



May 2, 2024


**More Seats Added!**

## Q&A with Manga Artist

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

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

JAPAN FOUNDATION 

## Kominka Projects: Regional Rejuvenation through Tourism



with **Dr. Atsuko Hashimoto**



JAPAN FOUNDATION TORONTO 

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

Kominka(古民家): Old House

The esteemed manga artist of award-winning *Witch Hat Atelier!*, SHIRAHAMA Kamome is visiting JFT on **May 12**. A featured guest at the [Toronto Comic Arts Festival 2024](#) (May 11-12, 2024), Ms. Shirahama will be at JFT for a Q&A and book signing session. Event details are coming soon - keep eyes on our [website](#) and RSVP now!

Save the date for our virtual screening of *BL Metamorphosis* a live-action adaptation of the manga of the same name by TSURUTANI Kaori, who is a featured guest at this year's [Vancouver Comic Art Festival](#). Join in on **May 17 - 19** from anywhere in Canada to watch this film about an unexpected friendship.

Join us on **May 21** to learn about the growing number of abandoned rural houses in Japan and how the [Kominka projects](#) are alleviating this issue. Register now to find out how tourism may be the way forward in getting life back to these abandoned rural villages.

The [May new arrivals](#) are here! Visit our library to check out the full list and borrow the exciting new titles. Venture into our [Digital Library's new additions](#) of ebooks and audiobooks for more variety and ease of access.

We offer **Japanese Language Classes** where you can learn more than just the language. Register now for our [intermediate-level class](#) to learn some history along with Japanese.

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>May 10</b>	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 17 - 19	VIRTUAL FILM SCREENING	<a href="#">BL Metamorphosis</a>
May 21	IN-PERSON TALK	<a href="#">Regional rejuvenation through Kominka Projects</a>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

[Details 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.



Toronto Comic Arts Festival 2024

### Q&A with Manga Artist 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](#)



Virtual Film Screening

### BL Metamorphosis メタモルフォーゼの縁側

Friday, May 17, 6:00 PM (ET) – Sunday, May 19, 11:59 PM (ET)

Virtual Film Screening | Streaming Canada-wide | Admission Free | Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Ichinoi, a 75-year-old woman living a peaceful life, unwittingly buys a Boy's Love manga one day...and is fascinated by what she finds inside. When she returns to the bookstore to buy the next volume, the high school girl working there—Urara, a seasoned BL fan— notices a budding fangirl when she sees one. When Urara offers to help Ichinoi explore this whole new world of fiction, the two dive into BL fandom together, and form an unlikely friendship along the way.

*BL Metamorphosis* is a live-action adaptation of the manga of the same name by TSURUTANI Kaori. This screening is co-presented with the [Vancouver Comic Arts Festival](#), who has invited TSURUTANI Kaori as a featured guest this year.

[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 across 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!

Starting May 27, 2024

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

### Visit JFT Library to borrow May New Arrivals



### Library News May New Arrivals

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Embark on a whimsical multiverse journey as a disillusioned university student navigates four different "what if?" realities in [The Tatami Galaxy](#) by MORIMI Tomihiko; dive into the mesmerizing world of [Metropolis \[DVD & Blu-Ray\]](#), the visually stunning adaptation of TEZUKA Osamu's classic manga set in the future where humans and robots coexist; make your Japanese self-study more fun with [Learn Japanese with manga : a self-study language book for beginners 1](#) by Marc Bernabé; 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](#)! Whether you're a seasoned Godzilla fan or recently became curious with the Hollywood adapted films, experience the original Godzilla's legacy through the breathtaking artistry with [The Godzilla Art of KAIDA Yuji](#); discover Kyoto's lesser-known treasures with [Hidden Pockets in Kyoto: An Insider's Guide to the Best Places to Eat, Drink, and Explore](#) by Steve Wide and Michelle Mackintosh, perfect for adventurous travellers craving authentic experiences; immerse yourself in the heartbreaking and powerful tale of resilience and liberation in MURATA Kiyoko's [A Woman of Pleasure](#), a historical fiction inspired by the real-life historic Japanese courtesan strike; and more!

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

[Browse other ebooks and audiobooks](#)



### 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



### Montreal Japanese Film Festival

**May 9 to 12, 2024**

In-person @ CINÉMA DU MUSÉE, MONTREAL (1379-A Rue Sherbrooke W, Montreal) | Ticketed Admission

The 4-day festival will showcase a wide variety of short and feature length Japanese films never seen before in Quebec. Organized by a team led by a graduate of the Université de Montréal's East Asian Studies and Cinema program who lived in Japan for 23 years, the festival aims to introduce Canada to a wide variety of Japanese films. Catch the works of famous and starting filmmakers, with screenings of *Les Enfants du Temps*, *Inkdrop Downtown Utopia*, and *Sweet Lonely Castle in the Mirror*, and other exciting films.

[Details here](#)

