

January 11, 2024



**JAPAN FOUNDATION TORONTO**

# Visit JFT Library to borrow January New Arrivals

Email [library\\_jftoronto@jpf.go.jp](mailto:library_jftoronto@jpf.go.jp)  
to place a hold for pick-up



This year began with tragedy in Japan's Hokuriku region. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the victims of the New Year's Day Noto Peninsula earthquake. We commend the rescue workers and volunteers on their relief efforts, and send our well wishes for a quick recovery for everyone effected.

Looking ahead, we hope to bring you another year of meaningful cultural events. Our new exhibition, [From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics](#), with materials on loan from the Royal Ontario Museum, will run from now until **June 28**. The exhibition also features an additional display of Kutani-ware -- ceramics from the earthquake-affected Ishikawa Prefecture.

Studying Japanese? Baffled by kanji? Sign up for our **January 20** virtual seminar [Re\(Making\) Sense of Kanji](#) for ideas on how to organize and learn kanji effectively.

The annual January film showcase will return on **January 27 and 28** with [KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall](#). This year we will be screening 5 distinct films, led by the acclaimed jazz anime hit *Blue Giant*.

On **February 1**, join us in-person for a look at the [evolution of Japanese videogame arcades](#) throughout the last 50 years, their influences on North America's gaming culture, and how the arcade culture survives today.

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

#### SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

<b>Now</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#">Registration Now Open for Winter Term</a>
<b>Now - January 30</b>	LIBRARY EVENT	<a href="#">FukuBookLoan (Lucky Bags)</a>
<b>Now - June 28</b>	EXHIBITION	<a href="#">From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics</a>
<b>January 20</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#">Re(Making) Sense of Kanji</a>
<b>January 27 - 28</b>	JANUARY FILM SHOWCASE	<a href="#">KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall</a>
<b>January 28</b>	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<a href="#">Let's Raise Them in Japanese! 5th Seminar</a>
<b>February 1</b>	IN-PERSON TALK	<a href="#">Play, Communication, and Media in Japanese Videogame Arcades</a>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit JFT Library to borrow  
January New Arrivals



### Library News January New Arrivals

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! For those seeking a deeper understanding of Japanese business culture and language, Boyé Lafayette De Mente's [Japanese Business Dictionary](#) is an accessible guide for mastering phrases and etiquette appropriate in a business setting; immerse yourself in KUROSAWA Kiyoshi's Silver Lion-winning thriller [Wife of a Spy \[Blu-ray\]](#), which depicts a story of trust and suspicion set against the backdrop of 1940s Japan during World War II; explore the intricacies of love and identity as characters grapple with history's traumas, poetically depicted in KASHIMADA Maki's award-winning novel [Love at Six Thousand Degrees](#); and more!

[See full list here](#)

[Place a hold for pickup](#)

## JF Canada Digital Library is Open 24/7



### Library News

## JF Canada Digital Library: Newly Added Ebooks and Audiobooks

Check out new ebooks and audiobooks just added to [JF Canada Digital Library](#)! Embark on an exciting journey guided by Ben Groundwater's [Neon Lights in Tokyo](#), showcasing the city's multifaceted tapestry of culture, taste, and atmosphere; explore the vibrant world of ceramics through [Shoji Hamada](#), unravelling the energetic lifestyle and mesmerizing work cycle of this 20th-century studio pottery icon; dive into the lyrical world of a Japanese literary master INOUE Yasushi with [Counterfeiter and Other Stories](#), a collection of short stories which quietly explore the complexities of human existence; and more!

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

### Browse other ebooks and audiobooks

A graphic for an online event titled '(RE)MAKING SENSE OF KANJI' (漢字). The title is written in both English and Japanese. The graphic is surrounded by various kanji characters in different colors and sizes, including '王', '和', '己', '識', '和', '友', '玄', '和', '母', '星', '己', '友', '天'. A small red maple leaf icon is also present. At the bottom, it says 'Online | Sat Jan 20 | 1:30-3:15 pm ET' and provides a URL: 'https://tr.jpf.go.jp/remaking-sense-of-kanji/'.

### Japanese Language Classes

## (Re)Making Sense of Kanji

**Saturday, January 20, 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM (ET)**

**Registration Deadline: Friday, January 19**

Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Some Japanese Study Experience Required

For many learners of Japanese, Kanji is often considered to be a significant hurdle in mastering the language. Join us in this thought-provoking and interactive seminar, where we will delve into different ways to think of, organize, and learn Kanji effectively.

*\*If you use Chinese characters in your native language, we have a session on February 24 designed just for you—details on website.*

[Register here](#)



### January Film Showcase

## KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall

**Saturday, January 27 & Sunday, January 28**

Film Screenings | Admission Free | Registration Required | All films presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Join us for a cozy weekend of soul-stirring films at Innis Town Hall, headlined by the acclaimed jazz anime hit **Blue Giant!** Co-presented by the Japan Foundation, Toronto and the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto.



**BLUE GIANT**

Saturday, January 27 @ 6:00 PM (ET)

[Register here](#)



**Close-Knit** 彼らが本気で編むときは  
Saturday, January 27 @ 1:30 PM (ET)

[Register here](#)



**Princess Arete** アリーテ姫  
Sunday, January 28 @ 11:00 AM (ET)

[Register here](#)



**Office Royale 地獄の花園**  
Sunday, January 28 @ 1:30 PM (ET)

[Register here](#)



**It's a Summer Film! サマーフィルムにのって**  
Sunday, January 28 @ 4:00PM (ET)

[Register here](#)



**Teachers' Professional Development**  
**Let's Raise Them in Japanese! 5th Seminar 「日本語で育てよう！」第5回セミナー**

**Sunday, January 28, 01:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)**  
**Topic: Creating Community for Parents and Children 「親子で参加できるコミュニティ作り」**  
Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Conducted in Japanese only

In this seminar, we welcome two guests with over 10 years of experience organizing activities for parents and children to enjoy together and fostering communities.  
第5回となる今回は、親子で楽しむ活動を10年以上も続けコミュニティを育ててこられたお二人をゲストに迎え、お話を伺います。

[Register here](#)



In-Person Talk

## Play, Communication, and Media in Japanese Videogame Arcades

**Thursday, February 1 @ 6:30 PM**

In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required

Japanese videogame arcades, commonly called game centers, have been a mainstay of the Japanese urban entertainment scene since the release of *Space Invaders* in the late 1970s. They introduced culturally significant games such as *Pacman*, *Street Fighter II*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*, which have had a lasting impact on arcade and videogame culture throughout the world. This presentation will provide an overview of the evolution of videogame arcades in Japan, examining their social functions as alternative sites of interpersonal communication and as urban hubs embodying the interconnectivity of the videogame, anime, and manga industries within Japan's media environment.

[Register here](#)

## ONGOING EVENTS



Library Event

## FukuBookLoan (Lucky Bags): Enjoy serendipitous discovery @ JFT Library!

**Now - Tuesday, January 30 @ 4:30 PM \*Until bags run out.**

Admission Free | Registration Not Required | Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

New Year, New Routine? Ring in 2024 with a Japanese New Year's custom "Fukubukuro" (福袋), or lucky bag, filled with serendipitous discoveries! Starting Friday, January 5th, 2024, JFT Library patrons can grab a "FukuBookLoan" bag, containing secret selections of Japan-related books and/or audiovisual materials to borrow. Try this fun way of switching up your reading and watching routine for the New Year and discover your new favourite authors, amazing film titles, and interesting topics to explore that you never knew existed!

\*Only a few bags left! Visit us before the bags run out!

[Details here](#)



Exhibition  
**From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics**

**Now - Friday, June 28, 2024**

In-person Exhibition | Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays  
| Admission Free | Registration Required

This special presentation of the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, reveals that Western modernization and the demand for exports influenced Japanese ceramics during the transitional period of the late Edo period to the Meiji period.



Now with an additional presentation, ***Kutani-ware Display*** with contributions from Toronto collectors, dedicated to the victims and survivors of the earthquake on January 1st, 2024, in Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa, Japan.

[Details here](#)



Library Event  
**Year of Dragon Origami Display**

Let's welcome 2024, the Year of the Dragon – Tatsu-Doshi (辰年) – with origami! Visit the [JFT library](#) to see the beauty of meticulously crafted origami dragons folded by members of The Origami Society of Toronto (\*on display until end of January) or explore them up close on our [web page](#).

If you would like to learn more about this Japanese art of paper folding, check out [The Origami Society of Toronto](#), or [ebooks on origami at JF Canada Digital Library](#).

[See more origami dragons](#)





Talk Recording

## Japanese Video Games & The Mediation of Trauma

If you missed Dr. Ben Whaley's talk on November 27, you can now watch the recording anytime on our YouTube channel. This talk introduces four contemporary Japanese video games in terms of how they simulate some of Japan's biggest social and personal issues and discusses how might games teach us about Japanese culture and society through interactive frameworks different from literature and film.

[Watch here](#)



Japanese Language Classes

## Continue Learning Japanese with us!

Looking for somewhere to continue studying Japanese? Registration for our Winter term is now open! We offer online courses for various levels up to intermediate speakers (Intermediate B1/JLPT N3 level).

[Register 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



Universities Canada

### Tanaka Fund Program - Call for Applications

**Application deadline: Friday, January 12, 2024**

The 2024 Tanaka Fund Grant is accepting applications from Doctoral and Masters level students in the fields of Japan Studies who are seeking to conduct research in Japan. Please see Program Guidelines for eligibility details.

[Details here](#)



Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre

### Superlative Artistry of Japan: A traveling exhibition from the Japan Foundation

**Until January 20, 2024**

**Tuesdays to Saturdays @ 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (PT)**

In-person Exhibition @ Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, Burnaby, BC | Admission Free

The exhibit includes a cohesive collection of work from a variety of art genres that emphasize highly skilled techniques, unique expression, and concepts intended to delight the viewer. Elaborate Meiji era (1868-1912) works are introduced alongside *kogei* (traditional arts & crafts) that influenced the Japonism trend in 19th century Europe. Also included in the display are numerous contemporary works of 'superlative artistry' as well as capsule toy figures and food that represent a strong commitment to artistic craftsmanship.

[Details here](#)



## University of Quebec in Montreal Textile Design Now

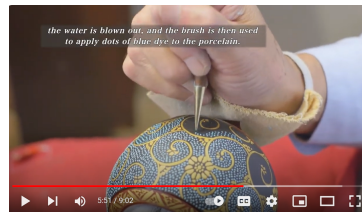
Until Sunday, February 11, 2024

Exhibition @ Pavillon de design, UQAM, Montreal | Admission Free

Textile Design Now presents the work of 23 women designers and artists from around the world. This unique gathering will provide an opportunity to discover several previously unseen pieces. Cutting-edge works by the artists on show will reveal a wide range of unexpected practices, from weaving and 3D printing to sound and solar textiles, bacterial dyeing as well as the manufacture of replacement organs woven by silkworms. The exhibition space highlights the interweaving of tradition and innovation, experimental practices as well as the emotional potential of soft materials. A historical section and a selection of publications offer keys to understanding the rich origins of textile practices and the complexity of their cultural and societal roles.

[Details here](#)

## ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



### Visual Arts Recommendation

## Kutani-ware (Kutani-yaki Pottery)

9 min. 2 secs | Subtitled in English

In association with the exhibition *From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics* at JFT.

An additional presentation, *Kutani-ware Display* with contributions from Toronto collectors, is dedicated to the victims and survivors of the earthquake on January 1st, 2024, in Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa, Japan.

[Watch here](#)



### Performing Arts Recommendation

## Brahms / Piano Concerto No. 1 - TMSO

57 min. 5 secs | Recorded on October 7, 2023, at Suntory Hall, Tokyo

Piano solo: FIJUTA Mao  
Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra  
Conducted by ŌNO Kazushi

Watch here



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Canada