



[Sugoi! 200 Years of Japanese Art](#)

Now – Sept. 3, 2023

Art exhibition, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

The KIA's longstanding history of collecting works and presenting exhibitions celebrating the artists and art practices of East Asia continues with Sugoi! 200 Years of Japanese Art. Opening in two parts, this exciting exhibition uses select loans while also highlighting the breadth of the KIA's permanent collection to illuminate the ways in which Japanese and Japanese American artists have depicted society and their environments, challenged artistic and societal conventions, or innovated long-standing artistic practices and explored new media.

[The Marukis: Their Paintings, and Their Peace Activism in Postwar Japan](#)

Tuesday, Aug. 8, noon – 1 pm

Hybrid lecture, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

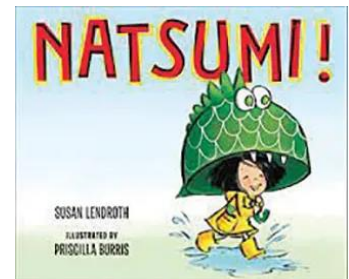
Iri and Toshi Maruki are known for their huge murals depicting the aftermath of the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima. At first, their paintings focused on the horrors caused by the atomic bomb. From the 1970s on, their focus changed, and their paintings began to include other victims of war violence. Dr. Takashi Yoshida, history professor of Western Michigan University discusses the work of these two artists, addressing how and why their art changed over time. In addition to the Marukis, Dr. Yoshida's presentation briefly analyzes pacifist movements among Japanese artists and the role of museums in postwar Japan.

[Art Detectives: Natsumi!](#)

Saturday, Aug. 12, 10:30 am – noon

In person event, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

Natsumi has a lot of energy! How can she use that energy to celebrate the holiday of Obon with her family? The Art Detectives will be treated to a live taiko drumming performance by the Hiryu Daiko Dummers!



[Rose Chiu: Heart Intoxicated By Watercolor](#)

August 12 – September 9, 2023

Rose Chiu: Heart Intoxicated by Watercolor is a retrospective exhibition featuring internationally celebrated artist from Taiwan, Rose Chiu. It is a captivating 50-year exploration of not only one of the oldest forms of traditional art still made, Chinese brush art, but also an evolution of a singular artist's creative journey throughout the stages of her life.



[The Legend of Zelda: Exploring the Legacy of Breath of the Wild](#)

Thursday, Aug. 17, 8 pm

Online event, The Japan Foundation

For the 17th episode of our JFNY pop culture series, we are celebrating the release of The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom by doing a deep academic dive into the world of its predecessor, Breath of the Wild! Since its release in 2017, Breath of the Wild is the best-selling game in The Legend of Zelda series and is considered one of the greatest video games of all time. It has been described as “groundbreaking,” changing how many saw open-world experiences in video games and inspiring many following titles. Come join our panel discussion with five professors researching video games: Matt Barton, Stephen Kuniak, Sarah Stang, Rachael Hutchinson and Wesley Bradford. They will discuss the legacy of Breath of the Wild from the perspectives of video game history, ideology, psychology, gender and music all while exploring the significance and impact of the series in the gaming world. We’ll also be hearing their first takes on the latest release of Tears of the Kingdom.

[Bonsai: Small Wonders](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 12 – 1:30 pm

Online lecture, Smithsonian Institute

Bonsai, tiny trees in pots or miniature landscapes on trays, have delighted and intrigued people for centuries. Join Michael James, the U.S. National Arboretum’s bonsai curator, and Ann McClellan, author of Bonsai and Penjing: Ambassadors of Peace and Beauty, for an illustrated talk about the arboretum’s National Bonsai & Penjing Museum and its unique collections. They share stories about how the diminutive trees were created and came to Washington, plus a few tips on how to care for them.



[The Art of Making, from Thought to Process](#)

Thursday, Aug. 24, 6 – 8 pm

Hybrid lecture, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

Artist Mami Kato, whose striking sculpture Umbilical Field is part of the Sugoi! 200 Years of Japanese Art exhibition, joins us to offer insights into her artistic inspiration and her process of creation. Kato is a Japanese-born artist, currently based in Philadelphia. Her older work is about examining and reconnecting with her early life. For example, she has often used rice stalks as a material for her sculpture, something that has both a close connection to her childhood surroundings, and also a historical significance and symbolic meaning within Japanese culture. More recently, Kato’s focus has been shifting from her own personal life to more general human experience. Influenced both by Japanese Buddhism and science, she explores the intangible systems of energy and order that pervade the natural world, as well as humanity’s position within them.