

January 25, 2024

**KOTATSU:**  
**JAPANESE CINEMA**  
**AT INNIS TOWN HALL**

**JANUARY 27 & 28**

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**CLOSE-KNIT** 彼らが本気で編むときは  
**PRINCESS ARETE** アリーテ姫  
**OFFICE ROYALE** 地獄の花園  
**IT'S A SUMMER FILM!** サマーフィルムにのって

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**FREE ADMISSION • REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

CO-PRESENTED BY:

**JAPANFOUNDATION**   **CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN TORONTO**  
在トロント日本国総領事館





We're beyond excited to see everyone at this weekend's film marathon. [KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall](#) is coming **this Saturday and Sunday**. Tickets are still available; reserve them today!

Limited seating remain for our **February 1** lecture on [Japanese videogame arcade culture](#). Hear about Japanese arcades' role in Japan's media landscape, and how the arcade culture survives today.

Start reading KANAI Mieko's *Mild Vertigo* today in preparation for our **February 13 JFT Book Club**. Participants can join in virtually or in-person.

A variety of Japanese Language workshops are open to registration, including the 5th seminar of [Let's Raise Them in Japanese](#) on **January 28**.

Have you heard? A [Book Tree](#) is back at JFT! Between **now and March 31**, borrow 5 or more items from our physical or digital libraries and submit comments on the borrow items to be entered into a contest for exciting prizes!

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

#### SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

**Now**

JAPANESE LANGUAGE  
CLASSES

[Registration Now Open for Winter Term](#)



<b>Now - June 28</b>	EXHIBITION	<a href="#"><u>From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics</u></a>
<b>Now - March 31</b>	LIBRARY	<a href="#"><u>Book Tree 2024 - Borrow Library Items &amp; Win a Prize!</u></a>
<b>January 27 - 28</b>	JANUARY FILM SHOWCASE	<a href="#"><u>KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall</u></a>
<b>January 28</b>	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<a href="#"><u>Let's Raise Them in Japanese! 5th Seminar</u></a>
<b>February 1</b>	IN-PERSON TALK	<a href="#"><u>Play, Communication, and Media in Japanese Videogame Arcades</u></a>
<b>February 13</b>	LIBRARY EVENT	<a href="#"><u>JFT Book Club (Hybrid) - <i>Mild Vertigo</i> by KANAI Mieko</u></a>
<b>February 15</b>	IN-PERSON FILM SCREENING	<i>Mantles of Transience</i> film screening & livestream Q&A with <i>matohu</i>
<b>February 15 &amp; 22</b>	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<a href="#"><u>JFT Online Foreign Language Learning Experience for Japanese Language Teachers</u></a>
<b>February 24</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#"><u>(Re)Making Sense of Kanji – For Learners Who Use Chinese Characters in Their Native Language</u></a>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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 this weekend for our annual winter film showcase at Innis Town Hall! Our lineup of soul-stirring films will surely warm your hearts and help lift the winter blues. Co-presented by the Japan Foundation, Toronto and the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto. A friendly reminder that our headliner film **Blue Giant** is now fully booked. Rush line will be available, and seats will be released 10 minutes prior to the start of the event.



**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](#)



## JFT Book Club (Hybrid) - *Mild Vertigo* by KANAI Mieko

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Join us in person or virtually to discuss KANAI Mieko's novel *Mild Vertigo* (金井 美恵子著『軽いめまい』), a mesmerizing exploration of everyday life in Japan depicted with an innovative storytelling approach. Whether you're new to our library or a seasoned book club participant, this is your chance to connect, discuss, and discover the magic of Japanese literature. Let's enjoy this unique novel together with fellow book lovers from different backgrounds! If you just want to listen this time, we also have a small number of "Observer" slots!

[Details here](#)



In-Person Film Screening

## *Mantles of Transience* film screening & livestream Q&A with *matohu*

Thursday, February 15 @ 6:00 PM

In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Created by a couple of Japanese fashion designers, the clothing brand *matohu* fuses innovative designs with the traditional Japanese concept of beauty. In a series of beautiful images, *Mantles of Transience* takes you from the artists' workshop to nature, where they find inspiration. Their goal? Highlighting the hidden beauty in everyday life, which we tend to overlook. Witness the production of their latest collection, Nagori, and learn about the rewarding life philosophy behind this one-of-a-kind fashion brand.

©GROUP GENDAI FILMS CO., LTD.

In-person film screening to be followed by a livestream Q&A with the founders of *matohu*, Mr. HORIHATA Hiroyuki and Ms. SEKIGUCHI Makiko. Stay tuned for the registration page. **Save the date!**



オンライン  
日本語教師研修

**日本語教師のための  
外国語学習体験**

トルコ語編

2月15日、22日 (木) 7:00-9:00 PM ET  
<https://tr.jpf.go.jp/workshop240215/>

Online Teachers' Professional Development  
**JFT Online Foreign Language Learning Experience  
for Japanese Language Teachers**

**Thursdays, February 15 & February 22, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)**  
**Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 8**  
Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Conducted  
in Turkish and Japanese

Experience a foreign language class using "Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture," the Japan Foundation's official Japanese language course book based on the JF Standard for Japanese language education.

The purpose of this training is for Japanese language teachers to experience a foreign language class as learners using "Marugoto" materials, and to reflect on the teaching methods employed by "Marugoto." After experiencing a class as students in an unknown language, we will exchange ideas on how learners feel when being taught using "Marugoto." This time, the learning experience will be in Turkish.

[Register here](#)



**(RE)MAKING SENSE  
OF KANJI**  
漢字

For Those Who Know Chinese Characters

Online || Sat. Feb 24 || 1:30-3:15 pm ET  
[bit.ly/kanjisemi](http://bit.ly/kanjisemi)

Japanese Language Classes  
**(Re)Making Sense of Kanji – For Learners Who Use  
Chinese Characters in Their Native Language**

**Saturday, February 24 @ 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM (ET)**  
**Registration Deadline: Friday, February 23**  
Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Some  
Japanese Study Experience Required

When we are already using Chinese characters in our native language, it is easy to fall into the habit of treating Japanese Kanji just like we do in Chinese. This does not always work though, because while there are certainly many things in common, there are also many differences that someone who knows Chinese characters should keep in mind to really master the language. Join us in this thought-provoking and interactive seminar, where we will explore the differences between Kanji in Japanese and Chinese, and learn strategies to improve your Japanese fluency.

[Register here](#)





## Book Tree 2024 - Borrow Library Items & Win a Prize!

**Saturday, January 20 – Sunday, March 31**

Online & In-Person @ JFT Library & JF Canada/USA Digital Library  
| Registration Required

Our annual Book Tree is back after a 4-year hiatus! Starting from Saturday, January 20, those who borrow 5 or more items from [our physical library in Toronto](#) or [JF Canada/USA Digital Library](#) and contribute to blooming our Book Tree by submitting comments on *tsubaki* flower will have a chance to win an exciting prize! Join us in warming up the season with books & movies, sharing the excitement with the vibrant community of readers and Japan enthusiasts!

[Details here](#)



Japanese Language Education Programs

## **FY2024 Japan Foundation Toronto Local Grant Program for Japanese Language Education – Applications Open!**

**Application Deadline: April 15, 2024**

This program is intended to promote Japanese language education in Canada by providing support to a wide range of activities essential to the dissemination of Japanese language and the development of Japanese language education.

[Details here](#)

## ONGOING EVENTS



## Secret Revealed ! – FukuBookLoan (Lucky Bags) 2024 @ JFT Library

JFT Library's "FukuBookLoan" (福袋) Lucky Bags, containing secret selections of books and/or audiovisual materials to borrow, are all gone as of Saturday, January 13. Thank you to all those who participated! For those who are curious about what items were included in all those bags, we have just revealed the secret contents of the bags! Join us in the library or check our website to uncover the diverse array of Japan-related books and audiovisual materials. We hope you enjoyed experiencing the Japanese New Year custom and that this event has helped you discover new favourite authors, amazing film titles, and interesting topics to explore!

[Check out secret contents here](#)



## Library News January New Arrivals

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Delve into DAZAI Osamu's exploration of existential questions, self-hatred, and the fascination with death, with a comic-twist in [Early Light](#); discover Japan's uniquely fascinating sporting culture with [The War on Wheels: Inside the Keirin and Japan's Cycling Subculture](#) offering a detailed look at societal dynamics; 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; and more!

[See full list here](#)

[Place a hold for pickup](#)



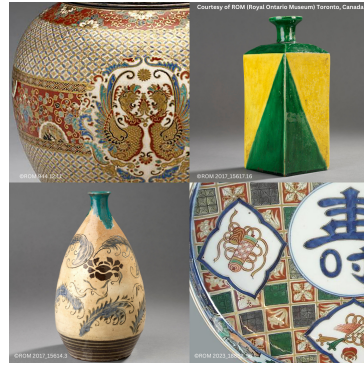
## Library News JF Canada Digital Library: Newly Added Ebooks and Audiobooks

Check out new ebooks and audiobooks just added to [JF Canada Digital Library](#)! 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



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](#)



### 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



## 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](#)



## The Royal Ontario Museum **Of Catfish and Earthquakes: The Contemporary Art of Yuta Niwa**

**Thursday, February 29 @ 6:30 PM**

In-person at ROM, Signy and Cléopée Eaton Theatre | Admission Free | Registration Required

ROM hosts emerging Japanese artist Yuta Niwa in a keynote presentation in support of the online exhibition, [Aftershocks: Japanese Earthquake Prints](#), that focuses on his reinterpretation of these important historical art forms for contemporary audiences.

Hosted by Akiko Takesue, Niwa's keynote presentation, supported by visual illustrations, will showcase his work, which incorporates traditional Japanese painting techniques and materials into artworks dealing with modern disasters such as earthquakes and infectious diseases.

Image courtesy of Yuta Miwa.

[Visit our Website](#)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS





## Nagata Shachu From Japan to Madagascar

Friday, March 22 @ 8:00 PM & Saturday, March 23 @ 8:00 PM  
Al Green Theatre (750 Spadina Ave) | Ticketed Admission | Ticket  
Prices Vary

Nagata Shachu Japanese Taiko & Music Group presents a double-bill concert "From Japan to Madagascar." The first half of the concert features *ten ten* – an eclectic seven-person music ensemble that performs Japanese folk songs with a modern twist using both western and Japanese instruments. The collective is directed by shamisen player and vocalist Aki Takahashi who is also the associate director of Nagata Shachu. The second half of the concert features a mashup of Nagata Shachu's thrilling Japanese taiko rhythms with the African infused melodies of Madagascar-born, Toronto-based guitarist and singer Donné Roberts (a two time Juno award winner) with his band.

[Tickets here](#)

## ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



Performing Arts Recommendation

### Weber: *Der Freischütz* Overture, KUMAKURA Masaru -NHKSO

11 min. 37 secs | Recorded on July 21, 2023, at NHK Hall, Shibuya,  
Tokyo  
NHK Symphony Orchestra; Conducted by KUMAKURA Masaru

[Watch here](#)



Visual Arts Recommendation

### Kutani-ware (Kutani-yaki Pottery)

28 min. 45 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



The Japan Foundation, Toronto | 2 Bloor St. East, Suite 300, P.O. Box 130, Toronto, M4W 1A8  
Canada