

# Greetings

We will be holding our Collection Exhibition, “New Ways of Seeing Japanese Art: Embracing the Future by Reflecting on the Past” at the Nara Prefectural Museum of Art.

For people living today, most Japanese art created before the Edo period might seem like dusty relics from the past, disconnected from their daily lives. However, since ancient times in Japan, paintings have blended with various cultures such as religion, art, literature, and entertainment, and been appreciated in accordance with the changing seasons as well as special events and daily life. Today, people enjoy the seasons through illustrations and photos on calendars, display their favorite postcards on the walls of their rooms, admire posters of their favorite celebrities and characters, listen to music while appreciating its music videos and album covers. These activities seem very similar to how people in the past people enjoyed and admired art.

In this exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to experience Japanese art of previous eras, showcased in various styles fostered by Japanese culture, including folding screens, hanging scrolls, fan paintings, and ukiyo-e prints, and consider the art appreciation practices of the past.

Of course, people can live without art, but art can add color to our lives. Enjoying art, which includes the feelings of people in the past, allows people today to take time for self-reflection. No prior knowledge is necessary. Let's enjoy art from between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in the same way as we would enjoy admiring flowers or singing songs.

Additionally, art works by ARAI Keiko (Japanese ink painter and contemporary artist) are exhibited at two experience-based corners. You can take off your shoes, sit on a *tatami* mat, and look up at her works as well as examine them closely. This way you can experience the way people admired paintings in the past.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your invaluable cooperation and support in holding this exhibition.

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Nara Prefectural Museum of Art