

You're beautiful ~ Bijin-ga from Fukuda Collection

Female beauty has been a perennial subject of art from the earliest times. Japanese artists evolved a distinctive way of exploring the inner and outward beauty of women in a genre known as bijin-ga, literally beautiful-woman painting. Some artists used celebrated beauties as their models. Others depicted figures from legend, stories, and drama, and some left lingering evidence of past encounters with beauty they could not forget. The artists' diverse ideas, and ways of expressing them, exert a lasting fascination. Each work seems to be fired by the desire of the artist to say to the subject, "You're beautiful."

Works on show in the first venue, Saga Arashiyama

Museum of Art and Culture, trace the roots of bijin-ga in ukiyo-e portrayals of women. Here you can see paintings by Utagawa Hiroshige and Hokusai and other noted ukiyo-e artists. To these are added paintings of beauties by artists who were active in Kyoto in the early modern period. Each incidentally documents the hairstyles, textiles, and mode of dress that were current at the time of painting. Arranged to show how bijin-ga evolved from ukiyo-e, the exhibition includes masterful works from the 19th and 20th centuries that illustrate the changing ways artists viewed women.

Accordingly, the show's second venue, the Fukuda Art Museum, presents modern-period masterpieces from the Fukuda Collection. Representing the endless tug-of-war between Tokyo and Kyoto, works showing the friendly rivalry of "Kiyokata of the



East and Shōen of the West" form the core of the exhibition. Kaburaki Kiyokata and Uemura Shōen, each with their own conception of female beauty and contrasting techniques, were two of the major bijin-ga artists of the 20th century. Their paintings are supplemented by the different notions and techniques of Itō Shōha, Itō Shinsui, and other masters, as well as expressions of beguiling beauty by artists such as Kainoshō Tadaoto and Okamoto Shinsō. Before each work, you may hear an inner voice murmuring "You're beautiful." Which one will make you say it out loud?



Katsushika Hokusai
"Beautiful Woman with Kinuta"



Miyagawa Chōshun
"Tied Chaff Pillow and Beautiful Woman"



Utagawa Kuninaga
"Standing Figure of a Girl about Town"



Gion Seitoku
"Standing Beauty"



Iwasa Kokō
"Scene from the Jōruri 'Asagao Nikki'"



Oda Tomiya
"Autumn Evening"



Yamakawa Shūhō
“Wooden Horse”



Uemura Shōen
“Shizuka Gozen”



Ikeda Shōen
“Spring Day”

Exhibition Overview

Title You're beautiful ~ Bijin-ga from Fukuda Collection

Dates April 19 (Fri.) 2024 to July 1 (Mon.), 2024
1st Period: April 19 (Fri.) to May 27 (Mon.) 2024
2nd Period: May 29 (Wed.) to July 1 (Mon.) 2024

Opening hours 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (last entry 4:30 pm)

Closed May 28 (Tue.) June 18 (Tue.)

General / University student: ¥1000 (¥900)
High school student: ¥600 (¥500)
Elementary / Junior high school student: ¥400 (¥350)
Disabled person and up to one helper: ¥600 (¥500)
* Prices in parentheses are for groups of 20 or more
Entry fee * Free for preschool children

<Combo ticket with the Fukuda Art Museum>
General / University student: ¥2,300
High school student: ¥1,300
Elementary / Junior high school student: ¥750
Disabled person and up to one helper: ¥1,300

Organizers Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts & Culture

Supported by Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City, Kyoto City Board of Education,
Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry

