

April 25, 2024

**Let's Welcome the Manga Artist to Toronto!**




TCAF 2024 FEATURED GUEST  
**KAMOME SHIRAHAMA**  
Manga Artist

**TORONTO COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL** In-Person Event & Book Signing @ Japan Foundation, Toronto  
Sunday, May 12 1:30 - 2:30 PM

 JAPANFOUNDATION

### Kominka Projects: Regional Rejuvenation through Tourism



with **Dr. Atsuko Hashimoto**

**Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 PM**  
(Doors open @ 6:00 PM)  
@The Japan Foundation, Toronto



JAPANFOUNDATION TORONTO 

Kominka(古民家): Old House

Celebrate Spring with the [Sakura at ROM: Cherry Blossoms in the Japanese Collection](#) in-person talk on **May 10**. Cherry blossoms - *sakura* in Japanese- are significant flowers in the Japanese culture since ancient times. Register for this talk to view variety of *sakura*-related art from the Royal Ontario Museum's Japanese collection.

Join us in welcoming SHIRAHAMA Kamome, an esteemed manga artist of the award-winning series *Witch Hat Atelier!* Ms. Shirahama is stopping by JFT on **May 12** as a featured guest at the [Toronto Comic Arts Festival 2024](#) (May 11-12, 2024). Event details, including a book signing session, are coming soon - keep eyes on our [website!](#)

On **May 21**, we are hosting an in-person talk to discuss how [Kominka projects](#) have been successfully bringing revival to abandoned rural villages in Japan. Learn about the growing number of abandoned rural houses and related social issues, and find out how tourism is acting as a vital solution. Register now to secure a spot!

In our [Japanese Language Classes](#), you can learn more than just the language. Join our [intermediate-level class](#) to continue learning Japanese and some history too!

Check out the [April new arrivals at JFT library](#), as well as new ebooks and audiobooks at the [Digital Library](#).

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.

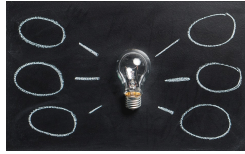
For more ongoing and upcoming JFT events, and community news [see details below](#).

*SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE*

<b>Now</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#">Intermediate Class Starting Soon</a>
<b>Now - June 28</b>	EXHIBITION	<a href="#">From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics</a>
<b>April 28</b>	ONLINE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<a href="#">Let's raise them in Japanese! 6th Seminar</a>

April 30	FILM SCREENING	<a href="#">The Makioka Sisters</a>
May 10	IN-PERSON TALK	<a href="#">Sakura at ROM: Cherry Blossoms in the Japanese Collection</a>
May 12	LIBRARY EVENT	<a href="#">Toronto Comic Arts Festival 2024: Meet Manga Artist SHIRAHAMA Kamome @JFT!</a>
May 21	IN-PERSON TALK	<a href="#">Regional rejuvenation through Kominka Projects</a>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Online Teachers' Professional Development  
**Let's Raise Them in Japanese! 6th Seminar 「日本語で育てよう！」第6回セミナー**  
 Topic: Parental Conversation Strategies to Encourage Children's Use of Japanese 子どもの日本語使用を促す親の会話ストラテジー

**Sunday, April 28, 07:30 PM - 9:30 PM (ET)**  
 Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Conducted in Japanese only

In this seminar, we will introduce a conversation strategy to encourage children to speak using the home language. We will also discuss other things parents can do.

[Register here](#)



Film Screening  
**The Makioka Sisters 細雪**

**Tuesday, April 30, 6:00 PM (ET)**  
**[Fully Booked]**  
 JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Structured around the changing of the seasons, *The Makioka Sisters* follows the lives of four siblings who have taken on their family's kimono manufacturing business, in the years leading up to the Pacific War. This graceful study of a family at a turning point in history is a poignant evocation of changing times and fading customs, shot in rich, vivid colors.

Co-presented with the [Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto](#) in celebration of springtime and cherry blossom season.

[Register here](#)

**This event is now fully booked and registrations are closed.**  
 However, there will be a rush line at the door starting 60 minutes before the event to release any unclaimed seats. Please note that we cannot guarantee your admittance.



Re-conceived reproductions of Hiroshige's Sakura-themed prints from JFT collection  
 To be displayed for this occasion at The Japan Foundation, Toronto

In-Person Talk  
**Sakura at ROM: Cherry Blossoms in the Japanese Collection**

**Friday, May 10, 6:00 PM (ET)**  
 JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in English  
 Cherry blossoms—*sakura* in Japanese—have been significant in Japanese life since ancient times, with a unique symbolism. While cherry blossom viewings during Spring have become a global phenomenon including in Toronto, a variety of works of art with the sakura motif from ROM's Japanese collection—from paintings, prints, and photographs, to ceramics, lacquer ware, and even arms—will attest the significance of the flower in Japanese culture.

Co-presented with the [Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto](#) in celebration of springtime and cherry blossom season.



[Register here](#)



Toronto Comic Arts Festival 2024  
**SHIRAHAMA Kamome @ JFT**

Sunday, May 12, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM (ET)  
 In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission free | Registration required

Join us to welcome award-winning Japanese manga creator **SHIRAHAMA Kamome** to JFT! Kamome Shirahama is the author of the fan-favorite and critically acclaimed manga series **Witch Hat Atelier**, serialized beginning in 2016 and published in English and Japanese by Kodansha. Don't miss the opportunity to meet her in-person! Event details are coming soon – Mark your calendar for now, and keep eyes on our website for next update!

[Details here](#)



In-Person Talk  
**Kominka Projects: Regional Rejuvenation through Tourism**

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 PM (ET)  
 JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in English

Japan is facing a problem of empty or abandoned houses *Akiya*, with an estimated 10 million vacant houses across the country in 2023. This in-person talk will discuss the social issues related to *Akiya* and how *Kominka* projects and their strategy to remodel abandoned homes into tourist attractions is helping in revitalization of rural villages.

[Register here](#)

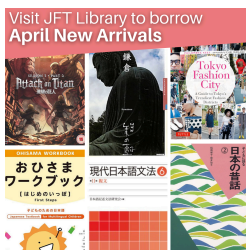


Japanese Language Classes  
**Join Our Intermediate Japanese Class!**

Looking for somewhere to continue studying Japanese? Join our Intermediate 3 class and learn not only Japanese language but history too! (Intermediate B1/JLPT N3 level).

[Register here](#)

**ONGOING EVENTS**



Library News  
**April New Arrivals**

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Explore the eclectic and dynamic streets of Tokyo through the lens of fashion with *Tokyo Fashion City* by Philomena Keet; uncover shocking revelations and face true monsters in *Attack on Titan 進撃の巨人 Season 3, Part 2 [DVD&Blu-ray]* (for those new to this critically acclaimed anime series, begin your journey with *Season 1 [DVD&Blu-ray]*); ignite your child's love for Japanese language and culture with *Ohisama workbook first steps : Japanese textbook for multilingual children おひさまワークブック : 子どものための日本語*, designed to nurture their curiosity and global awareness; 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](#)! Immerse yourself in the charming world of *Nori* by HARA Rumi, a delightful comic brimming with the magic of childhood and the warmth of familial bonds; get inspired by unraveling the philosophical values and secret meanings behind meticulously crafted landscapes in *Of Arcs and Circles: Insights from Japan on Gardens, Nature, and Art [Audiobook]* by Marc Peter Keane; explore the dynamic tapestry of Japanese sci-fi, from classic prose to cutting-edge anime, in *Robot Ghosts and Wired Dreams* edited by Christopher Bolton et al.; and more!

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



Film Series  
**Keep Dancin', Okinawa!**

**May-July, 2024**  
Admission Free | Registration Required | All films presented with English subtitles

*Keep Dancin', Okinawa!* is a celebration of Okinawan stories, culture, and history, highlighted through themes of dance, music, and perseverance. Featuring screenings of documentaries, a classic family comedy, short films, and special guests. Join us to usher in springtime and summertime!

[Details Here](#)

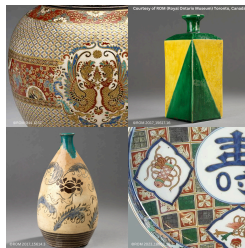


Film Series  
**Cinema Umami**

**June-July, 2024**  
Admission Free | Registration Required | All films presented with English subtitles

Join us at JFT for *Cinema Umami!* Cinema Umami is our documentary screening series with a focus on the joys of Japanese cuisine and the often underappreciated labour of love that goes into its creation. Quick tip, don't come hungry!

[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](#)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



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](#)



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