

April 4, 2024



Vancouver Comic Arts Festival 2024 Guest Artist

漫画読書会  
Let's chat about manga!

**JFT BOOK CLUB (HYBRID)**  
Thursday, April 18, 2024  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (EDT)  
\*Admission free. Registration required.  
*Experience Transformative Power of Manga  
Forging Connections Across Ages, Genders, and Cultures!*



**DOWNTOWN DANCE**  
歌えマチグラー

Tuesday, April 9, 6:00PM

An Okinawan town comes together to revive a fading market with a festival of music and dance!

Documentary Film Screening at The Japan Foundation, Toronto  
A part of our *Keep Dancin', Okinawa!* film series.

Free Admission. Register for tickets.

Spring is here! And so is our *Keep Dancin', Okinawa!* film series. Catch the first screening of the series on **April 9** with [Downtown Dance](#) - a documentary about a market in the Okinawa Prefecture fighting to thrive in recent times. The opening of the film series will be celebrated with a special *Sanshin* performance you would not want to miss. Reserve your spot now!

Our library is hosting a hybrid book club on **April 18**. Set to discuss the manga [BL Metamorphosis by TSURUTANI Kaori](#), the book club may be the perfect introduction to artist TSURUTANI Kaori who will be at the Vancouver Comic Arts Festival this year! All readers are welcome to register and join the book club.

If you are on the lookout for other books to read, we have some [April New Arrivals at the JFT Library](#) to check out, as well as some new additions to the [JF Canada Digital Library](#).

Later this month on **April 24** and **26**, Japanese fashion designers *matchu* will arrive in Toronto and Montreal for a [Designers' Talk and film screening](#). Register now to meet the people behind the brand and learn about their philosophy of design.

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

For more more upcoming JFT events and community news, [see details below](#).

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

<b>Now</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#">Registration Open for Spring Term</a>
<b>Now - April 15</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION	<a href="#">Applications Open for Japanese Language Education Local Grant</a>
<b>Now - June 28</b>	EXHIBITION	<a href="#">From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics</a>
<b>April 9</b>	FILM SCREENING	<a href="#">Downtown Dance</a>
<b>April 18</b>	LIBRARY EVENT (HYBRID)	<a href="#">JFT Book Club (Hybrid) - Manga: BL</a>

[Metamorphosis by TSURUTANI Kaori](#)

April 14, 24 and 26 IN-PERSON TALK + FILM SCREENING [Matohu Designers' Talk and Film Screening in Toronto and Montreal](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Film Screening  
**DownTown Dance** 歌えマチグラー

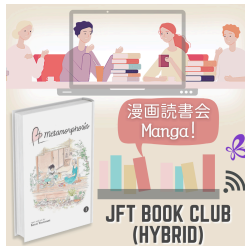
**Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)**  
In-person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

*DownTown Dance* follows the passionate residents of a shopping district in Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture. Once a lively market thriving for over 60 years, the district has lost its vibrancy over time. The documentary sheds light on the volunteers who strive to revitalize the market, using "music" as their main approach. In a time when the hollowing out of cities is being decried, the locals are fighting to restore urban vitality and to keep their district open. The market gradually comes to life with the Sakae-machi Market Night Stall Festival. At the centre of it all are the "Oba Rappers", a trio of ladies who are leading the way in bringing music and dance to their town.

Co-presented with the [Toronto Kyuyokai](#) (Okinawa Kenjinkai).

To kick off our "Keep Dancin', Okinawa!" film series in style, **sanshin musician SHINZATO Kano will be performing traditional Okinawan songs just before the film.** Come early to get a good seat! You won't want to miss this special performance. The *sanshin* (三線) is an Okinawan musical instrument and precursor of the Japanese shamisen (三味線). Often likened to a banjo, it consists of a snakeskin-covered body, neck and three strings.

[Register here](#)



JFT Book Club (Hybrid) -  
**Manga: *BL Metamorphosis* by TSURUTANI Kaori**

**Thursday, April 18, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)**  
Online & In-Person @ JFT Library | Admission Free | Registration Required

Is manga (Japanese comic) just for young readers? Immerse yourself in the refreshing tale of *BL Metamorphosis* (『メタモルフォーズの縁側』) by TSURUTANI Kaori, showcasing the transformative power of manga that forges connections across different ages, genders, and cultures! Let's explore this heart-warming story of an intergenerational friendship that develops through a shared passion for BL (a manga genre featuring male-male relationships). Whether you're a seasoned manga lover or new to the genre, don't miss this opportunity to connect and discuss with readers from different backgrounds and discover the magic of manga! For those new to the book club or those just wanting to listen in this time, we also have a small number of "observer" slots!

P.S. Exciting news just in! The manga artist TSURUTANI Kaori is coming to Canada as a featured guest at this year's [Vancouver Comic Arts Festival!](#) It's perfect timing to dive deep into her work leading up to the festival! Also, stay tuned for details about our free online screening of the live-action film adaptation of *BL Metamorphosis*.

[Details here](#)



In-Person Talk + Film Screening  
**Designers' Talk by Matohu: Aesthetics and Handicraft**  
**The Design Philosophy of Matohu**

**In TORONTO**  
**Wednesday, April 24**  
**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET): Designers' Talk**  
**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET): Documentary film screening + live Q&A with the designers**  
In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required

**In MONTREAL**  
**Sunday, April 14, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET): Documentary film screening (no Q&A)**  
In-Person @ De Seve Cinema (1400 Boulevard De Maisonneuve Ouest, Montreal, Quebec) | Admission Free | Registration Required  
**Friday, April 26, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET): Designers' Talk (Sold out)**  
In-Person @ École supérieure de mode (ESM) de l'ESG UQAM Room DM-R310 (280 rue Sainte-Catherine Est OR Sainte-Catherine East Street, Montreal, Quebec)

The Japanese designer duo behind the brand [matohu](#) are bringing insights of their unique design philosophy centering around cultural values and innovation, to Toronto and Montreal. During the Designers' Talk, the designers will present the history, processes, and current status of *matohu*, taking the audience through a journey with video clips, images, and original clothes.

Audiences in both cities also have the chance to join the film screening of *Mantles of Transience*, a documentary following the creative process and past collections of *Mamatohu*.

[Details here](#)



#### Library News April New Arrivals

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Witness the legendary animator's creative process and unwavering dedication in *Never-ending man Hayao Miyazaki [DVD & BR]*, a documentary shot nearly a decade ago, now resonating with his recent second Oscar win for *The Boy and the Heron*; explore the eclectic and vibrant streets of Tokyo through the lens of fashion with *Tokyo Fashion City* by Philomena Keet; dive into the depths of human connection and vulnerability as a socially awkward woman in the 30s navigates life's complexities in *All the Lovers in the Night* by KAWAKAMI Mieko; 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](#)! Explore the rich tapestry of cultural celebrations and everyday life with *Japanese Traditions* by Setsu Broderick and Willamarie Moore, packed with charming illustrations and fun facts; unravel the threads of Japan's iconic garment with *The Social Life of Kimono* as Sheila Cliffe uncovers its evolution and contemporary relevance; *The Forbidden Worlds of Haruki Murakami* by Matthew Carl Strecher is a must-read for fans of Murakami seeking a deeper understanding of his literary genius and imaginative landscapes; and more!

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

[Browse other ebooks and audiobooks](#)



#### Japanese Language Classes Continue Learning Japanese With Us

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](#)



#### 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



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](#)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



NAJC Japanese New Immigrant Committee  
**Japanese Canadian History Seminar Part 2**

**Session 2: Changes in "Nikkei" (Kanji) and "nikkei" (alphabet)**  
**Tuesday, April 16 8:00 PM (ET)**

Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | In Japanese Only

The JNIC (Japanese New Immigrants Committee) has decided to launch "Japanese Canadian History seminar Part 2" as a continuation of the first series. This session which will delve more deeply into individual topics and people. Guest speaker Shigeru Kojima, the Curator of JICA Yokohama Japanese Overseas Migration Museum will discuss the definitions of "we Japanese," "nikkei" and "Japanese Canadians" during the session.

[Details here](#)



The Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop  
**LiterASIAN 2024**

**Saturday, May 4 & Sunday, May 5**

In-person @ Multiple Venues in Vancouver | Ticketed Admission | Ticket Prices Vary

Embarking on a poignant literary exploration of Canada's historical tapestry, this year's festival examines both the challenges and successes of the meaning of redress. Join us for a compassionate and informative literary dialogue, where writers will explore the importance of amplifying Asian Canadian voices, promoting cultural understanding, and fostering a society that embraces diversity with open arms. This literary festival is an invitation to collectively embark on a journey of reconciliation, where acknowledgment, education, and empathy pave the way towards a more equitable and inclusive Canada.

[Details here](#)



