

September 14, 2023



Contemporary

Wood-Carved

Sept 15 - Dec 16

@The Japan Foundation, Toronto

NETSUKE EXHIBITION



JAPAN FOUNDATION 

Visit JFT Library to borrow
September New Arrivals

Email library_jftoronto@jpf.go.jp to place a hold for pick-up

We are officially one day away from the opening of our new [Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE](#) exhibition. Registration for the exhibition is now open. We welcome you to check out these marvelously carved pieces from **September 15 to December 16**.

A few spots still remain for the [hybrid Book Club](#) scheduled for **September 28**. We will discuss YUKIMURA Makoto's award-winning science fiction series *Planetes*, available in both English and Japanese at our Library.

A new semester of JFT's [online Japanese Language Classes](#) has begun. Registration is still open, and spots remain for all but the Starter levels.

Are you raising a child in Japanese? Looking for practical ideas or encouragement to continue doing so? On **October 15**, we invite you to the 4th seminar of "[Let's Raise Them in Japanese!](#)" for guardians of children being brought up in a Japanese-speaking environment. Please note this seminar will be held in Japanese only.

For more upcoming JFT events, community news, as well as online resources, **see details below**.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Now	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	Registration Open
September 15 - December 16	GALLERY EXHIBITION	Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE
September 22	IN-PERSON TALK	The Pursuit of Purpose: Charting Vinland with YUKIMURA Makoto
September 28	LIBRARY EVENT	JFT Book Club (Hybrid) - Manga: Planetes by YUKIMURA Makoto
October 4	ONLINE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers
October 15	JAPANESE LANGUAGE SEMINAR	Let's Raise Them in Japanese!
Now - October 31	ONLINE FILM SCREENINGS	JFF+ Independent Cinema 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS



Gallery Exhibition **Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE**

Dates: Friday, September 15 - Saturday, December 16, 2023
Admission Free | Open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

Netsuke is a delicate and whimsical art form unique to Japan which fits on your palm intimately. In the 17th and 18th century Netsuke developed rapidly in the kimono fashion culture. For kimonos, which had no pockets, Netsukes acted as toggles providing daily-life convenience for carrying things such as pouches, medicine cases, and smoking pipe cases.

Since Japanese fashion had been westernized in the mid-19th century, Netsuke receded from practical use, but still attracted artistic interest not only within Japan but worldwide. In this exhibition, 65 contemporary pieces which are all wood-carved are on display. SAITŌ Bishū, a master Netsuke carver, describes the charm and attraction of Netsuke as "Freedom amidst constraints." Netsukes are made under certain restrictions, such as needing two holes to run the cord through and requiring it to be round

to avoid getting caught. The carvers express themselves as freely as possible under these constraints, which, in the end, magically stimulate the imaginations of both creators and viewers.

[Details here](#)

[Book your visit](#)



The Pursuit of Purpose: Charting Vinland with YUKIMURA Makoto

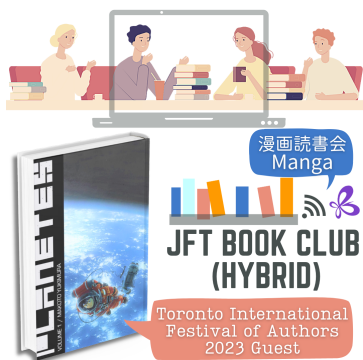
Friday, September 22, 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM (ET)

In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission free | Registration required

Please note that this event is now full. Rush tickets will be released depending on availability 15 minutes prior to the start of the event. Yukimura-sensei will also appear at [Toronto International Festival of Authors \(TIFA\) 2023](#) on Saturday, September 23.

Join us to welcome globally acclaimed manga artist YUKIMURA Makoto to Toronto! Widely recognized as the genius behind the science fiction series *Planetes* (『プラネテス』) and the Viking epic *Vinland Saga* (『ヴィンランド・サガ』), YUKIMURA Makoto has captivated fans around the world with his attention to historical accuracy, intricate battle scenes, compelling characters, and complex themes.

[Details here](#)



Library News

JFT Book Club (Hybrid) - Manga: *Planetes* by YUKIMURA Makoto (Toronto International Festival of Authors 2023)

Thursday, September 28, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Online & In-Person @ JFT Library | Admission Free | Registration Required

Love reading manga (Japanese comics) or sci-fi? Join us in person or online to discuss YUKIMURA Makoto's *Planetes*, Volume 1 (原書: 『プラネテス』 1~2巻), an award-winning sci-fi manga series with a remarkably realistic depiction of space exploration and a moving story filled with rich human drama! The artist YUKIMURA Makoto is making his first visit to Canada as a featured guest at [the Toronto International Festival of Authors 2023!](#) Let's enjoy this thought-provoking story together with other manga lovers from different cultural backgrounds! For those new to the book club or if you just want to listen this time, we also have a small number of "Observer" slots!

P.S. A special message from Mr. YUKIMURA will be exclusively shared with book club participants!

[Details here](#)



Online Teachers' Professional Development Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers

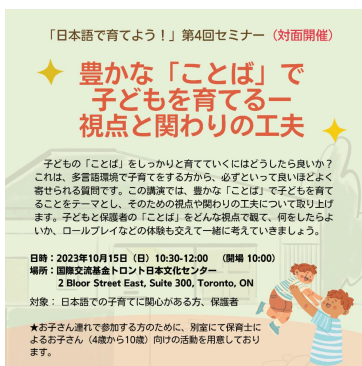
57th 'Sawakai':
Wednesday, October 4, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Topic: Let's play with stories!

Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Conducted in Japanese only

The JFT Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers is a place where teachers can share with others how their online classes are going. All topics are welcome, including if you have any ideas you would like to try out, anything you feel a little stuck on, etc. Why not take the opportunity to talk with other teachers from across Canada?

[Register here](#)



Japanese Language Seminar

Let's Raise Them in Japanese! 4th Seminar 「日本語で育てよう!」第4回セミナー

Sunday, October 15, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Registration deadline: Thursday, October 5

Target Audience: Parents and those interested in raising children in Japanese

In-person Event | Admission Free | Registration Required |
Conducted in Japanese only

子どもの「ことば」をしっかりと育てていくにはどうしたら良いか? これは、多言語環境で子育てをする方から、必ずといって良いほどよく寄せられる質問です。この講演では、豊かな「ことば」で子どもを育てることをテーマとし、そのための視点や関わりの工夫について取り上げます。子どもと保護者の「ことば」をどんな視点で観て、何をしたらよいか、ロールプレイなどの体験も交えて一緒に考えていきましょう。お子様づれで参加される方向けに、別室にてお子さま (4歳から10歳) 向けの活動を行います。(先着順)

In this seminar, we will think together about how to view the "language" of children and their guardians, and discuss practical ways to nurture children with rich language. For those with children, activities for children (4-10 years old) will be held in a separate room. (First-come-first-served basis). Co-presented with Nihongo de Sodateyou.

[Register here](#)

ONGOING EVENTS



Library News

September New Arrivals

Visit the library to borrow newly arrived titles! Dive deep into the Japanese idol culture with USAMI Rin’s Akutagawa award-winning novella *Idol, Burning*, a compelling exploration of fandom and identity in the age of social media; master practical Japanese communication skills through real-life scenario conversations with *Tsunagu nihongo : shokyū-1 & 2 つなぐにほんご : 初級 1 & 2* (if you are a Japanese teacher, check out *教師用マニュアル*); explore the fascinating history and dynamics of the world’s first futures trading market in Edo-period Japan with TAKATSUKI Yasuo’s *The Dojima Rice Exchange*; and more!

[See full list here](#)

[Place a hold for pickup](#)



Library News

JF Canada Digital Library: Newly Added Ebooks and Audiobooks

Check out new ebooks and audiobooks just added to [JF Canada Digital Library](#)! Whether you are a fan of KUROSAWA Akira or a film enthusiast in general, Kurosawa’s long-time co-screenwriter HASHIMOTO Shinobu’s *Compound Cinematics* offers an unparalleled insider’s view into the creative genius and the unique art of screenwriting; step into the mystical realm of *Yamamba: In Search of the Japanese Mountain Witch* by Rebecca Copeland and Linda C. Ehrlich, an enchanting collection of myth, scholarship and creative arts that reveal little-known truths about Japanese culture and gender relations; discover the timeless connection between storytelling and spirituality through the classical literature of the Buddhist in the Heian period with *Three Treasures* by Edward Kamens and Ethan Bushelle; and more!

Apply for a new library card or renew your expired card [here](#).

[Browse other ebooks and audiobooks](#)



Online Talk

Filmmakers Conversation: Short Films of the Ainu

Watch now on the JFT YouTube Channel

In conjunction with our [Short Films of the Ainu](#) online program, we invite you to join us for a special conversation about the preservation of Ainu culture, family, language, and identity, through the lens of documentary filmmaking. Featuring director YAMADA Yuichiro and director MIZOGUCHI Naomi (who will speak on behalf of director KAYANO Shiro).

Watch here



Japanese Language Classes

Continue Learning Japanese with us!

Looking for somewhere to continue studying Japanese? Registration for our September 2023 language courses is now open! We offer online courses for everyone from complete beginners (Starter A1) to intermediate speakers (Intermediate B1/JLPT N3 level).

Details here



Japanese Language Classes

JFT Virtual Study Space

Online Space | Admission Free | Registration Required

Looking for a space to practice the Japanese language outside of class? Want to connect with fellow learners from all over Canada (or study alone if you wish)? Our free online 24/7 JFT Virtual Study Space is now open to all learners of Japanese in Canada. Here, learners can practice speaking, complete weekly language challenges, play games, chill, study together or alone, and more.

Register here

JAPAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTED EVENTS



Toronto International Film Festival

Japanese Cinema at TIFF 2023

Now to Sunday, September 17

Film Festival | Ticketed Admission: Prices Vary

This year marks a significant milestone for the [Toronto International Film Festival](#), where the first Japanese film and animated film have been selected for the Opening Night Presentation. Adding to the occasion, the opening film is none other than animation icon MIYAZAKI Hayao's latest masterpiece, **The Boy and the Heron**. Beyond opening night, Japanese cinema is well represented at TIFF 2023 with Oscar-winner HAMAGUCHI Ryūsuke's latest entry **Evil Does Not Exist**, and the masterful KORE-EDA Hirokazu's return to Japan with **Monster**, just to name a few. [The Japan Foundation, Toronto](#) is proud to be a continued supporter of TIFF through our grant programs.

Details here

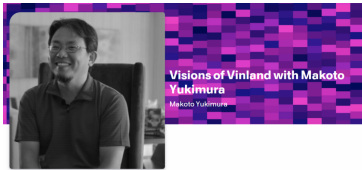


Ottawa International Animation Festival
Mindgames: A Tribute to Masaaki Yuasa

Wednesday, September 20 to Sunday, September 24
Film Festival | Ticketed Admission: Prices Vary

Internationally renowned animator and filmmaker YUASA Masaaki will be attending the [2023 Ottawa International Animation Festival](#) this September, where a comprehensive retrospective of his body of work will be presented, from his acclaimed feature films to his lesser known works in television. The co-founder of Science SARU will also join OIAF Artistic Director Chris Robinson for a deep dive into Yuasa's unique and diverse career. Supported by [The Japan Foundation, Toronto's](#) grant program.

[Details here](#)



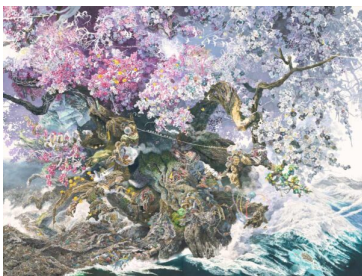
Toronto International Festival of Authors
Visions of Vinland with Makoto Yukimura

Saturday, September 23, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
In-person in Toronto, ON | Paid Admission: Ticket Prices Vary

The internationally renowned Manga creator, Makoto Yukimura comes to Canada for the first time, offering a rare glimpse behind the scenes of the vivid, vicious world of **Vinland Saga**, the bestselling books that inspired the hugely popular Netflix adaptation.

Spanning 13 volumes, Thorfinn's quest to avenge his father and find peace in a new land takes him on an epic journey from Iceland to England, Denmark, the Byzantine Empire and back again, facing battle, brutality & betrayal every step of the way. Now, it's finally time for Thorfinn to discover the land he's dreamed of since he first sat at the feet of the great Leif Ericson – Vinland. Join Makoto Yukimura in conversation with Miles Baker, Managing Director of the Toronto Comic Art Festival for an unique and inspiring event.

[Details here](#)



Audain Art Museum (Whistler)
Manabu Ikeda: Flowers from the Wreckage

Dates: Now to Monday, October 9
Hours: Thursday to Monday, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (PT)
Exhibition in Whistler, BC | Paid Admission: Ticket Prices Vary

Following a trip to the Canadian Rockies in the summer of 2012, Manabu Ikeda produced a large-scale drawing, 'Meltdown' (2013). This work is Ikeda's personal reflection on catastrophic events in Japan in 2011. 'Meltdown' uses imagery of the majestic Canadian landscape to convey the impact of our way of life on the forces of nature.

Curated by Kiriko Watanabe, the Audain Art Museum's Gail & Stephen A. Jarislowsky Curator, this is Ikeda's first solo retrospective in North America showcasing over sixty works from national and international collections.

[Details here](#)



Japan Foundation
JFF+ Independent Cinema 2023

Now to Tuesday, October 31
Online film screenings

The Japan Foundation will launch a special program called JFF+ Independent Cinema 2023 to shed light on the mini theaters that support the cinema culture of Japan.

The lineup of streamed films includes those recommended by mini theaters throughout Japan, as well as by international film critics and film festival directors. Videos that introduce each participating mini theater, their communities, and the feelings of their staff, will also be produced and streamed. Together these will introduce the current state of cinema culture and regional culture in Japan from multiple angles.

[Details here](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS



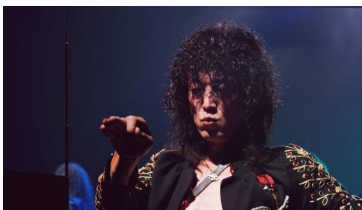
Centre for the Study of Global Japan
Cultivating STEM/STEAM Thinkers: Linking Policy, Research, and Practice

Wednesday, September 20, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Come attend the Centre for the Event of Global Japan symposium! A leading panel of experts will be joining us to discuss “Cultivating STEM/STEAM Thinkers: Linking Policy, Research, and Practice.”

This event will take place in person in the Campbell Conference Facility, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, 1 Devonshire Place, Toronto, ON.

[Register here](#)



Hot Docs Cinema
Mr. Jimmy

Friday, September 8 to Friday, September 22
Film screenings | Ticketed Admission: Prices Vary | Presented in English and Japanese with English subtitles

In snowbound Tokamachi, Japan, teenaged SAKURAI Akio took refuge in his room, escaping to another world with a pair of headphones and a pile of Led Zeppelin records. Moving to Tokyo, Akio worked as a 'salaryman' by day, but by night became Mr. Jimmy, adopting the guitar chops and persona of Jimmy Page. For 35 years, Akio recreated vintage Zeppelin concerts note-for-note in small Tokyo clubs, until Jimmy Page stopped by one night—and Akio's life changed forever. Inspired by Mr. Page's ovation, Akio quits his job, leaving behind his family to move to Los Angeles and join Led Zepagain. Soon cultures

clash, and Akio's idyllic vision of America meets with reality. Use promo code **HDMRJIMMY50** for discounted tickets.

[Details here](#)



Japan Society Canada

Book soirée featuring former Wall Street Journal Tokyo Correspondent, Kathryn Graven

Thursday, September 28, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Ben McNally Books | Admission free

The Japan Society of Canada and Ben McNally Books are excited that author and former Wall Street Journal Tokyo Correspondent, Kathryn Graven, will discuss her new book, *Memoirs of a Mask Maker* at Ben McNally Books, on Thursday September 28, 2023 from 6:00 pm. Her talk will focus on the important gifts that Japan gave her - masks, umeboshi and more - and how they have shaped her life.

[Details here](#)



Revue Cinema

Almost People

Sunday, October 1 to Thursday, October 5

Film screenings | Ticketed Admission: Prices Vary | Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Almost People, directed by four emerging Japanese filmmakers, is the story of four siblings who lack some of their emotions. Hikaru, the eldest brother, who feels no 'joy,' listens to the words people exchange in search of 'words of joy'. The eldest sister, Himiko, is conflicted by her lack of anger and throws herself into the revolution. The second brother, Taiyo, who does not understand what 'joy' is, repeatedly crosses paths with his girlfriend. Hanako, the second sister who has no feeling of 'loneliness', resonates with her homeroom teacher, Fujimaki, and makes an unexpected decision.

[Details here](#)



Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

Unchanging and Changing and Changing

Thursday, October 12

Exhibition Opening & Live Performances | Admission Free

'Unchanging and changing and changing' is a solo exhibition and collaborative Nihon-buyō dance & Taiko drum performance by Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka that features wearable paper artworks that are imbued with the life of the performers alongside the histories of craft and place that inform them. A reflection on well-being and selfhood, the works unite and contrast needs for protective armours and "inverse armours," the latter activated by dance, music, and friends to encourage expression and joy. Hatanaka reflects on personal aftershocks from tsunamis, both real and metaphorical. Her work integrates her

formative childhood experience in dance at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and is steeped with her recent time spent at a fourth generation paper mill in Japan.

[Details here](#)



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