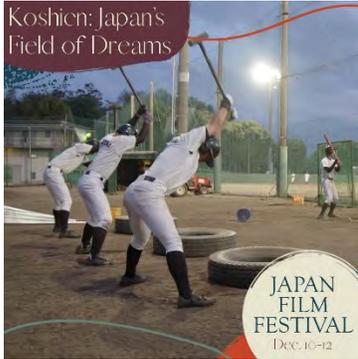
2019 | 127 min. | Japanese with English Subtitles

Critically acclaimed touching drama about a family dealing with aging and dementia.

After the film, watch CFI Executive Director Tom McSorley's conversation on dementia in Japan and Canada with Momiji Health Care Society's Kiyoshi Dembo on the Eventive portal.

[Watch trailer >](#)

[Watch movie here >](#)



### *Koshien: Japan's Field of Dreams*

Directed by YAMAZAKI Ema Ryan

2019 | 94 min. | Japanese with English Subtitles

Fascinating documentary about the post-war phenomenon of baseball in Japan.

Bonus content! After the film, you can watch CFI Executive Director Tom McSorley's conversation with director YAMAZAKI Ema on the Eventive portal.

[Watch trailer >](#)

[Watch movie here >](#)



Online Teachers' Professional Development

Online Nihongo Salon for Japanese-Language Teachers

**3rd Online Nihongo Salon:**

**Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EST)**

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

The Japan Foundation, Toronto has launched a Nihongo Salon series for Japanese language teachers with the aim of providing a place where Japanese language teachers in Canada who would like to maintain Japanese language proficiency can speak Japanese regularly and network with other teachers.

[Details >](#)



Online Talk

### **KATSUSHIKA Oei: A Woman Artist in the Floating World**

**Saturday, December 12, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)**

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

KATSUSHIKA Oei (Ōi) is not a household name. Her father, however, is renowned as one of the greatest masters of art — Hokusai. In this joint presentation hosted by the Japan Foundation, Toronto and The Japan Society Canada, novelist Ms. Katherine Govier and art historian Dr. Rosina Buckland (the British Museum) will discuss Oei's skills, her contributions to Hokusai's lifework, and why she deserves to be celebrated as an artist in her own right.

The discussion will be followed by a live Q+A moderated by Ms. Deanna Horton, Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

[Details and registration >](#)

Image: from "Three Women Playing Musical Instruments," KATSUSHIKA Ōi, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, William Sturgis Bigelow Collection



Online Teachers' Workshop

### **Online Network for Heritage Language Education 4:**

Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba, Montreal  
Japanese Language Center, The Japanese School of Toronto  
Shokokai Inc.

**Thursday, December 17, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (EST)**

@ONLINE, free admission, registration required

In the fourth meeting of the Online Network for Heritage Language Education, there will be activity reports from Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba, Montreal Japanese

Language Center, and The Japanese School of Toronto Shokokai Inc., followed by time for networking and discussion.

[Details >](#)



Online Teachers' Professional Development

JFT Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers

**24th 'Sawakai': Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 PM - 6:40 PM (EST)**

**Topic: "Thank you very much for your hard work this year!"**

**25th 'Sawakai': Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:00 PM - 6:40 PM (EST)**

**Topic: "Happy New Year!"**

@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.)

[Details >](#)

## Cultivating the Next Generation of STEAM Thinkers

Thursday, January 7 @ 6:30 PM EST



Online Talk

## Cultivating the Next Generation of STEAM Thinkers

Thursday, January 7, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (EST)

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

What is STEAM education? How is it different from STEM education? In this talk, Dr. Rie Kijima (University of Toronto and SKY Labo) and Dr. Mariko Yang-Yoshihara (Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education & SKY Labo) will discuss key concepts related to STEAM learning in the 21st century. Discussion will include the gender gap in STEM, what it takes to reverse this trend, and the importance of key mindsets, such as failing forward and thinking out of the box. The talk will centre around an innovative education program offered for female youths in Japan that utilizes design thinking to cultivate the next generation of STEAM thinkers.

[Details and registration >](#)

**STAFF PICK**

**CUTIE AND THE BOXER**  
DOCUMENTARY BY ZACHARY HEINZERLING

Cutie and the Boxer follows the turbulent relationship of Ushio and Noriko Shino-hara, a married artist couple who have been together for 40 years. Ushio is a boxer and Noriko is a painter. The film explores their lives, their art, and their relationship. It is a powerful and moving portrait of a couple who have weathered the storms of life together.

**ABOUT DIRECTOR**  
Zachary Heinzerling is the Best Director Award (CIS) Documentary filmmaker for Cutie and the Boxer, and was awarded the Best Documentary Feature of the Academy Awards 2019. He has worked on several other award-winning films, including The Way, Way Back and The Way, Way Back.

**YOU MAY ALSO ENJOY:**

- 1975 (2019)
- 1975 (2019)
- 1975 (2019)

**Title:** Cutie and the Boxer  
**Director:** Zachary Heinzerling  
**Publisher:** Fox Lane Home  
**Year:** 2019  
**Run Time:** 82 min.  
**Call No.:** DVD 709.1311  
**Exam No.:** 0000007

Library News

## Staff Pick Review

Read our new Staff Pick review about the documentary film *Cutie and the Boxer* by director Zachary Heinzerling that focuses on the 40-year marriage of two artists, the boxing painter SHINOHARA Ushio and his wife Noriko.

Check out past book and movie reviews and thematic booklists on our [Booklist webpage](#) to look for library items without having to browse the shelves onsite.



## Library News

### JFT Book Club Online

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (EST)

@ONLINE, RSVP required

Join our first book club of year 2021!

We will discuss the highly acclaimed novel *The Memory Police* (密やかな結晶) by OGAWA Yoko, shortlisted for the 2020 International Booker Prize and finalist of the 2019 National Book Award. Include this surreal story about the power of memory to your list of holiday readings for the next book club! Please email [library@jftor.org](mailto:library@jftor.org) to reserve your spot.

[Details >](#)

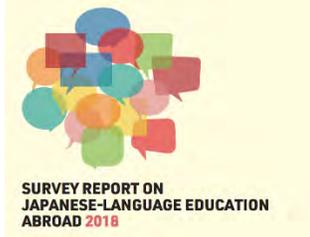


## Video Recording

### Re-engineering Reproductive Futures in Japanese Science Fiction

A live recording of our online lecture with Dr. Kazue Harada is available to watch on our YouTube channel until **January 6**. Tune in from home to learn about some of Japan's best modern female sci-fi writers and how they use the genre to subvert ideas of reproductive futurism.

[Click here to watch >](#)



## Survey Report on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2018

The report on "Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2018" conducted by the Japan Foundation in fiscal 2018 has been released as follows: [Click here to view](#).

The information about each institution answering this survey is available on the database, "Search engine for institutions offering Japanese-language education External" [here](#).

## JAPAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTED EVENTS



**JF Digital Collection - Let your curiosity open the doors to Japan and the world.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many aspects of our society and individual lives, and greatly limited our opportunities to connect with one another. Although international cultural exchange programs around the world have also been curtailed, we believe that this situation shouldn't discourage our innate curiosity to one another.

As Japan Foundation's response, we are proud to present JF digital collection, an online platform showcasing a variety of online programs created by JF headquarters and our offices overseas. We hope this will serve as a way to bridge the gap between our audience, Japan, and the world.

[Details >](#)



Japan Foundation, New York and and Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens presents

## TRANSFORMING THE WORLD: How Japanese Robots Saved a Nation and Charmed a Planet

**Saturday, December 5, 7:00 PM - 8:30PM (EST)**

@ONLINE, free admission, registration required

Tokyo-based writer, translator, and reporter Matt Alt and writer and translator Fred L. Schodt will discuss the influence of Japanese robots in pop culture, fantasy robot genres such as autonomous android robots and “drivable” robots, and about real-world robots inspired by childhood dreams. Fred Schodt is a pioneer manga translator and recipient of the 2017 Japan Foundation award.

[Details >](#)



Japan Foundation, New York presents

## SATOSHI KON: Tracing the Legacy of an Anime Giant

**Saturday, December 12, 2:00 PM (EST)**

@ONLINE, free admission, registration required

On the 10th anniversary of the passing of KON Satoshi, one of the world's most applauded creators of anime films, four expert panelists will explore his body of work—from Perfect Blue, Millennium Actress, Tokyo Godfathers, Paranoia Agent to Paprika—and their impact on the film industry. The panel will be moderated by Sandra Annett, associate professor in the Film Studies program at Wilfrid Laurier University.

[Details >](#)

## Call for Participation in a Survey about the Japan Foundation's Official Website

Available until **Sunday, December 13**

The Japan Foundation has a plan to revamp its [official website](#). For this purpose, we would like to get your feedback about your experience with our website. Please provide your opinions in the questionnaire. It would take only about 10 minutes.

[Take survey here >](#)

Bilingual Multilingual Children's Net (BMCN)

## International Forum on "Japanese Language Education Promotion Law": To promote heritage language education to foster global human talent

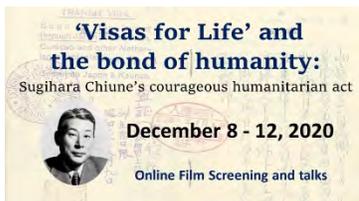
**October 2020 - March 2021**

@ONLINE, admission free

This online international forum is planned to promote native and heritage language education in Japan and abroad. From October 2020 for 6 months, connecting Japan with five overseas regions, we will promote "understanding of areas and issues" and "promotion of exchange / cooperation activities" by country / region and "summary of important items" and "promotion of public support" for the future. Website is in Japanese only.

[Details >](#)

# COMMUNITY NEWS



The Embassy of Japan in Ottawa Presents

## 'Visa for Life' and the Bond of Humanity: Sugihara Chiune's courageous humanitarian act

Tuesday, December 8 - Saturday, December 12

@ONLINE

Learn more about Japanese diplomat SUGIHARA Chiune, whose 'visas for life' helped about 6,000 Jews flee Europe in 1940. We're pleased to present the stories of some of the 'Sugihara visa' survivors and their descendants, as well as host virtual screenings of the film *Persona Non Grata* and the documentary *Sugihara Survivors*.

[Details >](#)



Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Presents

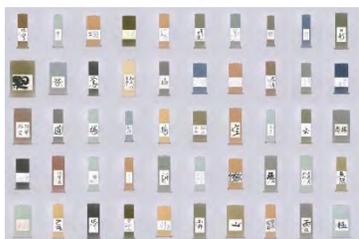
## Keep the Lantern Lit Holiday Fundraiser

Saturday, December 12

@ONLINE, reservation required

Join the JCCC on Saturday, December 12 for an entertaining evening of music, film, food and sake in the comfort of your own home. A special gift from Shiseido Canada for the Holiday Season is also included!

[Details and reservation >](#)



Shodo Canada Presents

## Calligraphy Competition 2020 - Virtual Exhibit

Shodo Canada is proud to host its first ever virtual exhibition. Each entry has been judged by a jury of five distinguished Master Calligraphers in Japan. The exhibition of this collection of artifacts comprises some of

the year's highest achievements in Canadian scribed Japanese Calligraphy.

[View virtual exhibit here >](#)

## ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



### Performing Arts Recommendation

#### WORLD TAIKO CONFERENCE: Live talks with Eitetsu Hayashi

Recording from November 22, 2020, in Japanese with English subtitles and interpretation

This event aims to connect people from around the world through taiko (Japanese drums) and share the wonder of taiko with a wider global audience. Eitetsu Hayashi, who helped JFT celebrate the Japan Canada 90th anniversary celebrations, composed the WTC theme song, and together with international taiko artists, was featured in the WTC Premium Talks.

[Watch performance >](#)

WTC Special Talk by Eitetsu Hayashi:

[Part 1 >](#)

[Part 2 >](#)

[Part 3 >](#)



#### Performing Arts Recommendation

### Highlights from 'The Sumō Match' from 'Two Butterflies in the Pleasure Quarters'

Japanese with English subtitles | 6 min. 28 sec.

Recorded at the Kabuki-za Theater, Tokyo in October, 2020

[Details >](#)

[Watch here >](#)

Special performances during COVID prevention period by Kankurō and his family:

#### 1. OMATSURI

Japanese with English subtitles | 5 min. 49 sec.

Recorded at the Festival in Asakusa in July 17 & 18, 2020

[Watch here >](#)

#### 2. LION DANCE

Japanese with English subtitles | 5 min. 15 sec.

Recorded at the Sensōji temple in Asakusa, September 27, 2020

[Watch here >](#)



#### Film Screening Recommendations

### Architecture and Design Film Festival

Thursday, November 19 - Thursday, December 3

The ADF:2020 offers a glimpse into the personal lives & work of some of the world's greatest creative minds, taking viewers on an uplifting journey around the world

with 17 film programs, director Q&As, and special guests.  
Presented by Eventscape.

### **[Tokyo Ride](#)**

Directed by Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine

2020 | 90 min.

Acclaimed filmmakers Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine embark upon an adventurous journey to Tokyo, in which they paint a charming free-form portrait of one of Japan's most influential architects — Ryūe Nishizawa.

### **[Magical Imperfection](#)**

Directed by Scott Calbeck

2020 | 58 min.

*Magical Imperfection* tells the inspirational story of world-renowned Canadian architect Raymond Moriyama. Imprisoned in his own country during the 1940s because of his race, Ray found the strength to combat injustice by devoting his career to social justice and equality.

### **[George Nakashima, Woodworker](#)**

Directed by John Nakashima

2019 | 115 min.

Celebrated woodworker George Nakashima became famous for his slabs of "imperfect" wood, full of natural holes. The film reveals the personal journey he took to become one of the leading figures in the American craft movement.



#### Gallery Recommendation

### Masterpiece of the Week

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

#### National Treasure

### Samantabhadra Bodhisattva Riding an Elephant

普賢菩薩像 ふげんぼさつぞう

Color on silk

Heian period/12th century

159.1x74.5 cm

A collection of the Tokyo National Museum

[Click here](#) to zoom into the image for an extreme close-up to see the cloisonné patterns on Bodhisattva's robe.



#### Online Music recommendation

### THE FIRST TAKE

Artist: milet

Song title: inside you / THE HOME TAKE

English and Japanese with English subtitles

THE FIRST TAKE YouTube channel is a great way to get introduced to new and talented Japanese musicians and artists whereby the video is shot in a single take, including milet, Japan's breakout star singer. Milet has a connection to Canada where she went to school at a young age.

Milet started her career as a musician in 2018 and debut in Japanese major scene in 2019. She will be joining this year's 71st Annual NHK Kohaku Uta Gassen, Japan's most famous musical New Year's Eve show.

[Watch here >](#)



#### VR Experience Recommendation

### **The Book of Distance - Written and Directed by Randall Okita**

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada 2020

2020 | Virtual Reality Experience (VR app required for the full experience)

The Book of Distance (Winner of the Japan Prize, Best Work in Digital Media) is a room-scale interactive virtual reality experience that imagines new possibilities for personal storytelling. The interactive experience traces the journey of a Japanese family that immigrated to Canada in the 1930s.

[Trailer >](#)

[Details >](#)



#### Film Recommendation

### ***AINU MOSIR***

Directed by FUKUNAGA Takeshi

2020 | 84 min. | Japanese with English Subtitles

Available to watch through subscription to Netflix Canada

*AINU MOSIR* captures the struggle of upholding traditions in a modern world with an all-Ainu cast. Set in northern Japan's Hokkaido community, a sensitive Ainu teen searches

for a spiritual connection with his recently deceased dad while navigating his indigenous identity in a changing world.

[Special Conversation](#) between *AINU MOSIR* director FUKUNAGA Takeshi and Isabel Sandoval.

[Details here >](#)

[Watch trailer here >](#)

