

September 3, 2020







**JFT BOOK CLUB**  
ONLINE

Summer is winding down, but events at the JFT are only ramping up. September welcomes **new arrivals** to our library, including the latest by celebrated author **KAWAKAMI Mieko**, whose book ***Breasts and Eggs*** will be the focus of the next **JFT Book Club Online**. Only **10 days** are left before the **Manga Hokusai Manga exhibition** wraps up! Go to our website and book a time slot to see the exhibition before it's gone. The **Japanese Film Festival ONLINE Vol.2** continues for the entire month. Check out this week's three highlighted films. Sign up now for our 2 September lectures: **The Many Lives of a Japanese Classic** on **September 17**, and **Re-engineering Reproductive Futures in Japanese Science Fiction** on **September 30**. **TIFF 2020** begins in just one week! Stay tuned for two feature films by critically acclaimed Japanese female directors. For more information about exciting JFT events as well as online recommendations, see **further details below >**

### Schedule at a Glance

July 23 - September 18	Gallery	Manga Hokusai Manga Exhibition
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August 21 - September 30	Film Screening	JFF ONLINE Vol.2: MOOSIC LAB X Japanese Film Festival
September 3	Teachers' Professional Development	17th 'Sawakai': Sharing Teaching Experiences - Prof. Aoki (University of Alberta)
September 10 - September 19	Film Screening	Toronto International Film Festival 2020
September 17	Online Lecture	The Many Lives of a Japanese Classic
September 30	Online Lecture	Re-engineering Reproductive Futures in Japanese Science Fiction
October 3 - October 22	Film Screening	Toronto Japanese Film Festival 2020
November 5	Library	JFT Book Club Online - <i>Breasts and Eggs</i> by KAWAKAMI Mieko

## JFT NEWS

### Calendar 2020-2021 School Calendar: Linguistic Variation in Japan

Each year the Japan Foundation, Toronto creates a school calendar to show our appreciation to the institutions in Canada that teach the Japanese language. We also now have it up on our website if you are interested in downloading our most recent calendar, which showcases the diverse languages and dialects in Japan!

[Details >](#)



### Library News September New Arrivals

New Arrivals for September! New titles include *Breasts and Eggs* by KAWAKAMI Mieko, one of the featured guest authors for Toronto International Festival of Authors 2020 whose work will be discussed during our upcoming Book Club Online in November, a book about "Zen and the Art of Farming," and many more! They are now available for circulation. Please contact the library at [library@jftor.org](mailto:library@jftor.org) to place a hold for pick up.



[Details >](#)

## JFT Book Club Online

Thursday, November 5, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
@ONLINE, RSVP required

For our next Book Club, we will discuss *Breasts and Eggs* (夏物語) written by KAWAKAMI Mieko, one of the featured guest authors for Toronto International Festival of Authors 2020. *Breasts and Eggs* paints a portrait of contemporary womanhood in Japan and recounts the intimate journeys of three women as they confront oppressive mores and their own uncertainties on the road to finding peace and futures they can truly call their own. Please email [library@jftor.org](mailto:library@jftor.org) to reserve your spot.



[Details >](#)

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## Film Screenings

### JFF ONLINE Vol.2: MOOSIC LAB X Japanese Film Festival

Friday, August 21 - Wednesday, September 30



Japan Foundation has launched the second version of the popular MOOSIC LAB X Japanese Film Festival where viewers from all over the world can enjoy works by emerging Japanese filmmakers for free. The 10 works produced by MOOSIC LAB are new works based on fusion of film and music. The first volume attracted 95K views in 3 months and had a great amount of positive feedback. Each week we will highlight some of the films from Vol. 2. [More details >](#)

#### **ALL ABOUT "CHIAKI MAYUMURA" (PROVISIONAL)**

眉村ちあきのすべて (仮)

Director: MATSUURA Hajime; Music: MAYUMURA Chiaki  
Duration: 73 min. (2019); Documentary

Melding documentary and fiction, pop star idol MAYUMURA Chiaki's secrets to balancing songwriting, production and business are questioned.



[Watch here >](#)

### **TAIL WIND 追い風**

Director: ANRAKU Ryo, Music: DEG  
Duration: 72 min. (2019); Drama

A drama following 28-year-old rapper DEG who struggles with his mediocre career and the hope of uniting with the love of his life.



[Watch here >](#)

### **my lovely days ゆかちゃんの愛した時代**

Director: HAYAMA Yun, Music: °C-want you!  
Duration: 30 min. (2018); Drama

The story of two people, sitting in a coffee shop on April 30, 2019 to reflect upon their childhood in the Heisei era.



[Watch here >](#)

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### 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 >](#)

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

**Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
(EDT)**

@Online, registration required

Aliens, cyborgs, and bio-engineered bodies - tune in for a talk with Dr. Kazue Harada (University of Miami) on how Japanese female science fiction authors use the genre to critique reproductive futurism, which is the idea that humans must reproduce to ensure a stable future. Hear how these authors use nonhuman perspectives and entities to re-engineer alternative futures of reproductive bodies and reproductive family to critique the extant heterosexual and patriarchal family system.

Authors to be discussed include MURATA Sayaka, JFT's guest for the 2018 Toronto International Festival of Authors, and UEDA Sayuri, winner of the 32nd Japan Science Fiction Award in 2011.

[Details and registration here >](#)



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

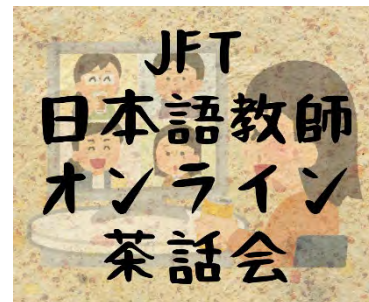
**17th 'Sawakai': Thursday, September 3, 6:00 PM - 6:40 PM  
(EDT)**

Topic: Sharing Teaching Experiences - Prof. Aoki (University of Alberta)

@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 >](#)



## Performing Arts Japan

**Deadline November 2, 2020**

The Japan Foundation is now accepting project proposals for Performing Arts Japan (PAJ) touring and collaboration grants for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. To apply for the program, please read the guidelines carefully and complete the application procedures.

[More details here >](#)



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## Japanese Language Proficiency Test

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the December 2020 JLPT in Canada has been cancelled. For more information, please visit the websites of the individual test sites:



[Ottawa \(Carleton University\)](#)  
[Toronto \(York University\)](#)  
[Edmonton \(University of Alberta\)](#)  
[Vancouver \(Langara College\)](#)

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## 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](#).



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## 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 >](#)

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## 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](#).



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## JAPAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTED EVENTS

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### Toronto International Film Festival 2020

Thursday, September 10 - Saturday, September 19

The 45th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival, taking place September 10-19, is tailored to fit the moment, with physical screenings and drive-ins, digital screenings, virtual red carpets, press conferences, and industry talks. This year's selection comprises a lineup of 50 new feature films, including films by two critically acclaimed female directors from Japan.

#### ***Under the Open Sky* すばらしき世界**

Director: NISHIKAWA Miwa

Duration: 126 min. (2020); Drama

In her complex and brilliantly textured redemption drama *Under the Open Sky*, NISHIKAWA Miwa explores the tensions, insecurities, small joys, and frustrations of Mikami (YAKUSHO Koji), a middle-aged ex-yakuza who must adjust to his "new normal" when he is released from prison after serving a 13-year sentence for murder.

[Details and Tickets here >](#)

[Trailer >](#)



## **True Mothers 朝が来る**

Director: KAWASE Naomi

Duration: 139 min. (2020); Drama

The latest from acclaimed director KAWASE Naomi - a candid force in contemporary Japanese cinema - is a touching family story of love and adoption. The film is a powerful visual adaptation of a 2015 novel by TSUJIMURA Mizuki, crafted with the rich texture of the director's unique style, which combines sensuous filmmaking with tactile, vibrant storytelling.

[Details and Tickets here >](#)

[Trailer >](#)



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## 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 announced for TJFF 2020.

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## ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Article Recommendation

## 70 Years of Rashomon - A New Look at Akira Kurosawa's Cinematic Milestone of Post-truth

It's been 70 years since the Japanese film classic *Rashomon* was released in theatres. A year later, it made waves at the Venice Film Festival and sparked a new global interest in Japanese cinema. This BFI article





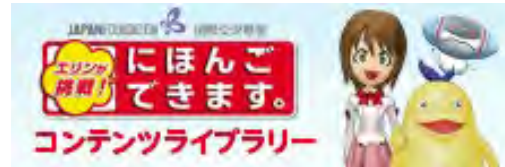
looks back at the impact - both immediate and long-term - that *Rashomon* inspired, as well as what this classic can teach us about our world today.

[Read here >](#)

Image: *Rashomon* (1950)

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## New Japanese Language Resource "Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese" Contents Library



While the "Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese" website closed at the end of July, there is a new "Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese" Contents Library where you can view all the videos from the website!

All 200 videos from the web version of "Erin" are available for viewing, and educational materials can be downloaded to support the study of Japanese and increase cultural understanding.

Both teachers and learners of Japanese should check it out!

[Details >](#)

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## Webinar Recommendation Katagami Stencils: Historical Influence and Contemporary Practice

**Tuesday, September 8, 1:30 PM (EDT)**  
@Online, Registration required



The Japan Society, UK is pleased to announce a special online talk on Katagami with researcher Mamiko Markham, Head of Collections at the Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA) Zoë Hendon, and practitioner Sarah Desmerais.

Katagami are Japanese resist-printing stencils for textiles that were originally used for applying patterns to kimono cloth. In the past, Katagami stencils were created simply as tools; they were part of the process of dyeing coloured designs onto cloth used to make anything from everyday work wear to the finest silk kimonos. More recently katagami have come to be appreciated as remarkable and beautiful objects in their own right.

[Details >](#)

Photo by OKOSHI-KATAGAMI Inc.

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## Gallery Recommendations Historical City Travel Guide: Edo (Tokyo), Early 19th Century



In this delightful The British Museum blog, you will be taking a trip back to early 19th-century Japan and visiting Edo - modern-day Tokyo - as curator Alfred Haft reveals the unmissable sights, the cuisine you've got to try and the best places to stay in this

historical travel guide.

[Click here to read >](#)

## Masterpiece of the Week

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

**National Treasure**  
**Cypress Trees Screen**  
檜図屏風 ひのきずびょうぶ  
KANŌ Eitoku 狩野永徳 (1543-90)



Please note the image on this page shows only the right half of the screen. Please [click here](#) for an explanatory guide and complete images of both sides of the screen in high resolution which you can zoom in for details.

## Future and the Arts: AI, Robotics, Cities, Life - How Humanity Will Live Tomorrow, Mori Art Museum 3D Walk-through

In this exhibition presented by the Mori Art Museum, you will be able to take a look at the not-too-distant future with its potential for enormous changes thanks to advances in technology.

The exhibition combines not only contemporary art with historical and scientific objects, it also includes exhibits not confined to the contemporary art genre, but also including urban theory and architecture, design and product innovation, bio-art, and even movies and manga, in an endeavor to develop a unique style of art exhibition. There is much to see with over 60 artists and collaborators presenting.



You can now walk through this exhibition virtually which originally ran November 2019 - March 2020. Selected works in the walk-through are explained in Japanese by FUMIO Nanjo, curator of this exhibition and Senior Advisor of Mori Art Museum.

[Virtual walk-through here >](#)

[More details >](#)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Consulate-General of Japan Invites Submissions to the Moonlight Haiku Challenge

To all poets and poets at heart: the Consulate-General of Japan is inviting you to submit a haiku poem as part of its Moonlight Haiku Challenge.

From **September 1 to 30**, the Consulate-General of Japan will be accepting submissions of original haiku honouring the Harvest Moon, this year on October 1. At a time when life presents countless distractions, this is an opportunity to collectively breathe, admire the beauty of the moon, and enjoy the old Japanese custom of Tsukimi (autumn moon viewing).

[Details >](#)

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## Q+A Session on Zoom with Kurebayashi [Hosted by Ghost Girl Goods]

**Saturday, September 5, 9:00 PM (EDT)**  
@Online; registration required

Join a live Q+A session with popular Harajuku model Kurebayashi. She is well known for her colourful fashion, make up, and modeling photos from the popular *KERA* magazine. Get insights into decora, J-fashion, Kawaii style and J-fashion! Spaces will be limited and all are welcome!

[Register here >](#)

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## Stay Connected

