

## Cross Currents: East/West

**Now – July 28**

Art exhibition, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center

Japanese woodblock prints are characteristically spatially flat, graphic, and colorful — as Funasaka’s modern abstractions are in this exhibition. Brodbeck’s prints are perhaps a combination of East and West with the landscape as a traditional Japanese subject matter yet portrayed with a Western eye using layers of dark on light to create form and distance. Brodbeck studied woodblock printmaking in Tokyo with Funasaka during a five-month fellowship from the Japanese government 25 years ago. This is the latest of several exhibitions they have had together since, featuring both artists’ use of the historic 17th-century Japanese woodblock technique.



## 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

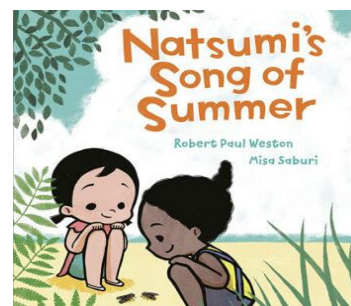
Japanese American artists have depicted society and their environments, challenged artistic and societal conventions, or innovated long-standing artistic practices and explored new media.

## Art Detectives: Natsumi’s Song of Summer

**Saturday, July 8, 10:30 am – 12 pm.**

Free in-person event, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, registration required

In this month’s story, Natsumi lives in Japan, and Jill visits her. The Detectives will see art and create insect artworks. Art Detectives is a free monthly program for ages 4-8.



## Japan’s Security Policy Transformation: Why Now?

**Monday, July 10, 9pm (July 11, 10am JST)**

Online Lecture, Japan Foundation



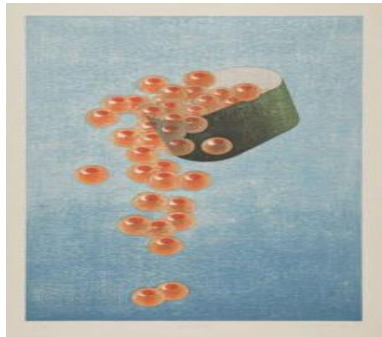
In this talk, **Dr. Corey Wallace** introduces the post-war evolution of Japan’s security policy and the significance of post-2020 policy adaptations. The presentation covers historical debates about continuity and change and the role of the Koizumi and Abe administrations in driving forward Japan’s security agenda in the new millennium. It also provides reflections on why we are seeing even more transformative security policy steps being taken post-2020 even after the end of the Abe administration.

## [Ikebana Day Celebration 2023 / Ikebana International Chicago Chapter](#)

**June 10 and 11**

Chicago Botanic Garden (Chicago, IL)

Ikebana International Chicago Chapter celebrated Ikebana Day this year by inviting Ohara School Sub Grandmaster Jose Salcedo to Chicago to conduct two workshops and one demonstration open to the public. The demonstration was held at the Chicago Botanic Garden. There were close to 130 people including those from out of state as far as Florida, North Carolina, Michigan, Oregon and nearby Wisconsin at the demonstration. Sensei Jose arranged 7 Ohara signature styles to wow the audience: Hana Isho, Heika, Bunjin, Moribana, Rimpa and the finale Landscape. The arrangements showcase the wide range of Ohara School beauty. Consul General Tajima and his staff from Japanese Consulate in Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Baba from Japan America Society in Chicago also attended the entire wonderful demonstration. This project was supported through JFNY Education Grant.



### [Curators' Talk on Sugoi! 200 Years of Japanese Art](#)

**Tuesday, July 11, 12 pm - 1 pm**

Free in-person event, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, registration required

Take a closer look into *Sugoi! 200 Years of Japanese Art* with the KIA's Chief Curator Rehema Barber and Associate Curator Katherine Ransbottom. Featuring works by Japanese and Japanese American artists created over the past two centuries, this exhibition explores the ways in which artists have responded to their societies and environments using both cultural and traditional forms and innovative new modes of expression. Works included, sourced both from select loans and from the KIA's permanent collection, engage in exciting ways with topics ranging from religion and popular entertainments (including Kabuki, anime, manga, and kawaii) to beauty standards, social norms, and the physical landscapes of the natural and created world.

### [Takeout Tuesdays: "Ceramics: Import and Export" with docent Bianca Larson](#)

**Tuesday, July 11, at 3 pm (noon pst)**

Free virtual event via the Asian Art Museum





## [Taiko Drumming with Carolyn Koebel and Jonathan Wegner](#)

**Tuesday, July 18, Noon-1 pm**

Free in-person event, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, registration required

Explore the ancient art of taiko drumming at this talk on the taiko tradition, and live performance by local artists Carolyn Koebel and Jonathan Wagner, of the professional taiko drumming group Michigan Hiryu Daiko. Taiko drums have played a significant role in Japanese culture since the 6th century CE, and were historically used in rituals and festivals, on battle lines, and to accompany theatrical performances in popular styles such as Kabuki and Noh. These awe-inspiring instruments are still regularly used around the world today, as a key part of both traditional and contemporary performances. Koebel and Wagner will address the history and contemporary use of taiko, and will offer a live demonstration of the instruments in performance.



## [Takeout Tuesdays: "Hell: Arts of Asian Underworlds" with docent Jim Brown](#)

**Tuesday, July 18, at 3 pm (noon PDT)**

Free virtual event via the Asian Art Museum

## [Exploring Traditional and Modern Japan with the Soga Japan Center](#)

**Thursday, July 20, 6 –7 pm**

Free in-person event, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, registration required

Michiko Yoshimoto, Program Manager at Western Michigan University's Soga Japan Center, will discuss traditional and modern Japanese lifestyles and customs. Topics covered will include food, clothing, and housing, as well as a demonstration on wearing yukata, a lightweight summer kimono.



## [Japan-Middle East Relations](#)

**Thursday, July 20, 6 am (7pm JST)**

Online Lecture, Japan Foundation

Join **Dr. Vanessa Abou-Khalil** as she unravels the complexities of maintaining amicable ties amidst US-Middle East conflicts, highlighting pivotal events and Japan's delicate balancing act. Discover how Japan's growing political influence could impact the region and its potential ramifications. This event is supported through the Japan Foundation New York's Salary Assistance Grant for U.S.-Japan Community Grassroots Exchange Program.

