

## Current Events

As of Oct 16, 2019

**Noritaka Tatehara: Refashioning Beauty** (10/5-12/1, Portland Japanese Garden) Appropriating traditional signs of Japanese elegance and refinement, Tatehara removes these signs from their original historical context of past centuries and amplifies their symbolic meaning in his art. He emphasizes the practice of *takumi* (匠), or “master craftsmanship,” grounding his work in the virtuosity of execution. In his seminal *Heel-less Shoes Series*, the raised platform sandals denoting the highest-level courtesans are taken from the cobble pathways of the Yoshiwara entertainment district of Edo (present-day Tokyo) in the 18th and 19th centuries.

<https://japanesegarden.org/events/noritaka-tatehana/>

**Art Exhibition: Takahiko Hayashi** (10/16-11/30, Froelick Gallery, Portland) Takahiko Hayashi is one of Tokyo’s most well-regarded contemporary master printers. Over the course of his 30-year career, he has exhibited widely throughout Japan, the United States and Europe. Born in Japan, Takahiko Hayashi received his B.F.A in Oil Painting from Musashino Art University in 1985 and his M.F.A in Printmaking from Tokyo National University of Arts in 1987, both in Japan. Hayashi's work has been exhibited in over 140 solo shows around the world since 1985, as well as an impressive number of group exhibitions. Hayashi's work is featured in the collections of: the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Australia, Kurobe City Museum of Art in Japan, Los Angeles Museum of Art in California, the Museum of Modern Art in Japan, and more.

<https://froelickgallery.com/exhibitions/46-takahiko-hayashi-vibes-in-the-lines/overview/>

**Business Speaker Series Gender Equality** (10/17, 6pm, Mark Spencer Hotel, Portland) In 2018 the World Economic Forum published the Global Gender Gap report; a study of 149 countries on a variety of gender equality measures. Japan ranked 110 overall, and the lowest of any developed nation. How did this happen despite public policy on equal opportunity in the workplace and other legislation since the 1980s, and Abe’s womenomics since 2012? Keiko Hata, former Vice President in charge of Diversity and Dean of the School of Social Sciences at Waseda University, dissects Japan’s struggle to address the underlying structural and cultural causes of gender inequality. This event will be in Japanese language with English interpretation.

<http://jaso.org/2019/08/thurs-oct-17-business-speaker-series-on-gender-equality/>

**Lecture: Reinventing Japan, The Way Forward through Women’s Empowerment** (10/29,6pm, Smith Memorial Student Union, Portland State University) "Women's empowerment is essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth"--- this was the shared understanding at the recent G20 Osaka Summit held in Japan. In fact women’s empowerment and gender equality was one of the key summit agenda items, but embarrassingly, only two of the global leaders represented at the event were women. Although Prime Minister Abe has made putting more women into leadership positions as a focal point of his growth strategy by “creating a society where women shine," only one of the Japanese cabinet ministers is a woman.

<https://www.pdx.edu/cjs/events/reinventing-japan-way-forward-through-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment?delta=0>

**Portland Taiko 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert** (11/2, 7pm & 11/3, 2pm, Portland State University, Lincoln Performance Hall) Portland Taiko's 25th Anniversary Concert will feature current and past members, new works, and special guests Kenny Endo (Hawai'i), Tiffany Tamaribuchi (California), and the Kalabharathi School of Dance (Oregon). <https://portlandtaiko.org/>

**Idaho Japanese Association: Japanese Movie Night in Boise" The Chef of South Polar"** (11/14, 7pm, The Flicks, Boise) Based on the hilarious autobiographical essay of a chef who unexpectedly ends up on the Antarctic research team. Though it is set in the coldest climate in the world, this movie warms you up from the center of your heart. Good food and human drama, full of laughter and love. Family friendly, Japanese with English subtitles. <http://idahojapaneseassociation.org/events/the-chef-of-south-polar/>

**KUMORICON2019** (11/15-17, Oregon Convention Center) Kumoricon is an annual three-day anime and Japanese popular culture convention. Gaining its namesake (*kumori*) from the Japanese word "cloudy", Kumoricon embodies the best parts of fandom and what it is to live in the Pacific Northwest. The Kumoricon is growing with every passing year, making us the largest anime convention in Oregon. <https://www.kumoricon.org/>

**Demonstrations & Performances: Spirit of Japan: Shinto & Gagaku** (11/20, 1-2:30pm, Portland Japanese Garden) Shinto is the Japanese indigenous religion, which does not have a founder, dogma, or a holy scripture. However, it has been kept as a part of Japanese life and custom for more than a few thousand years. Millions of people visit Meiji Jingu Shinto shrine in Tokyo for at New Year's Day to make prayers. Shinto priests of this Meiji Jingu will come to Portland Japanese Garden and present an introductory talk about Shinto, the concept of relation with nature as you can see in the forest surrounding Meiji Jingu, and the connection to the life of Japanese people. *Gagaku* –traditional music- has an important role at Shinto ritual ceremonies. Slow and mellow music will lead you to feel Japanese culture, rooted in the ancient times of the country. In this event, music will be performed on three musical instruments (*Sho*, *Hichiriki*, *Ryuteki*). Furthermore, performers (Shinto priests) will give you instructions if you want to try to play the music yourself. [https://japanesegarden.org/events/shinto\\_and\\_gagaku/](https://japanesegarden.org/events/shinto_and_gagaku/)

**Lecture: Special Duty: A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community** (11/21, 6pm, Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union) Intelligence communities are everywhere and always in motion. Japan's has been no exception, often shifting in response to dramatic analytical and organizational failures, changes in the regional and global balance, and sudden technological developments. In the first half of the 20th century, Japan had a full spectrum intelligence apparatus. This came apart with defeat in WWII and subordination to the United States. After the Cold War, shifts in the security environment and major intelligence

failures stimulated rethinking by Tokyo. Following a period of half-hearted and incomplete reforms, the Japanese government began to enhance its collection and analysis capabilities, and to tackle in earnest the dysfunctional stovepipes and leak-prone practices hampering its intelligence system. Where do matters stand today? In this program, Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for International Studies at MIT, discusses the evolution of Japan's intelligence community and its future. <https://www.pdx.edu/cis/events/special-duty-history-japanese-intelligence-community?delta=0>

**Ikebana Exhibition** (Portland Japanese Garden)

Ryuseiha Ikebana Exhibition: 10/12-13

Ikebana International Exhibition: 10/19-20

Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition: 10/26-27

What distinguishes *ikebana* from other approaches to flower arrangement is its asymmetrical form and the use of "empty" space as essential features of the composition. A sense of harmony among the materials, the container, and the setting is also crucial. Ikebana shares these aesthetic characteristics with traditional Japanese paintings, gardens, architecture, and design. <https://japanesegarden.org/events/>

**Portland Japanese Garden Cultural Demonstrations** The Garden is a living "classroom" that offers tremendous opportunities for experiential learning to all who enter its gates. The lessons of the Portland Japanese Garden are many and varied; not only does it speak about the way trees grow and how moss forms on stone, but also about the lives and culture of the people who designed and nurtured this enduring art form. <https://japanesegarden.org/events/>

Bonsai: 10/13, 10/21, 10/28, 1-2pm,

Ikebana: 10/12, 10/20, 10/27, 1-2pm

Koto Harp: 10/26, 1-2pm,

Kotorito, Japanese musical group: 10/19, 1-2pm,

Shakuhachi Flute: 11/2, 1-2pm,

Tea Ceremony: 10/16, 10/19, 10/30, 11/3, 11/6, 1-2pm,