



THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON
A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

Monthly Newsletter



Please View Entire Message in your Email to see all of what we have to offer in our newsletter!



Kozue Sawame President

[Japanese Women's Leadership Initiative
at Fish Family Foundation](#)

How long have you been working in Boston?

I have lived and worked in Boston since 2007. Prior to that, I lived in DC for three years attending Georgetown University for a master's degree and moved to Boston for a job offer as a fundraiser at the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, a Boston-based nonprofit. Everything was new to me - the job and the city - and the start was rough. I must have been under so much stress as a few weeks after the move, I got so sick that I almost passed out on the street! The Japan Society of Boston helped me as a new Bostonian to meet people, stay connected with Japan and be a part of the Boston community. Fast forward 17 years to 2024, Boston has become my home.



What does your organization do?

I am the President of JWLI (Japanese Women's Leadership Initiative) at the Fish Family Foundation, co-founded by Boston's visionary leader, Atsuko Toko Fish. This is my 12th year at the foundation and I thoroughly enjoy my work and find it very rewarding. I have focused my studies and work on women's empowerment and leadership for over 20 years and that is what I get to do. Offering four leadership programs for women nonprofit executives and social entrepreneurs since 2003, JWLI drives social change in Japan through women leaders as agents of change. In recent years, my work has taken me to unimaginable places like Malaysia, Abu Dhabi, and Taiwan where I presented our work.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview!

Announcements from JSB



John E. Thayer III Award **[Applications now open for 2024](#)**

The John E. Thayer, III Award was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. "Jack" Thayer, III, a long time member of the Japan Society's board of directors who was dedicated to furthering relations between Japan and the U.S. This award was established to recognize the achievements of individuals, groups of individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the progress of the understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

The Society encourages the submission of nominations for exemplary projects, programs and activities in such areas as business, cultural exchange, education, public affairs, and visual and performing arts. The project may be a single event, a series of events, or an on-going project or activity. It may be in the form of, but is not limited to: artistic performances, educational programs, exchange activities, exhibitions, films, publications, video, visual arts, etc.

Application Deadline: Sunday, September 8, 2024



The JSB College Events Hub

We have launched a new page on our website to gather and promote Japan-related college events, opportunities, and resources for college students and young adults pursuing Japanese studies!

We currently have a large collection of jobs, internships, scholarships, and other opportunities posted for your reference.

Check out the hub below for more information, to view our current listings, or to submit an event or opportunity!

[Website](#)



JSB Fundraising Apparel

Marie Romano's winning Japan-Boston design is now available to purchase as a T-shirt or sweatshirt to help us fundraise for JSB.

Check out our online shop to see the different colors and styles!

[Shop](#)

Long Hill

The gardens and grounds at [Long Hill](#) in Beverly, MA are now a free admission property.

Visitors are welcome to enjoy the beautiful gardens with abundant Japanese

flora and check out the main house on the property to learn more about the Sedgewick family's history with Japan.



JSB Programming

Save the Date!

JSB will be hosting the third annual Celebrate Japan! at Long Hill in Beverly, MA on Saturday, July 13th, 2024. We will be offering a variety of paid and free Japanese cultural experiences including taiko drumming, bento lunches, ikebana, bonsai, suminagashi, origami, and more!

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE
Since 1933

**協日
会本**
JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

GODZILLA VS THE COOLIDGE

July 2-30 2024

Godzilla vs the Coolidge

July 2-30th, 2024

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

Since 1954, Godzilla has been King of the Monsters and the Coolidge Corner Theatre is screening some of his greatest creature clashes to illustrate why. See the big guy on the big screen every Tuesday in July!

Coolidge Corner Theatre will be kicking things off with the original 1954 *Godzilla* on July 2nd with a special seminar by Northeastern Professor Jennifer Cullen! Registration for the seminar portion can be purchased as a package with screening tickets and is available [here](#).

Tickets are on sale now. JSB members visit the [Members-Only Portal](#) for a discount code!

Tickets

Join the JSB Language Room

A Japanese and English
Virtual Language Exchange



JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

Sponsored by:



Temple
University
Japan Campus

JSB Language Room

Friday, June 21st, 2024 - 6:00 PM EDT

□□□□□□□6□22□□□□□□7□□

Online

Practice your Japanese (or your English) at our next online Japanese / English language exchange. Our monthly language room is sponsored by Temple University, Japan Campus (TUI). TUI is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

Theme: □□□□□□□□ How to enjoy summer in Japan!

Register



SUMMER PICNIC
with Sushi Rolls &
Veggies with Sesame Dressing

Oûchigohan!

おうちごはん!

Online Cooking Class
via ZOOM

with Recipes from our
NEW Cookbook!

SAT
JUN 29
6 pm EDT

\$10 | JAS/JS Members
\$15 | Non-members

Bonus Activity: Make
Chopstick Rests!





□□□□□□□ Ouchigohan - Summer Picnic

Saturday, June 29th, 2024 - 6:00pm EDT

Online

Join us for the May edition of the family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series □□□□□□□ Ouchigohan! – Japanese Home Cooking and cook along or just watch from your own kitchen.

TABLE FOR TWO USA is hosting Ouchigohan - Summer Picnic with Sushi Rolls and Veggies with Sesame Dressing in collaboration with our Japan America Societies family as we present recipes from our forthcoming book, "[Japanese Cooking with Kids](#)" (Tuttle Publishing, Fall 2024)! We will make a tray of sushi rolls (norimaki) – Japanese rice, stuffed with delicious fillings and rolled in nori, steamed green vegetables in a tasty sesame dressing, and Japan's favorite summer thirst quencher – mugicha, healthy roasted barley tea. Perfect for a summer picnic! Bonus activity: Make your own set of "hashioki" – chopstick rests!

[Register](#)



Boston Red Sox Japanese Celebration
Saturday, September 28th, 2024 - 4:10pm EDT
Fenway Park

Join the Boston Red Sox and the Japan Society of Boston in celebrating Japanese heritage and culture at Fenway Park on Saturday, September 28! Show your support as we honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Japanese-American community of New England.

Ticket holders who purchase tickets through this special offer will receive a Red Sox Japan jersey, available in sizes Adult Small to XL, with preferred sizes distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Arrive early to enjoy lively traditional taiko drumming performances and other festivities that showcase the spirit of Japan. Classic Japanese ballpark food and drink will also be available for purchase.

[Tickets](#)

Programs for JSB Members

The following events and clubs are limited to Japan Society of Boston Members. Interested in joining but not yet a member of the Japan Society of Boston? Consider [becoming a Member](#) today!

Join our community of hundreds of Japan enthusiasts from Boston and beyond and support the Japan Society of Boston's mission to inspire curiosity, connection, and community. We are sustained by your donations.



ACCESORY CRAFT



JSB MEMBER KINTSUGI WORKSHOP

* June 27, 2024 | 2pm *



JSB Member Kintsugi Workshop Thursday, June 27th, 2024 - 2:00 PM ET Boston Children's Museum

JSB members are invited to join us at Boston Children's Museum for a fun workshop about the art of kintsugi, a traditional Japanese method of repairing ceramics by highlighting the lines of breakage with precious metals.

[Tatsuya Murao](#), kintsugi artist, will give a brief presentation explaining the background of kintsugi. Then we will be able to apply those concepts by creating our own small accessories joining recycled materials into a one-of-a-kind piece of art. We will be using ceramic paints and glue instead of real lacquer in this workshop as there would not be enough curing time.

Afterwards, join us on a tour of the traditional Japanese merchant townhouse at Boston Children's Museum, [Kyo no Machiya](#), and the window display of real kintsugi works.

Register



LIMITED TO MEMBERS

Japan Society of Boston Film Club

Kikujiro (1999)



JSB Film Club

Wednesday, June 26th, 2024 - 6:00 to 8:00 PM ET
Online

Our next film is *Kikujiro no Natsu* or *Kikujiro* (1999) directed by Takeshi Kitano, an iconic actor who also stars in the film. The score was composed by Joe Hisaishi, and tells the story of a young boy searching for his mother during his summer vacation in bittersweet episodic scenes.

Watch the [Trailer](#).

The Japan Society of Boston Film Club meets on the last Wednesday of every other month to discuss great classic and contemporary Japanese films. The purpose of our club is to support the community of Japan film enthusiasts in the New England region by creating a space for thoughtful and sociable discussion.

[Register](#)



Connect with JSB!

Wednesday, July 24th, 2024 - 6:00 to 8:00 PM ET

Winthrop Square

St Paul St & Browne St, Brookline, MA 02445

Join Japan Society of Boston staff and members for a picnic-style dinner in Brookline. Connect with JSB is a great way to get to know us better, meet other society members, practice your Japanese in a casual environment, and enjoy great Japanese food in Boston!

To take advantage of the summer weather, we will be gathering at Winthrop Square at the corner of St Paul and Browne St at 6pm and having a picnic in the park. We encourage you to bring blankets to sit on and any food you'd like to enjoy outdoors. Please find more details at the registration link.

This event is open to JSB members only. Registrants are welcome to bring a plus one, but their guest must be included in the registration. All attendees should be prepared to pay for their own meal/drinks.

Register



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER BOOK CLUB

THE NAKANO THRIFT SHOP
BY HIROMI KAWAKAMI

JSB Book Club
Wednesday, July 31st, 2024 - 6:00 PM EDT
Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *The Nakano Thrift Shop* by Hiromi Kawakami.

From the author of *Strange Weather in Tokyo*, comes this funny, heartwarming story about love, life, and human relationships that features a delightfully offbeat cast of characters. Among the jumble of paperweights, plates, typewriters and general bric-a-brac in Mr Nakano's thrift store, there are treasures to be found. Each piece carries its own story of love and loss - or so it seems to Hitomi, when she takes a job there working behind the till.

Find a copy [here](#). You are welcome to read any translation.

The JSB Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of every other month to discuss great modern Japanese novels. The purpose of our club is to strengthen the Boston community of Japan enthusiasts by creating a space for thoughtful and sociable discussion.

Register

Between the Lines

A Monthly Discussion on **Medieval Japanese Women's Literature** for JSB Members every first Thursday of the month.



Between the Lines
Thursday, September 5th, 2024 - 6:00 PM EDT
Online

We will be taking a break for the summer months of June, July, and August and continuing our meetings in September with *The Ink Dark Moon* as translated by Jane Hirshfield and Mariko Aratani. This work has wonderful translations of poetry by Ono no Komachi, a key figure in Japanese literature.

You may find a copy of the book [here](#).

Register

Signature Content from JSB



#MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

japansocietyboston.org/

Member Highlight

The Japan Society of Boston is pleased to introduce you to the wonderful members of our community through this blog series.

Each month we feature a JSB member and ask them to share with us their Japan Story.

This month: [Shota Nakama](#)

"I was born and raised on a small tropical island called Okinawa. I am a music producer and the owner of my music and live concert production company, soundtrec. I am most known in the media/interactive media music field - particularly in Anime and video games..."

Shota Nakama and his Sonic Symphony Tour



is coming to Boston in September!
[Tickets are currently on sale.](#)

[Read the Blog](#)



JSB Meets JET Alumni

As part of our partnership with the [United States Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association](#) (USJETAA), the Japan Society of Boston features a new JET Alumni in our monthly blog!

This month's JET Alum is [Jake Lester](#) (Tottori 2017-2021).

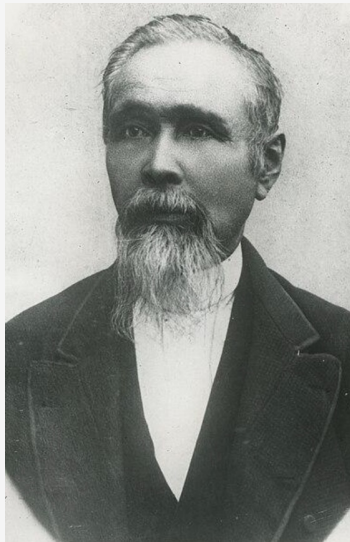
"I was living in Yonago City and primarily working at a technical high school in Sakaiminato City, which was about a 35 minute train ride away. I also worked at two different special needs schools in Yonago..."



[Read the Blog](#)

FAMOUS IN JAPAN

Celebrities from Around the World



Famous in Japan

Studying individuals from around the world who are famous in Japan, both past and present.

This month we are featuring [Ranald MacDonald](#), considered the first person to have taught English in Japan.

[Read the Blog](#)

Other Japan-Related Events

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL ONLINE 2024

United States

June 4 11:00pm - July 2 11:00pm, 2024 (EDT)



Japanese Film Festival Online 2024

June 4-July 2, 2024

Online

Welcome to the third Japanese Film Festival Online, where you can enjoy watching Japanese movies from the comfort of your own home!

We invite you to explore the various facets of Japanese culture through different genres of movies ranging from documentaries, fiction, animation, and films inspired

by novels.

This year we are excited to present 21 intriguing feature films as well as 2 popular TV drama series. The Festival will be held from June 04 11:00pm - July 2 11:00pm, 2024 (EDT). See their website for all films.

Info



Sonic Symphony Concert
Sunday, September 15th, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Symphony Hall
301 Massachusetts Ave, Boston MA 02115

JSB friend and member, Shota Nakama, brings the music of Sonic to Boston through a live orchestral concert! Get ready to run down memory lane at Sonic speed!

Sonic Symphony is an immersive live experience that celebrates more than three decades of music from SEGA's iconic mascot. From the classic 8-bit and 16-bit tunes to rock bands and EDM, this concert will take you on a musical journey through the colorful world of Sonic the Hedgehog. Relive your favorite Sonic moments, brought to life by a full symphony orchestra. Sonic Symphony will be an electrifying tribute to the music that has defined generations of gamers, old and new. Don't miss the chance to experience the sounds of Sonic like never before.

JSB members visit the [member-portal](#) for 20% discounted tickets!

Tickets

Yoko Miwa Jazz Trio

See Yoko Miwa in Cambridge
and Boston!



Yoko Miwa Jazz Trio Cambridge and Boston

Yoko Miwa, acclaimed jazz pianist and longtime faculty at Berklee College of Music, will be playing a number of shows in and around Boston in the summer and early fall. She is often accompanied by Scott Goulding on drums and various bassists including Brad Barrett, Will Slater, Matt Stavrakas, or John Sullivan.

See her [website](#) for more details and full schedule.

Tickets

KAJI ASO STUDIO

Institute for the Arts

Celebrating 50 years "Flying Together"



50th Anniversary Concert Series

Sunday | June 30th | 3:00 pm

SUMIE KANEKO

koto & shamisen

PROGRAM

Midare Rinzetsu - Kengyo Yatsushashi (1614-1685)

Usu no Koe (1879) - Shorei Yamato III

Kazahana (1982) - Shin Miyashita

Kyorai (1967) - Seiho Kineya



photo by Briana Balducci

In-Person EVENT free and open to the public RSVP to: administrator@kajiasostudio.com

Kaji Aso Studio: 40 Saint Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115





KAJI ASO STUDIO *presents*
TANABATA Celebration 2024
Two Events • Two Locations • Two Days!!



Hikoboshi by Katherine Sloss

July 6th at 7pm
at Kaji Aso Studio Gallery

40 Saint Stephen Street Boston

Art, Music & Poetry

Poetry and Music begin at 7:40 pm

RSVP administrator@kajiasostudio.com

Group Art Exhibition continues through August 15, 2024



Orihime by Katherine Sloss



Michiko Imai



Mikiko Sato

July 7th from 1 pm to 5 pm
at Symphony Park

39 Edgerly Road Boston

Visitors write wishes for Tanabata with
Japanese Cultural Performances

1:30 pm **Soran Bushi Dance Group** performs

1:45 pm **Sumie Kaneko** performs koto

2:45 pm **Michiko Imai** performs calligraphy

3:45 pm **Mikiko Sato** performs Japanese Songs

These events are FREE and open to the public.

Special thanks to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.



Sumie Kaneko photo by Briana Balducci

This event is in partnership with
Friends of Symphony Park
 and supported in part by the
**Berklee Fenway
 Neighborhood Improvement
 Grant**



Berklee



**COSMIC
 CONNECTION**

CERAMICS BY **KEN MATSUZAKI**

Pucker Gallery
 Boston

Cosmic Connection: Ceramics by Ken Matsuzaki

May 11th to June 23rd, 2024

Pucker Gallery

240 Newbury Street, 3rd floor, Boston MA 02116

Ken Matsuzaki received a degree in Ceramic Art from Tamagawa University School of Fine Arts in Tokyo in 1972, after which he moved to Mashiko to apprentice with Tatsuzo Shimaoka. After a five-year apprenticeship, Matsuzaki established his own kiln, Yuushin Gama. Although Matsuzaki's work has a strong grounding in Mingei philosophy, his approach is very contemporary and focuses on the style of Oribe-yaki with yohen, shino, and oribe glazes.

Info



Boston Red Sox Hello Kitty 50th Anniversary Celebration

June 25th, 2024 at 7:10 PM EDT

Fenway Park

4 Jersey St, Boston, MA

Hello World & Hello Kitty's 50th Anniversary!

You can never have too many friends, so bring them out to Fenway Park for Hello Kitty's 50th Anniversary. We're celebrating with red bows and the Boston Red Sox as they take on the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday, June 25.

Everybody say Hello Kitty and join us for an evening of throwing kindness like confetti. Ticket holders who purchase through this special offer will receive a limited-edition Hello Kitty bobblehead wearing a Red Sox jersey with the 50th Anniversary logo. Additionally, Hello Kitty will be available for photos at select times once gates open.

Tickets



Japanese Tea Ceremony

June 30th, 2024 at 2:00 PM EDT
The Art Complex Museum
189 Alden Street, Duxbury, MA 02332

A ritual practice of preparing and drinking tea, the Japanese tea ceremony is a symbol of Japanese formality and spiritual aestheticism. The ritual is known in Japan as “chanoyu,” which literally translates to “hot water for tea.” Traditionally, it would be practiced in a specialized space called a tea house, designed specifically for tea ceremony gatherings.

The Art Complex Tea House, Sho-fu-an or “Wind in the Pines” was designed by Sano Gofu and built in Kyoto, Japan in 1969. It was reassembled at the museum in 1975 under the direction of Yasahiro Iguchi of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. It is a sanjo daime (3 and ¼ mat) hut with two doors (one for service and one for tea) and a daime tokonoma or alcove.

2024 Schedule: June 30, July 28, September 29
The ceremony begins at 2:00 p.m. and admission is free.
All are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis.

Info



Intersections
[Asian American Ballet Project](https://www.bostontheatrescene.com)

June 29th - 30th, 2024
Calderwood Pavillion at the BCA

Four uniquely Asian American ballets explore connections between Asia and America, bridging the cultural divide.

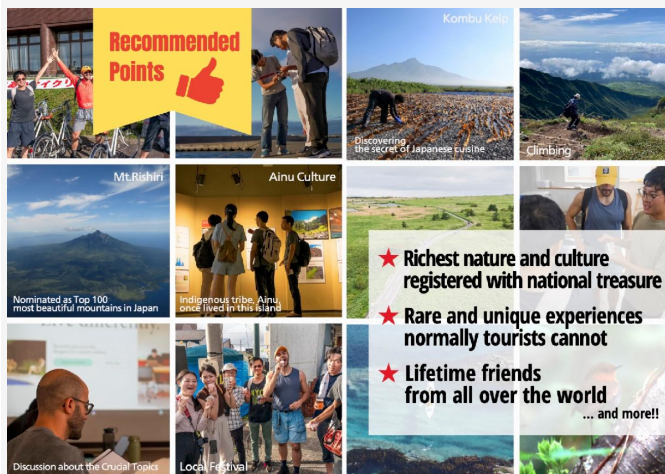
La Bayadere: a Desi Retelling - Lon Po Po - Reclamation - On the Way

Tickets available by phone (617-933-8600), web, or in person
(BCA box office, 527 Tremont St or Huntington box office, 264 Huntington Ave)

\$35 Adults - \$15 Children under 12 - \$65 All Access Pass (June 29th, 7pm)
50% discount to all EBT cardholders

Pay-What-You-Wish (with code) Asian American Community Performance - June 29th, 2pm

[Tickets](#)



Who should participate

- ☒ Who has a strong interest in the discussion topic
- ☒ Who can fully enjoy Japan's remotest island
- ☒ Who wants to engage in international exchange

Comment From a Participant

I wanted to experience a new way of living, and I got that and much more. I met unforgettable people and made unforgettable memories - the too-good-to-post-on-Instagram kind.
Santiago Poveda Gutierrez from Spain, Graduate School of Informatics



- ① 5 August - 9 August
- ② 12 August - 16 August
- ③ 19 August - 23 August
- ④ 26 August - 30 August

Please provide as many available dates as possible.



6 people for each term



Actual cost US\$500~/person

Not included; transportation fee to and from island.
The price in yen is determined according to the exchange rate.
Cost may be changed depending on the circumstances.



Official Language : English

The staff are proficient in both Japanese and English.

Discussion Topics

- Harmony in East Asia
- Future image of Japan-Russia relationship
- How we could achieve world peace
- Ideal relationship between Japan and your home country

Topic may be subject to change.
Each session focuses on a single topic.
Please indicate your preferred topic when applying.

Staff



Sotai Imai (21)
Kyoto University

Supervisor



Yukimune Oji (53)
CEO, Bunkei Corp.



Designed by
Bunkei corporation

Please refer to
our website
for your
application



Rishiri Island Summer Camp

August 5-9

August 12-16

August 19-23

August 26-30

A once-in-a-lifetime experience for 18-25 year olds to explore Northern Japan while interacting with the local fishing community and beautiful scenery.

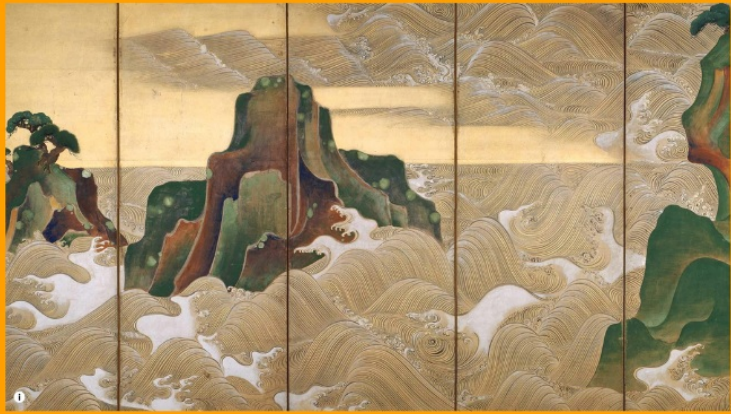
Registrations are now open on a rolling basis. See their [website](#) for more information.

[Info](#)

MFA Boston

Opens May 11

Arts of Japan



Arts of Japan

Starting May 11, 2024

[Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

The MFA has one of the most comprehensive collections of Japanese art anywhere in the world. Reimagined galleries explore Japan's art and visual culture from the 7th century to today, including painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and selections from the Museum's vast collection of ukiyo-e prints. Evocative spaces include the renovated Japanese Buddhist Temple Room, which opened in 1909, and an adaptation of a traditional tea room, with tatami mats and an alcove. Multimedia displays illuminate performative art forms, such as Nō theater, bringing their drama to life.

The new space for the Museum's unparalleled Japanese collection—which was the first of its kind in America when established in 1890, and now holds about 100,000 objects—will change regularly, giving visitors the opportunity to see even more works in a setting that honors and celebrates Japan's rich history and cultural legacy.

Info

MFA Boston

April 13–September 2, 2024

Songs for Modern Japan

Popular Music and Graphic Design, 1900–1950



Songs for Modern Japan

April 13 - September 2, 2024

[Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

“Songs for Modern Japan: Popular Music and Graphic Design, 1900–1950” explores how sheet music covers provide a window into Japanese society and culture during

this period of immense transformation. Visitors discover how leading Japanese graphic designers of the day interpreted modernist international art movements like Art Nouveau and Art Deco, and how demand for military sheet music with propagandist images grew in the 1920s and '30s, reflecting the country's imperialist aspirations. Through investigating styles of graphic design, bold typography, genres of music, and the societal environment in Japan, visitors get a glimpse of how design and music celebrating modernity and globalism gave way to endorsing nationalism.

About 100 sheet music covers from the collection of Mary and Robert Levenson—alongside paintings, photographs, textiles, music, film clips, and musical instruments from the period—capture the dynamic effects of international artistic exchange and the profound societal shifts in a globalizing Japan. The exhibition presents an opportunity to draw parallels between this pivotal time in Japan's history and today.

Info

MFA/Boston

Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction

September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2024



Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction **September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2024**

[Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

Saundra B. and William H. Lane Galleries (Gallery 332)

Born in Hawaii to parents of Okinawan ancestry, Toshiko Takaezu (1922–2011) was a technically masterful and innovative artist best known for her ceramic sculptures, which she treated as abstract paintings in the round. The MFA holds a significant collection of Takaezu's pottery—more than 20 examples are featured here alongside loans from private collections.

Challenging traditional presentations of American abstraction, “Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction” celebrates the extraordinary range of Takaezu's work, aiming to make her contributions more widely known. It is organized in partnership with the Noguchi Museum and the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation.

Info

Please send information about Japan-related events in Boston to info@japansocietyboston.org to help us feature select events.



[The Japan Society of Boston, Inc.](#) | [\[www.japansocietyboston.org\]](http://www.japansocietyboston.org)

THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON, INC. | 50 Milk Street 16F | Boston, MA 02109 US

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