

'Irises' Screens as Depicted by Two Painters at Tokyo Exhibition

東京表参道の根津美術館で公開されている「燕子花図屏風（かきつばたずびようぶ）」は、日本のアートの魅力を感じさせる作品のひとつです。同じ題材でありながら、二人の画家によって描かれた作品には、それぞれ異なる美しさが表れているようです。ひとつのテーマをどのように表現するかによって、受け取る印象も変わってくるのかもしれませんが、あなたは同じ題材の作品を見比べると、どのような点に注目しますか。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

At Nezu Museum in Omotesando, Tokyo, the [exhibition](#) "The Korin School: The Irises and Ogata Korin's Followers" is running through May 10. Every year around this time, the museum displays Ogata Korin's Irises screens, a Japanese national treasure. Please note that photography is prohibited inside the exhibition hall during the exhibition period.

This year's highlight is the display of a lesser-known set of screens by Korin's [disciple](#), Watanabe Shiko, lent by the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Watanabe's work is displayed side by side with Korin's in the museum's longest display case, creating a truly impressive sight.

While both feature irises on a gold background, the painting styles, expressions, and overall [compositions](#) of the two artists are quite different. Each is a magnificent piece of work, and it's unlikely that they will ever be seen together again.

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Japan Forward

1. Article

American art lovers who saw the screens in Cleveland will surely be surprised to see this parallel exhibition at the Nezu Museum. The fact that two different Irises screen paintings are held in Japan and the United States is a wonderful example of artistic exchange between the two countries.

Walking through the gardens **adjacent** to the museum, one is struck by the **tranquility**, wondering if they are truly in Tokyo. During this season, real irises also bloom in the pond. The Nezu Museum has begun showing them on its website and social media.

Enjoying seasonal flowers—not just cherry blossoms—is one way Japanese people appreciate everyday life. Experiencing the seasons not only through real flowers but also through those depicted in art and crafts is something truly special, and worth trying at various locations across Japan.

To ensure smooth entry, online reservations through the museum's website are strongly recommended.



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2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **exhibition** 展示会

The **exhibition** of street art attracted many visitors to the museum.

2. **disciple** 弟子

The young Italian chef trained as a **disciple** under a master for three years.

3. **composition** 作品

Three new **compositions** were released by the painter in time for the art show.

4. **adjacent** 隣接の

There is a huge park **adjacent** to the school, and it has bike paths and hiking trails.

5. **tranquility** 静けさ

Jessica enjoyed the **tranquility** and the cool air of the early morning.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is special about how the two sets of screens are displayed?
2. What natural scene can visitors enjoy in the museum garden?
3. What does the museum recommend visitors do before coming?
4. Why do you think seeing two similar artworks together can be interesting?
5. How do you usually enjoy seasonal changes in your daily life?

4. 二人の画家の描く「燕子花図屏風」 根津美術館

東京表参道の根津美術館で「光琳派」展が始まった（5月10日迄、展示室内での撮影厳禁）。

毎年この時期に日本の国宝の一つ、尾形光琳の燕子花図屏風が公開されるが、今年が目玉は隣にクリーブランド美術館から里帰りした、光琳の弟子渡辺始興作の知られざる「燕子花図屏風」が並べて展示されていることである。

この美術館の一番長い展示ケースにそれぞれ長い屏風絵が二つ並んで飾られている、それ以外は無という大迫力である。両方とも金地に燕子花だけという一見双子の様だが、二人の絵師の描き方、表現法、全体レイアウトなどかなり異なる。それぞれ素晴らしい表現であり、それが一緒に見られる事など多分今後もない事であろう。

クリーブランドでご覧になったアメリカの美術愛好家が、今回の根津美術館での並列展示を見たらさぞかし驚かれるだろうし、渡辺始興のこの燕子花図屏風を初めて見る日本人の愛好家（多分全員）も新鮮な驚きをもつだろう。

二つの異なる燕子花図屏風がそれぞれの国にあるという、日本とアメリカの美術交流もちょっと素敵な驚きがある。

美術館併設の庭園を歩いていると、ここは本当に東京かと思う静けさがあるが、その池に本物の燕子花が咲くのもこの季節だけである。実際に開花した後には、根津美術館のウェブサイトやSNSで紹介される予定だ。

桜だけではなく、季節の花を楽しむというのが、日本人が生活を楽しむ為の1つの特徴である。このように本物の花だけでなく、美術品工芸品に見られる花でも季節を感じるというのは素敵なアイデアであり、皆さんもいろんな場所で感じ真似して頂きたい。