

# BUDDHIST PAINTINGS

PURE LAND BUDDHISM PAINTINGS AND SOETSU YANAGI

March 31st to June 12th, 2022

THE JAPAN FOLK CRAFTS MUSEUM

[www.mingeikan.or.jp/english/](http://www.mingeikan.or.jp/english/)

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## PLEASE

- Please do not touch exhibited works and showcases.
- The use of tools which can damage artworks such as pens or ink brushes are prohibited.
- Please refrain from using cell phones.
- Please do not take photographs and movies.

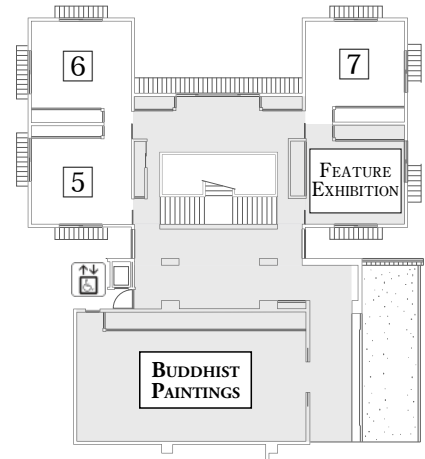
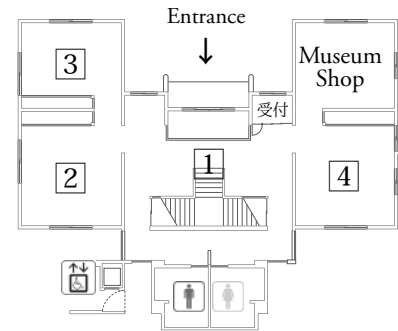
Soetsu Yanagi, founder of the Museum, was also known as an excellent aesthetician and he pursued the principle of beauty of crafts in Buddhism. Pure Land Buddhism especially inspired the formation of Yanagi's philosophy, and he wrote 'Namu Amidabutsu' in his late 1955, which is considered to be the best masterpiece among his writings. This exhibition is a rare opportunity to show Medieval Buddhist paintings collected by Yanagi which had not been introduced all together so far.

## FEATURE EXHIBITION

### PAINTINGS AND SUTRA OF TRUE PURE LAND BUDDHISM

*Myōgō* denotes the Buddha's name, and particularly in Pure Land Buddhism indicates six letters of "Na-mu A-mi-da-butsu" which means the donation towards Amida Buddha. Those six letters themselves have been considered as an icon. This special exhibition displays mainly *Myōgō*, paintings of True Pure Land Buddhism, and the sect founder Shinran's writing *Sanjo-wasan*.

## FIRST FLOOR



## SECOND FLOOR

## THEMATIC EXHIBITION

### 1 OLD TAMBA WARE

The old Tamba wares from the medieval to the early modern period are counted as one major category of the famous Yanagi's collection. In the preface of his book *Tamba no Kotō* (Old Tamba Ware), he wrote "Product with a typical Japanese essence, perfect *shibui* (simple, subtle, and unobtrusive)" and admired its austere beauty.

### 2 CERAMICS OF KYUSYU

Kyusyu region, located in the southwest part of Japan, had great influences from Chosun ceramics during the early modern period and various kilns have created various types of ceramics. Our collection of Kyusyu region is equivalent to old Tamba ware collection. This room introduces the charm of Kyusyu ceramics including Imari, Karatsu and Satsuma.

### 3 ARTIST-CRAFTSMEN

Potter Kanjiro Kawai, Shoji Hamada, dyer Keisuke Serizawa, and wood-block print artist Shiko Munakata all had close relationships with Soetsu Yanagi. They respected Yanagi's philosophy and healthy beauty of folk crafts, repeatedly introspected themselves, and produced numerous art works. This room shows 50 excellent works of artist-craftsmen who represent modern Japan.

### 4 JAPANESE TEXTILES

Japanese textiles in our collection are mainly made to use for everyday life, and existed closely to people. This exhibition room displays both woven and dyed silk, cotton or linen textiles with various techniques such as *ikat* (*kasuri*), tie-dye and so on after Meiji period.

### 5 CERAMICS FROM KOREAN PENINSULA

As is well known, Yanagi's encounter with the blue-and-white jar with autumn plant design guided him to the world of crafts, and he had collected a large number of ceramics from Korean Peninsula. This room exhibits selected works from 600 Goryeo and Joseon ceramics, and introduces their various shapes.

### 6 STATIONARIES

The Museum holds stationary collection which differs in periods, place of origins, and techniques. Particularly water droppers made as pottery and ink-stones carved from stones mainly from Joseon period are collected by Yanagi vigorously. Please enjoy the various shapes which had been cherished by predecessors.

### 7 JAPANESE LACQUER WARE

Exhibited are excellent works of our collection from Momoyama to Edo period. Bottles, boxes and trays decorated with pattern in vermillion lacquer, Hidehira bowls foliated with gold leaves, boxes or bottles adorned with mother-of-pearl inlays or egg-shell inlays, all have uniquely developed in Japan.