

Special Exhibition to Support Reconstruction after the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake Nanao Art Museum at the Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History



Introduction

The Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum is the Noto region's only multidisciplinary art museum. It has been a widely beloved center of cultural activities in the region for nearly three decades, since its opening in 1995. Unfortunately, the museum is currently closed, because the building and its facilities were damaged in the Noto Peninsula earthquake on January 1, 2024.

This exhibition was organized as a collaboration between the two museums, and features works from the Nanao Art Museum's collection and works entrusted to the museum, on display at the Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History, split into three main themes. This will be the first time that the Nanao Art Museum's lovingly preserved collection has been brought together and exhibited in a single place in Kanazawa. It is our pleasure to offer this opportunity to encounter these highlights of the museum's collection, and to rediscover the rich history and culture of the Noto region.

What is The Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum?

The Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum's story begins with Fumio Ikeda (1907–1987), a businessman from Nanao city, Ishikawa. The collection of arts and crafts he amassed throughout his life was donated to the city by his family after his death, becoming the catalyst for the construction of the museum. Another significant focus of this museum is its emphasis on artists and works with ties to the Noto region, with pieces by the Nanao-born painter Hasegawa Tohaku (1539–1610) being a major exhibition theme. In fact, the museum has held annual exhibitions of Hasegawa Tohaku's work, with different themes each year, ever since its opening in 1995.

Additionally, the Nanao Art Museum serves as the Noto region's only multidisciplinary art museum, with exhibitions covering a broad variety of genres: beyond Hasegawa Tohaku, these exhibitions' focuses have also included the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in autumn, showing off works selected as winners in a picture book illustration competition that receives submissions from countries worldwide; exhibitions of ukiyo-e prints and cultural properties kept and handed down within the community; and the Ishikawa Prefecture Contemporary Art Exhibition, which is the prefecture's largest-scale exhibition of artistic works by the general public, and held as a traveling exhibition in cities throughout the prefecture, including Nanao. As part of the Nanao Art Museum's aim to be open to the community, they also offer the Citizens' Gallery: a venue for artist groups and other individuals and organizations to present their creative efforts.



The Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum

Overview of Exhibition and Main Exhibits

Section 1: Masterpieces Passed Down in the Ikeda Collection

The Ikeda Collection encompasses a wide gamut, including such media as pottery and lacquerware, as well as sculptures and nihonga Japanese-style paintings by modern and contemporary artists. This section shows off a selection of particularly excellent works from the collection's current total of 289 items.



Statue of Fumio Ikeda, by Seibo Kitamura (1884–1987). 1971.
Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum (Ikeda Collection).



*Negoro Lacquerware Hot-Water Pot. Muromachi period (15th–16th century).
Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum (Ikeda Collection).*



(Left) Oribe Ware Mukozuke Dishes in the Shape of Abalone Shells. Momoyama period (17th century). Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum (Ikeda Collection).

(Right) Beauty in the Snow, by Miyagawa Choshun (1682–1752). Edo period (18th century). Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum (Ikeda Collection).



Section 2: Hasegawa Tohaku and the Culture of Noto

Hasegawa Tohaku (1539–1610), a painter from Nanao, is a core presence within the Nanao Art Museum. This section is centered around Buddhist art done when he was younger, working under the name Nobuharu. Visitors can also learn about the culture associated with the Noto-Hatakeyama Clan, which was a factor in Tohaku’s achieving success as a painter, as well as cultural properties handed down within the Noto region.

Who is Hasegawa Tohaku?

Born in 1539 to the Okumura samurai family, in Nanao, Noto Province (in modern-day Ishikawa). He went on to be adopted by the Hasegawas, a family of dyers, and began his art career as a painter of Buddhist art based in the Noto region, under the name Nobuharu.

Around the age of 33, he relocated his base of activities to Kyoto, where he developed his reputation by honing his skills as a painter and developing close relationships with leading people of culture. So strong was his presence that even the Kano School, who dominated Kyoto at the time, viewed him as a threat. The screen and wall paintings at Chishakuin Temple (collectively a National Treasure; originally the Shounzenji screen and wall paintings) were originally produced upon request by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the ruler of Japan at the time. A historical document dating back to the Edo period (1603–1868) refers to “a total of 93 screens of various sizes,” making it clear that this was a major undertaking not only for Tohaku, but for his whole school.

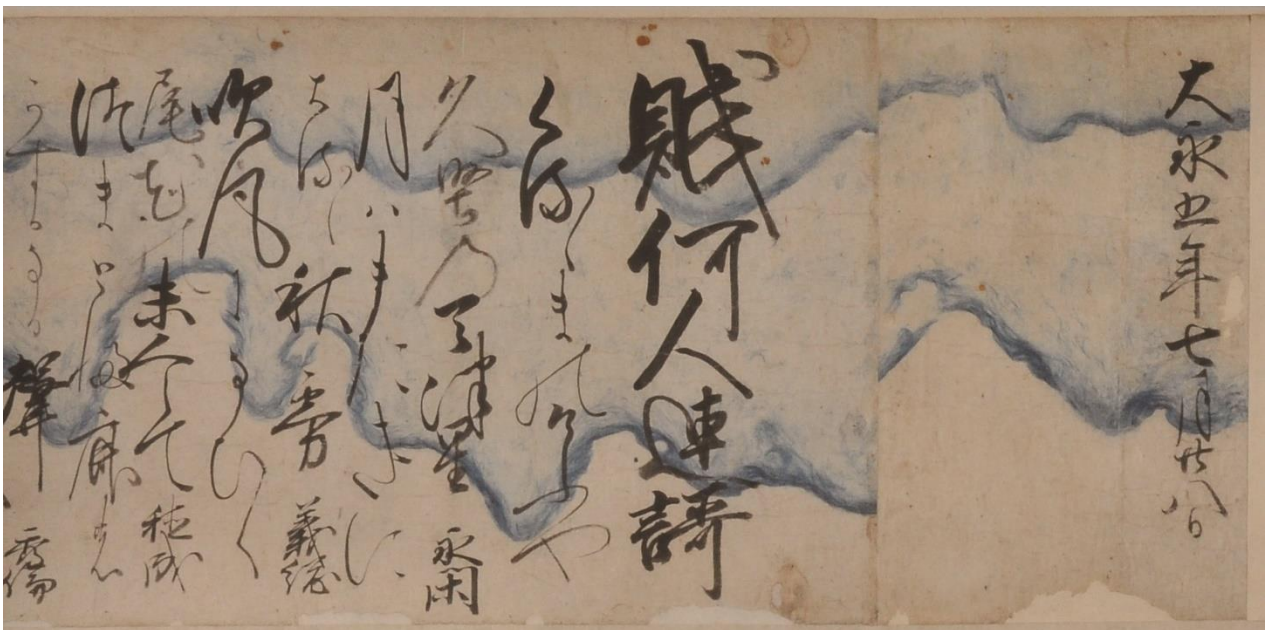
Tohaku’s earlier work was focused on colorful Buddhist paintings, but over time, particularly once he reached his fifties, he shifted his focus more to ink wash paintings. These excellent works include one of the masterpieces of Japanese ink wash painting, *Pine Trees* (a National Treasure). Tohaku also lived through a number of tragic experiences, such as the deaths of his son Kyuzo, and the tea ceremony master Sen no Rikyu, who understood Tohaku at a deep level. As Toyotomi Hideyoshi’s rule over Japan gave way to the Tokugawa shogunate, Tohaku set out to establish Edo (now Tokyo) as a new base for his work. Unfortunately, just two days after his arrival there in 1610, he is said to have died at the age of 72.



Atago Gongen (Ishikawa Prefecture-designated Cultural Property), by Hasegawa Nobuharu (Tohaku) (1539–1610). Muromachi period (16th century). Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum.



Embroidered Amida Trinity (Important Cultural Property). Heian or Kamakura period (12th or 13th century).
Collection of Sainenji Temple, Nanao City



Fu Nanihito Renga (Linked Verse) (Ishikawa Prefecture-designated Cultural Property). 1525.
Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum.

Section 3: Contemporary Artists with Ties to Noto

The collection of the Nanao Art Museum can broadly be divided into two categories: the Ikeda Collection, and arts and crafts with ties to Noto. To date, the Nanao Art Museum has received a number of art donations from both individuals and organizations, including artists who are currently active in various fields. This section features selections from the Nanao Art Museum's collection of contemporary works, by artists who were born in or who live in the Noto region, or featuring themes centered around the landscapes of Noto, for an opportunity to enjoy contemporary works inspired by Noto's rich environment.



Hunched Woman, by Hiroatsu Takata (1900–1987). 1975. Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum.



Old Temple and the Harvest Moon, by Shusei Suido (1921–1997). 1995.

Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum.



Lacquered Ornamental Box with Design Depicting Jumpseed Plant at an Old Castle in Chinkin Gold Inlay, by Kazuo Yamagishi (1954–). 2009. Collection of Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum.

Special Feature: Learn More about the Nanao Art Museum!

This special feature includes posters from past exhibitions, showing off the history of the Nanao Art Museum.

[Exhibition Period]

October 19, 2024 (Sat) –November 17, 2024 (Sun)

[Opening Hours]

9:00-17:00 (Last admission to exhibition rooms at 16:30)

[Closed]

Open seven days a week during the exhibition period

[Venue]

Special Exhibition Room, Planning Exhibition Room

[Admission Fee]

General: 800 yen (640 yen)

University and professional school students: 640 yen (510 yen)

* Free admission for children under 18: Free

* Prices shown in parentheses are for groups of 20 or more (per person), and for visitors 65 or older

* Free admission for visitors with a Disability Handbook or Mirairo ID, and one accompanying person

*Includes admission to permanent exhibitions

*Separate admission fee required for the Kaga Honda Museum

[Organizers] Ishikawa Prefectural History Museum, Yomiuri Shimbun

[Co-Organizer] Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum (Nanao Art Foundation)

[Special Cooperation] The Hokkoku Shimbun

[Support] Nanao City Board of Education and NHK Kanazawa Broadcasting Station