

March 14, 2024



AINUPURI: GIVING VOICE TO MUSEUM OBJECTS

Monday, March 18, 6:30PM

A presentation and film screening event at The Japan Foundation, Toronto

Presented by Dr. UZAWA Kanako

Free Admission. Register for tickets.

JAPAN FOUNDATION 




JAPAN FOUNDATION 

JAPANESE CERAMICS

From Edo to Meiji

January 5 - June 28



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Join us on **March 18** with [Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects](#), an illuminating presentation from Norwegian-based Ainu scholar Dr. Kanako Uzawa, who will visit Toronto to shed light on the hidden stories and narratives of Ainu museum collections.

JFT is supporting the University of Toronto's event series, [Living Otherwise: Perspectives on Time, Space, and Sense-Making from Okinawa](#), which includes an art exhibition, photobook workshop, and artist talk, from **March 25 to March 28**.

We have more new [March arrivals in the JF Digital Library](#). Borrow 5 or more library items and contribute to blooming our [Book Tree](#) by **March 31** to be entered into a draw and win an exciting prize

Lastly, visit our ongoing gallery exhibition, [From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics](#), now featuring a presentation of *Kutani-ware Display* dedicated to everyone affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

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 Spring Term
Now - March 31	LIBRARY	Book Tree 2024 - Borrow Library Items & Win a Prize!
Now - June 28	EXHIBITION	From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics
March 16 & 18	AUTHOR EVENTS	North American Japanese Literary Forum with HIRANO Keiichiro
March 18	IN-PERSON TALK	Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects
March 23	LIBRARY	29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival

UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#)! Delve into the hidden wisdom of [Noh as Living Art: the Timeless Vitality of Japan's Oldest Theatrical Tradition](#) by YASUDA Noboru, a whimsical yet profound guide for life even beyond the stage; whether you're a seasoned sake enthusiast or a curious novice, [Discovering Yamaguchi Sake: A Taster's Guide to Breweries, Culture, and Terrain](#) by Jim Rion and Melinda Joe offers a multifaceted exploration of its unique history and heritage of sake-making craftsmanship; embark on a poignant journey through family secrets and historical tumult in Leslie Shimotakahara's novel [Red Oblivion](#); and more!

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

*Borrow 5+ library items and win a prize with [Book Tree](#) program!

Browse other ebooks and audiobooks



Japanese Language Classes

Early-Bird Pricing in Effect!

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

[Register here](#)



North American Japanese Literary Forum with HIRANO Keiichiro

Saturday, March 16 @ Seattle, Washington

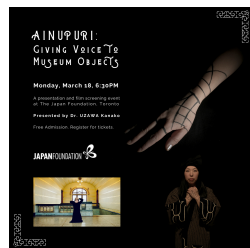
Monday, March 18 @ Vancouver, British Columbia

In-person | Admission Free | Registration required only for Vancouver event

HIRANO Keiichiro is an award-winning author of novels such as *A Man* and *At the End of the Matinee*. In March 2024, he will visit Seattle and Vancouver to share his personal experiences as a writer of Japan's "Lost Generation," defined as a generation whose socio-economic stability declined dramatically following the collapse of the country's asset price bubble. Mr. HIRANO will also discuss the characteristics of writers of the generation before and after him, delve into the question of identity, and as a current member of the Akutagawa Prize selection committee, touch upon recent trends in Japanese literature. Co-presented with the Japan P.E.N. Club.

[Details of Seattle Stop](#)

[Details of Vancouver Stop](#)



In-person Talk

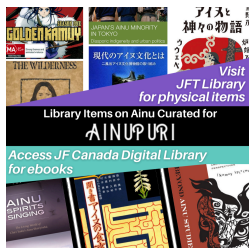
Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects

Monday, March 18 @ 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

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

This presentation will focus on hidden stories and narratives of Ainu museum collections from the eye of Dr. Kanako Uzawa, an Ainu scholar and artist. She will discuss the process and challenges she faces through ongoing Ainu art exhibition curation in collaboration with the University of Michigan Museum of Art. Lastly, she will introduce her most recent art video production, *Ainupuri*, in which she reconstructs the counter-narratives of Ainu objects stored in the Historical Museum of Oslo University in Norway. This tells her own story in the form of narration, poetry, song, dance, and performance; these personal and collective histories are mediated by Laura Liverani's visual storytelling in a constant dialogue between the two artists.

[Register here](#)



Enrich Your Understanding of Ainu with JFT Library before/after the event: Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects

Discover the rich cultural tapestry of the Ainu people through our curated collection of JFT Library items, selected in conjunction with the presentation & film screening event [Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects](#) on Monday, March 18. Our event guest presenter Dr. UZAWA Kanako's insights are informed by her pivotal role as a contributor to the groundbreaking book ***Beyond Ainu Studies*** [Ebook], which seeks to reinvigorate the landscape of Ainu research; ***Ainu Spirits Singing*** [Physical book & Ebook] offers a nuanced study and English translation of Ainu's rich oral performance traditions; see Ainu culture through the eyes of the characters in the historical fiction manga/anime ***Golden Kamuy*** [ebook (EN) & Blu-ray (EN/JP) & physical book (JP)] by NODA Satoru; and more! You can borrow our physical items by visiting JFT library in person during [our hours](#) and/or borrow ebooks by accessing [JF Canada Digital Library](#), available 24/7.

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

[Check library item list](#)



29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival – After Every Storm Comes a Rainbow –

Saturday, March 23 @ 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)
In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in English

Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Japanese heritage at the 29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival, back in person after 5 years! Co-presented with Katari Japanese Storytellers, this event brings Japanese folktales, creative stories, and songs to life in English. This year's theme, "After every storm comes a rainbow (待てば海路の日和あり)," promises an uplifting experience, where we embrace the positive energy that comes with Japanese storytelling. Mark your calendars, and bring your family and friends to be part of this unique cultural experience!

[Register here](#)

****Registration is now full; rush tickets will be available on day of the event.**



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



Library News March New Arrivals

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Explore the multifaceted realms of Japanese pop culture, including sumo, manga, karaoke, and so on with [The Worlds of Japanese Popular Culture: Gender, Shifting Boundaries and Global Cultures](#); discover 59 cherished Japanese children's books through [Lifelong Favorites](#), featuring book reviews in English and Japanese, a perfect resource for parents, language learners, and translators seeking high-quality authentic material; for readers craving a surreal escape from the ordinary, MISHIMA Yukio's [Life for Sale](#) offers a hilarious journey through absurdity and dark humour; and more! [Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Explore the multifaceted realms of Japanese pop culture, including sumo, manga, karaoke, and so on with [The Worlds of Japanese Popular Culture: Gender, Shifting Boundaries and Global Cultures](#); discover 59 cherished Japanese children's books through [Lifelong Favorites](#), featuring book reviews in English and Japanese, a perfect resource for parents, language learners, and translators seeking high-quality authentic material; for readers craving a surreal escape from the ordinary, MISHIMA Yukio's [Life for Sale](#) offers a hilarious journey through absurdity and dark humour; and more!

***Borrow 5+ library items and win a prize with [Book Tree](#) program!**

[See full list here](#)

[Place a hold for pickup](#)



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

Now – 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](#)



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](#)



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



Japan Bowl Ontario Organizing Committee

Japan Bowl Ontario 2024

Saturday, March 16 @ 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM (ET)

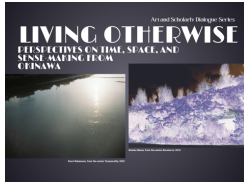
Registration Deadline: March 1

Japan Bowl Ontario is a Japanese language and culture competition focusing on high school students in Ontario. The event is inspired and supported by the Japan Bowl® in the United States, which was created by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC in 1992. Japan Bowl Ontario is not an exam, but a game show. It asks students about their knowledge of Japanese culture, society, daily life, history, geography, and current events. Questions are all in English.

Entry form is open until Friday, March 1, 2024, or until all the available spots are filled.

[Register here](#)

[Email inquiries here](#)



University of Toronto, Jackman Humanities Institute
Living Otherwise: Perspectives on Time, Space, and Sense-Making from Okinawa

Monday, March 25 – Photobook workshop (2:00-3:30 PM) & Opening Reception of Art Exhibition (3:30-4:30 PM)
In-person @ Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library on UofT St. George Campus | Admission Free | Registration Required

Thursday, March 28 – Artist talk (3:00-5:00 PM)

In-person @ EAS Lounge, 14th floor, Robarts Library on UofT St. George Campus | Admission Free | Registration Required

This is an event series that features the photographic works of Kaori Nakasone and Satoko Nema, two female artists from Okinawa, and the scholarship of Mayumo Inoue, a professor of comparative literature from Hitotsubashi University, Japan. It involves an art exhibition and book display, photobook workshop, and artist talk.

Through photographic art and artist and scholarly exchange, this event series aims to engage Japanese and Asian studies faculty and students from the University of Toronto and beyond with the question of “living otherwise”: What makes possible relational modes of co-habitation in our times marked by precarity, difference, and sudden losses? Together, we aim to generate conversations centered on the power of art and image-making in opening new meanings of “living otherwise,” both within Okinawa and beyond.

* The exhibition is open to the general public from March 25 to April 26, 2024, 10 AM to 6 PM at the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library. Please register in advance for visits.

[Full details](#)

[Register here](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Nagata Shachu
From Japan to Madagascar

Friday, March 22, 8:00PM & Saturday, March 23, 8:00PM (ET)
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.

[Details here](#)

ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

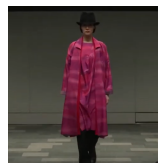


Performing Arts Recommendation
Takaha Gekidan “The Good-Story Murders”

Recorded in 2021 at Ekimae Theater, Shimokitazawa, Tokyo

Written and Directed by TAKAHA Aya
2 hours 11 min. | Subtitled in English and French

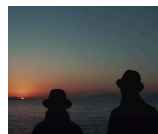
[Watch here](#)



Visual Arts Recommendation
matchu 2023 A/W Collection

51 min. | Subtitled in English (only video presentation)

In association with *matchu*’s tour to Toronto and Montreal in April 2024 (TBA). Full video features the fashion demonstration and a video presentation, “Journey from Palms of Hands Series 10 World of Sympathetic Vibration”.



[Watch here](#)



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