

# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 2020—2021



During most of 2020-21, while the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown was in effect, Japan Society was closed to the public, with virtual events and other digital initiatives replacing physical programming. As restrictions eased, the Society opened its doors to visitors again in March 2021, with the spring exhibition *When Practice Becomes Form: Carpentry Tools from Japan* and, in August, the 15th edition of *JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film* presented a hybrid selection of streamed and in-theater films.

## SPECIAL EVENT

### **Japan Society 2021 Annual Dinner** **22 June** **14 September**

Japan Society's 2021 Annual Dinner, *Connecting Across Space and Time*, was held in two parts. On June 22, a star-studded online program raised over \$1.3 million. The program included a message from Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, followed by a conversation between former JAXA astronaut Naoko Yamazaki and Ambassador Caroline Kennedy—marking the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's Moonshot Address. After a performance from Japan's Ryoma Quartet, a Fireside Chat brought together Japan Society Chairman Joseph Perella, Chairman Emeritus, Perella Weinberg Partners and private equity pioneer Henry Kravis, Co-Chairman and Co-CEO of KKR—recipient of this year's Japan Society Award. On September 14, as pandemic restrictions eased, Dinner supporters gathered for an in-person networking reception celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Society's landmarked headquarters building.

## SPECIAL SERIES & INITIATIVES

### **K3 COUNCIL**

This initiative was supported by Mr. Philip M. Darivoff/Vibrant Capital Partners, Inc.; Dr. Garry Rayant and Dr. Kathy Fields; Siris Capital Group, LLC; Diane and Marc Spilker; and an anonymous donor.

Built on the Japanese word *kizuna*, a bond or connection that goes beyond mere friendship, the K3 Council's objective is to explore synergistic potential between the U.S., Japan and Israel in strategic fields. During 2020-21, the group convened three task forces to formulate a set of recommendations focused on connected health, infrastructure development and protection and far-reaching disruptive technologies.

### **NICHIBEI GLOBAL TALKS** **9 September—19 November**

A bilingual video series of U.S.-Japan dialogues on global affairs, streaming on YouTube fall 2020. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President and CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

### **Climate Change** **9 September**

Online. With Miho Kurosaki, Head of Japan and Tokyo Research Office, BloombergNEF and Paul Bodnar, Managing Director, Rocky Mountain Institute.

### **Hiroshima and Historical Reconciliation** **29 September**

Online. With Kazumi Matsui, Mayor, Hiroshima City and Jennifer Lind, Associate Professor, Department of Government, Dartmouth College.

### **Supercomputers** **15 October**

Online. With Satoshi Masuoka, Director, RIKEN Center for Computational Science and Dr. Stefanie

Chias, Vice President and General Manager, RHEL Business Unit, Red Hat.

### **ESG Investing** **3 November**

Online. With Mari Yoshitaka, Ph.D., Principal Sustainability Strategist, Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting and Billy Nauman, Reporter, *Financial Times*.

### **Workplace Diversity** **19 November**

Online. With Ida Liu, Head of City Private Bank North America and Mari Kogiso, Director, Diversity and Inclusion, Fast Retailing.

### **TEA TIME SEASON #2** **28 October—23 December**

Season #2 was supported by ITO EN (North America) INC.

Online. The second season of our *Tea Time* video conversation series celebrated culture in Japan and U.S.-Japan cultural exchanges. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President and CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

### **A Conversation with Japanese Astronaut Soichi Noguchi** **28 October**

With JAXA astronaut Soichi Noguchi.

## **A Conversation with Food Writer Akiko Katayama**

**11 November**

With food writer Akiko Katayama.

## **A Conversation with Author Matt Alt**

**24 November**

With author Matt Alt.

## **A Conversation with Susan Miyagi McCormac**

**9 December**

With Susan Miyagi McCormac, founder, editor, and writer of JapanCulture•NYC.

## **A Conversation with Takeshi Kamiya**

**16 December**

With Takeshi Kamiya, HKS Principal and Director, Urban Design.

## **A Conversation with Miho Walsh**

**23 December**

Miho Walsh, former Executive Director, Asian Cultural Council.

## **TEA TIME SEASON #3**

**March 2021**

Season #3 was supported by Tokio Marine Group and ITO EN (North America) INC.

Online. Part of the *Ten Years Later: Remembering 3.11* series. The third season of Japan Society's *Tea Time* video series marked the events of March 11, 2011, when the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster devastated the Tohoku region of northeastern Japan, and considered lessons learned to address the challenges of a global pandemic. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President and CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

## **Remembering 3.11 with Ambassador Kanji Yamanouchi**

**1 March**

With Ambassador Kanji Yamanouchi, Consul General of Japan in New York.

## **Remembering 3.11 with Kikka Hanazawa**

**1 March**

With Kikka Hanazawa, investor and philanthropist.

## **Remembering 3.11 with Megumi Ishimoto**

**1 March**

With Megumi Ishimoto Executive Director and Co-Founder, NPO Women's Eye.

## **Remembering 3.11 with General Ryoichi Oriki (Ret.)**

**1 March**

With General Ryoichi Oriki, JSDF (ret.).

## **Remembering 3.11 with Ambassador John Roos and Suzanne Basalla**

**1 March**

With John Roos, former United States Ambassador to Japan and Suzanne Basalla, President and CEO of the U.S.-Japan Council.

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## **TEN YEARS LATER: REMEMBERING 3.11 March**

Ten years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster of March 11, 2011, we invited our community to remember those who were lost, and to look toward Tohoku's continued recovery. We also extended our sincere appreciation to everyone who donated to the Japan Earthquake Relief Fund (JERF), which raised over \$14 million from over 24,600 donors from all 50 U.S. states and 55 countries. This special series of programs and videos reported on JERF's contributions to Tohoku's recovery, highlighting stories of Tohoku's resiliency, the bravery and initiative of everyone who responded to unprecedented challenges, the strength of U.S.-Japan relations, and human generosity and goodwill.

## **SYMPOSIUM**

### **Resiliency & Recovery: A U.S.-Japan Dialogue Ten Years after 3.11**

**9 March**

This program was supported by Japan Society's Japan Earthquake Relief Fund (JERF) through a grant to ETIC., and was held in partnership with Tohoku-based organizations including the Tohoku Leaders Conference and Michinoku Fukko Regional Design Center.

Online. Leading voices and experts from Tohoku, Japan, and the U.S. gathered at this live online symposium to draw lessons from 3.11 on individual and community resiliency and recovery from catastrophic events including natural disasters or the global pandemic. With Jeremy Hunter, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Practice and Founding Director of the Executive Mind Leadership Institute, Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management, Claremont Graduate University; Kumi Imamura, President and CEO, NPO KATARIBA; Andrea Chen, Executive Director, Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation (New Orleans, LA); Akiko

Iwasaki, Owner, Horaikan (Japanese Ryokan/Inn); and Daiju Takahashi, Chief Administrator, Eat, and Energize the East; Executive Officer, Oisix ra daichi, Inc.; President, Oisix Hong Kong Co., Ltd. Daniel Aldrich, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and Urban Affairs, and Director, Security and Resilience Studies Program, Northeastern University. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

## **ONLINE CONTEMPORARY THEATER**

### ***Ludic Proxy: Fukushima***

**6, 7 & 11 March (with live audience participation) and 12—26 March (on demand)**

See p. 9 for complete details.

## **Tea Time Season #3 March**

See *Tea Time* Season #3, above.

## **Messages & Testimonials from Japan Earthquake Relief Fund Recipients (JERF)**

**March**

Online. Interviews with JERF grant recipients and participants in JERF-supported programs for Tohoku's recovery.

## **The Japan Earthquake Relief Fund: March 12, 2011—Present March**

Online. An interview with Ambassador Motoatsu Sakurai, President of Japan Society from 2009-2019, who took quick and decisive action the day after 3.11 to establish the Japan Earthquake Relief Fund (JERF). JERF raised over \$14 million—the 7th largest amount raised in the U.S. nonprofit sector and the largest amount ever raised by a U.S. nonprofit organization not usually focused on emergency relief.

## **U.S.-Japan Dialogues Between Social Innovators March**

Online. Three social entrepreneurs from Tohoku dialogued with their counterparts in New Orleans, LA and Wilmington, OH, sharing respective efforts, lessons learned and future plans for helping their communities recover from natural disasters and economic crisis. Entrepreneurs include many alumni from the *U.S.-Japan Leaders Exchange: Three-Year Training & Networking Program for Leaders in Tohoku's Recovery and Reconstruction*, a multi-year program organized by Japan Society in 2013-16 in partnership with ETIC, a leading Japanese nonprofit dedicated to nurturing social entrepreneurs. With Andrea Chen and Tomoyuki Wada; Yosuke Komatsu and Allison Plyer; and Taylor Stuckert and Kyoko Watanabe, with Toru Hiji.

## PASSING THE TORCH

In celebration of the Tokyo Summer Games, Japan Society presented *Passing the Torch*, a special online series reflecting on sports in Japan. As the Olympic flame began its journey across Japan, the series kicked off in the spring with talks on judo, martial arts classes for kids and sports-themed film screenings. For the second wave of the series—some events occurred after the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2021 but are included in our 2020-21 Chronology—we honed in on the mindset of superstar athletes.

## WEBINAR

### **Artificial Elegance: Japanese Prosthetics for World-Class Athletes** 22 September

See p. 11 for complete details.

## WEBINAR

### **The Fight for Women's Judo: Rusty Kanokogi's Story** 7 April

Online. With Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D., daughter of "Rusty" Kanokogi, the "Mother of Women's Judo."

## FAMILY EVENT

### **Children's Day from Home: Health, Happiness & Sports!** 2 May

Online. Japan's national holiday where all children are stars and their happiness is celebrated!

## FILM SERIES

### **Aim for the Best: Sports In Japanese Cinema (Redux)** 7—28 May Online.

### **Youth: The 50th National High School Baseball Tournament** (Kon Ichikawa, 1968)

### **Tokyo Paralympics: Festival of Love and Glory** (Kimio Watanabe, 1965)

### **The Chrysanthemum and the Guillotine** (Takahisa Zeze, 2018)

## DISCUSSION

### **Kudo Kids Book Event with Maia Shibutani & Alex Shibutani** 19 June

Online. With Olympic ice dancers Alex Shibutani and Maia Shibutani. Lisa Goldenberg, Senior Director of Programs, Japan Society, moderating.

## DISCUSSION

### **The Inside Edge: Skating Champions from Japan & the U.S.**

29 June

Online. With Miki Ando; Satoko Miyahara; Mirai Nagasu; and Yuka Sato. Nancy A. Kerrigan, moderating.

## WORKSHOP

### **Survival Japanese**

7 July, 2021

Online. An introduction to quick and simple Japanese phrases for dining, shopping and meeting new people.

## DISCUSSION

### **Let's Play Two: Baseball in Japan & the U.S.** 14 July, 2021

Online. With former professional baseball players Warren Cromartie; Leon Lee, Matt Murton; and Robert Whiting, journalist and author. Yuriko Gamo Romer, moderating.

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## 333 CONTEMPORARIES

## WEBINAR

### **Looking for the Next Global Rap Star in Japan** 23 March

Online. With Ren Stern, Frank Caracciolo, Kayvan Daragheh and Aya Apton of music label Frank Renaissance. Patrick St. Michel, Tokyo-based writer, moderating.

## BUSINESS & POLICY

## WEBINARS

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### **Cybersecurity in the 21st Century: Outlook for Japan & the U.S.** 15 September

Online. With Gregory A. Brower, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck; Michael Daniel, President & CEO, Cyber Threat Alliance; and Motohiro Tsuchiya, Dean, Faculty of Policy Management & Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University. Harumi Urata-Thompson, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, HUT Consulting, moderating.

### **Whither the Suga Administration – A Conversation with Gerald Curtis & Takenaka Heizo** 16 September

Online. With Gerald Curtis, Burgess Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Columbia University;

Chairman, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation; Distinguished Research Fellow, Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research; Core Faculty, Center on Japanese Economy and Business, Columbia Business School and Heizo Takenaka, Professor Emeritus, Keio University; Professor, Toyo University; Member of the Policy Council under the Abe administration. Merit Janow, Dean, School of International and Public Affairs; Professor of Professional Practice, International Economic Law & International Affairs, Columbia University, moderating.

### **Best Practices in ESG: A View from the U.S., Europe & Japan** 14 October

Online. With Kal Goldberg, Partner, Finsbury (New York); Ruban Yogarajah, Managing Director, Finsbury (London); and Nicholas Benes, Representative Director, The Board Director Training Institute of Japan; Independent Director, ADVANTEST. Minako Hattori, Managing Director, Finsbury (Tokyo), moderating.

### **The 2020 U.S. Presidential Election: How Will It Affect U.S.-Japan Relations?**

20 October

Online. With Anne Gearan, White House Correspondent, *The Washington Post*; Toshihiro Nakayama, Professor of American Politics and Foreign Policy, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University; Senior Adjunct Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs; and Candi Wolff, Managing Director & Head of Global Government Affairs, Citi. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President and CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

### **2020 Presidential Election: The Biden Administration & U.S.-Japan Relations** 16 November

Online. With Wendy Cutler, Vice President & Managing Director, Washington D.C. Office, Asia Society Policy Institute; Yuichi Hosoya, Professor of International Politics, Keio University; and Daniel Russel, Vice President, International Security and Diplomacy, Asia Society Policy Institute. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President and CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

### **The 5G Era: Transforming Business, Industries & Society** 17 November

Online. With Elsa B. Kania, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Technology and National Security Program, Center for a New American Security; Yuka Koshino, Research Fellow for Japanese Security and Defence Policy, International Institute for Strategic Studies; Muriel Médard, Cecil H. Green Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Kazuo Noguchi, Senior Manager, Cyber Security Team, Research & Development Division, Hitachi America, Ltd. Nicol Turner-Lee, Senior Fellow in Governance Studies & Director of Center for Technology Innovation, Brookings Institution, moderating.

## **From Abenomics to Suganomics: Japan's Economic Outlook**

**27 January**

Online. With Yoshihiro Hyakutome, Managing Executive Officer & Chief Executive Officer, SMBC Americas; Kathy Matsui, Former Vice Chair of Goldman Sachs Japan, Co-Head of Macro Research in Asia & Chief Japan Equity Strategist, Global Investment Research, Goldman Sachs; and Heizo Takenaka, Professor Emeritus, Keio University; Professor, Toyo University; Member of the Policy Council under the Abe administration. Jacob M. Schlesinger, Senior Washington Correspondent, *The Wall Street Journal*, moderating.

## **Global Risks for 2021: Major Threats & Emerging Concerns**

**11 February**

Online. With Gady Epstein, China Affairs Editor, *The Economist*; Jane Harman, Director, President & CEO, Wilson Center; Keishi Hotsuki, Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer, Morgan Stanley; and Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Japan Society.

## **Women in Tech, Japanese & International Trailblazers**

**24 February**

Co-presented with Japan Society's Talks+ Program.

Online. With Dr. Noriko Arai, Director, Todai Robot Project; Sara Hooker, Research Scholar, Google Brain; and Yuka Kojima, CEO & Co-Founder, FOVE Inc. Catherine Kobayashi, News Anchor/Reporter, NHK WORLD-JAPAN, moderating.

## **Combating COVID-19: Japan's Response & Efforts**

**25 February**

Online. With Tomoya Saito, MD, MPH, PhD, Director, Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response National Institute of Infectious Diseases; and Haruka Sakamoto, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Keio University. James Gannon, Executive Director, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE/USA), moderating.

## **Inside the White House: U.S.-Japan Relations under President Biden**

**2 March**

Online. With Toshihiro Nakayama, Professor of American Politics and Foreign Policy, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University; Senior Adjunct Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs; Mireya Solis, Director, Center for East Asia Policy Studies; Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Center for East Asia Policy Studies; Philip Knight Chair in Japan Studies, Brookings Institution; and Demetri Sevastopulo, U.S.-China Correspondent, *Financial Times*. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

## **Dismantling Barriers & Accelerating Equity**

**16 March**

Online. With Michelle King, Managing Director, Equality Forward; Podcast Host, The Fix; Advisory Board Member, Girl Up, United Nations Foundation; Sarah K. Diamond, Global Managing Director, Financial Services Sector, IBM; Debbie Freer, Managing Director, General Manager and Chief Strategy Officer, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation; and Tara Giunta, Partner and Co-Chair of Global Diversity Initiative, Paul Hastings. Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

## **Sustainability at the Forefront: Global Japanese Companies' Initiatives**

**19 May**

Online. With David B. Calabrese, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs & Deputy General Manager, Washington, DC Office, Daikin U.S. Corporation; Gill A. Pratt, Chief Scientist and Executive Fellow for Research, Toyota Motor Corporation; Chief Executive Officer, Toyota Research Institute, Inc.; Executive Advisor, Toyota Central R&D Labs, Inc.; Yumi Otsuka, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer, Toyota Motor Corporation; and Jean-Emmanuel Shein, Global Director for Sustainability, UNIQLO USA. Howard Li, Vice President, Environmental & Social Risk Management, Citi, moderating.

## **Challenges & Opportunities for U.S.-Japan-Korea Trade Relations**

**3 June**

Online. With Wendy Cutler, Vice President & Managing Director, Asia Society Policy Institute; Shujiro Urata, Professor Emeritus, Waseda University; Senior Research Advisor to President, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia; and Wonhyuk Lim, Professor, KDI School of Public Policy and Management; Adjunct Lecturer, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Thomas J. Byrne, President & CEO, The Korea Society, moderating.

## **INVITATION-ONLY EVENTS**

### **Private VIP Session on Japan's Economy**

**27 January**

Online. With Yoshihiro Hyakutome, Managing Executive Officer & Chief Executive Officer, SMBC Americas; Kathy Matsui, Former Vice Chair of Goldman Sachs Japan, Co-Head of Macro Research in Asia & Chief Japan Equity Strategist, Global Investment Research, Goldman Sachs; Heizo Takenaka, Professor Emeritus, Keio University; Professor, Toyo University; Member of the Policy Council under the Abe administration; and Jacob M. Schlesinger, Senior Washington Correspondent, *The Wall Street Journal*.

## **Private VIP Event on Global Risk**

**11 February**

Online. With Gady Epstein, China Affairs Editor, *The Economist*; Keishi Hotsuki, Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer, Morgan Stanley; and Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Japan Society.

## **CEO Roundtable with Sony Corporation and S&P Global**

**1 April**

Online. With Kenichiro Yoshida, Chairman, President & CEO, Sony Corporation; and Douglas L. Peterson, President & CEO, S&P Global. Aiko Lane, Executive Director, U.S.-Japan Business Council; and Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Japan Society, moderating.

The season was sponsored by Global Leaders Citi and Deloitte; and by Corporate Partners Mizuho Americas and Toyota.

Additional support was provided by: The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, Government of Japan, the National Association of Japan-America Societies, Inc., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and Finsbury Glover Hering.

Program co-organizers and outreach partners were: Asia Society Policy Institute; APEC Study Center at Columbia University; Center on Japanese Economy and Business at Columbia Business School; School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University; The Korea Society; U.S.-Japan Business Council; Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation; Paul Hastings; and IBM.

# **EDUCATION & FAMILY**

## **PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES**

### **Japan's Annual Festivities**

Japan Society's Annual Festivities programs brought together diverse communities to experience Japanese culture through interactive workshops, art-making and live performances.

### **Oshogatsu from Home (New Year's Celebration)**

**31 January**

Online. With Taiko Masala and Ayakoh Furukawa.

### **Children's Day from Home: Health, Happiness & Sports!**

**2 May**

Online. With Bond Street Dojo; Tate Hatoryu NY; and Noriko Furuhashi, Japan Karate Associates of NY. Part of Japan Society's *Passing the Torch* series.

### **Japanese for Kids: 3-5-Year Olds & 6-10-Year Olds**

This program was generously supported by a Special Covid Relief Grant for Teaching Materials from The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles.

Online. Weekly classes for young children explored Japanese language through cultural/seasonal themes, interactive games and storytelling.

12 July—16 August

27 September—13 December

7 February—25 April

### **Microplastic Madness Film Screening & Discussion**

**11 April**

Online. With Atsuko Quirk, CafCu Digital Media Producer and Cafeteria Ranger Program Director, and Debby Lee Cohen, CafCu Executive Director and Founder. This award-winning documentary follows local 5th graders who become advocates for sustainable change. Families also participated in a live online Q&A session with directors of the film discussing sustainability efforts in the U.S. and Japan.

### **Family Art Day**

**6 June**

Online. Led by teaching artist Anabel Simotas, children and caregivers took part in a virtual exploration of Japan Society's spring exhibition, *When Practice Becomes Form: Carpentry Tools from Japan*, learning about Japanese art and culture and creating their own architectural sculpture with everyday materials from home.

### **VIDEO RESOURCE**

#### **Bilingual Kamishibai Mini Library**

A video resource introducing some of Japan's most popular folktales through Japanese-English bilingual narration—designed for children of any age but also perfect for students and adults learning about Japanese language and culture.

#### **Momotaro (Peach Boy)**

**May**

### **PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS**

#### **Teacher Professional Development Programs**

Support for the Professional Development Program was provided by an anonymous funder.

The Professional Development program provided educators with the resources and skills to create and refine lesson plans for middle and high school social studies, literature, global history, geography and art classrooms.

#### **Japanese History through the Lenses of Arts, Design & Pop Culture**

**17, 31 October, 14 November & 5 December**

In collaboration with the New York City Department of Education.

Online. With Dr. Mark Jones, Professor of History, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT; Dr. Robert Fish, The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, NY; Dr. William Tsutsui, Edwin O. Reischauer Distinguished Visiting Professor, Harvard University, MA; Cory Campbell, independent art historian; Midori Oka, Associate Director, The Mary Griggs Burke Center for Japanese Art, Columbia University; Dr. Yasushi Watanabe, Keio University, Japan; Juan Castellanos, Associate Program Director, Facing History New York; and Vinayak Bharne, Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture and Public Policy, University of Southern California.

#### **Making Japan Modern: Japan's Rise & the Pacific War**

**3 October**

In collaboration with the U.S.-China Institute at University of Southern California.

Online. With Dr. Morgan Pitelka, Professor of History and Asian Studies, Chair of the Department of Asian Studies, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Dr. Takeda Tomoki, Professor of Japanese History and Political Science, Daito Bunka University, Japan; and Dr. Steven Wills, Associate Professor of History, History Department Chair, Nebraska Wesleyan University.

#### **Recovery & the Challenges of Success: Continuity & Change in Japan Since 1945**

**24 October**

In collaboration with the U.S.-China Institute at University of Southern California.

Online. With Dr. Elyssa Faison, Professor of Japanese history, University of Oklahoma and Dr. Michael Strausz, Associate Professor of Political Science, Director of Asian Studies, Texas Christian University.

#### **From Meiji to Contemporary Japan: Commodore Perry, Atomic Bombs and Godzilla**

**7 November**

In collaboration with Japan America Society of Houston

Online. With Dr. Kaoru Iokibe, Professor, Graduate School for Law and Politics, University of Tokyo; Dr. Robert Fish, The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, NY; and Dr. William Tsutsui, Edwin O. Reischauer Distinguished Visiting Professor, Harvard University.

#### **Teaching Japanese-American Incarceration during WWII**

**18 February**

In collaboration with Facing History and Ourselves.

Online. With Juan Castellanos, Associate Program Director, New York, Facing History of Ourselves and special guest speaker Frederick H. Katayama, Anchor and Producer, Thomson Reuters.

### **STUDENT PROGRAMS**

#### **Japan Society Junior Fellows Leadership Program**

This program was supported by generous grants from an anonymous family foundation, ITO EN (North America) INC., Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas), the Wendy Obernauer Foundation, THE TOKYO CLUB, Sony Corporation of America, The Norinchukin Foundation, and the Sojitz Foundation. Transportation assistance was provided by All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

The Junior Fellows Leadership Program selected 20 high school students from Japan and the United States to meet with industry leaders, engage in a virtual international school exchange, and complete and present research projects related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This cross cultural program connected Junior Fellows with present leaders and established a network of Junior Fellow alumni with a global worldview, forming close bonds between the U.S. and Japan. The 2020-21 Junior Fellows Leadership Program was held online because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **U.S. Junior Fellows**

**30 May & 13 June—8 August**

Online. Ten American students participated in online leader meetings, networked with U.S. Fellow alumni and conducted team research projects. With Gabriella Arguello, Newtown High School, CT; Christian Cuevas, Green Design STEAM Academy, CA; Ambika Grover, Greenwich High School, CT; Reed Hightower, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, TX; Freddie Lawrence, Capstone Academy, GA; Mya MacNeil, North Kingstown High School, RI; Kabir Malik, Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, NY; Carlo Marano, Newtown High School, CT; Bonji Onuma, Columbia Secondary School, NY; and Kai Zabetakis, High School of Math Science and Engineering, NY.

Online leadership meeting hosts: Rona Tison, Senior Vice President-Corporate Relations & PR, ITO EN (North America) Inc.; Mark E. Khalil, President and General Counsel Sony Corporation of America; Frederick H. Katayama, Anchor and Producer, Thomson Reuters; and Robert Karr, Founder and Principal of Joho Capital, LLC.

#### **Japanese Junior Fellows**

**13 & 14 February and 20 March—4 April**

Online. Ten Japanese Junior Fellows participated in online leader meetings, networked with U.S. Fellow alumni, took part in an online school exchange with U.S. high schools and conducted team projects. With Junsei Fukushima, Tokyo Metropolitan International High School, Tokyo; Miku Harada, National Institute of Technology (KOSEN), Kure College, Hiroshima; Juria Kawabe, Doshisha International High School, Kyoto; Yuto Kimura, Waseda University Senior High School, Tokyo; Saya Miyake, Keio Girls Senior High School, Tokyo; Yoshito Suganami, Miyagi Prefectural Furukawa Reimei High School, Miyagi; Kanoko Suzuki, Miyazaki Nishi High School, Miyazaki; Moe Taniguchi, Kanagawa Prefectural Yokohama Senior High School of International Studies, Yokohama;

Chihiro Tominaga, International Joho High School, Niigata; and Tomohito Umemura, Seiko Gakuin High School, Tokyo.

Online leadership meeting hosts: Dr. Matthew S. A. Feely, Ph.D., Captain, U.S. Navy RET., Adjunct Professor, Columbia Business School; Jason Stevens, JD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mitsubishi International Corporation, Kei Tagawa, Programme Management Officer, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations; Hisae Kawamori, Associate Video/Multimedia Producer, UN Video Section Department of Global Communications, United Nations; Kazushi Ambe, Senior EVP, Human Resource and General Affairs, Sony Corporation; Senator John Davison "Jay" Rockefeller IV; and Robert Karr, Founder and Principal, Joho Capital, Co-Founder and Director, The Hollyhock Foundation.

### **After School Manga Workshops**

Online. Aspiring young manga artists and enthusiasts were invited to participate in multisession weekly workshops for beginner to intermediate level students. Students followed along with experienced manga artists and drew popular characters, learned to create their own original characters, refined skills in proportion, gesture drawing, storyboarding, creating their own comics, and more. They also submitted homework for review and participated in a chat community outside of the classroom.

### **Manga for Beginners: Basics for Aspiring Artists**

**15 July—19 August**  
Online.

### **Manga for Beginners: Basics for Aspiring Artists**

**30 September—9 December**  
Online.

### **Manga Workshop: Basics for Aspiring Artists**

**3 February—21 April**  
Online.

### **Weekend Manga Workshop: Develop Your Own Style!**

**15 & 16 May**  
Online.

### **K-12 School Gallery Tours & Workshops October 2020—December 2021 & February—June 2021**

Online. In the fall, K-12 students participated in one-hour hands-on manga drawing workshops as a test of this new online programming. Workshops were offered again in the spring, in addition to 45-minute virtual guided tours of the exhibition *When Practice Becomes Form: Carpentry Tools from Japan*. Most visiting schools were NYC public schools, and a significant portion of the visiting school groups received Title 1 funding, which means that a high percentage of their students came from low income households.

### **Schools that joined Japan Society for Virtual K-12 Tours & Workshops**

NYC Museum School, New York, NY; Brooklyn Tech, New York, NY; East Side Community School, New York, NY; Bronx High School for Law and Community Service, New York, NY; The Young Women's Leadership School of Brooklyn, New York, NY; PS 147, New York, NY; Belleville High School, Belleville, NJ; and Bronx Collaborative School, New York, NY.

Education and Family Programs were generously supported by an anonymous donor; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; The Masako Mera and Koichi Mera, PhD Fund for Education and the Arts; and The Norinchukin Foundation.

## FILM

### NEW RELEASES

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#### **Edo Avant Garde** (Linda Hoaglund, 2020)

**23 October—31 December**  
Online.

#### **An Ant Strikes Back** (Tokachi Tsuchiya, 2019)

**23 October—31 December**  
Online.

#### **Koshien: Japan's Field of Dreams** (Ema Ryan Yamazaki, 2019)

**20 November—28 January**  
Online.

#### **The Real Thing** (Koji Fukada, 2020)

**4 June—5 August**  
Online.

#### **True Mothers** (Naomi Kawase, 2020)

**7—31 May**  
Online.

### FILM SERIES

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#### **Three by Koji Fukada** **18 September—8 November**

Online. A selection of films from Koji Fukada, one of the most exciting and widely celebrated Japanese writer-directors working today.

#### **A Girl Missing** (Koji Fukada, 2019)

#### **Harmonium** (Koji Fukada, 2016)

#### **Hospitalité** (Koji Fukada, 2010)

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### **Tomoyasu Murata: Stop Motion Master** **23 October—31 December**

Online. A retrospective of the work of Tomoyasu Murata, one of Japan's most prolific independent animation artists.

#### **Nostalgia** (2000)

#### **The Scarlet Road** (2002)

#### **Family Deck (Vol. 1, 5, 6)** (2007)

#### **Okinamai / The Forest This Flower Blooms** (2015)

#### **AMETSUCHI** (2016)

#### **A Branch of a Pine is Tied Up** (2017)

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### **Three by Ryusuke Hamaguchi**

#### **6 November—28 January**

Online. A look at Ryusuke Hamaguchi's career that sheds light on the auteur's evolving style and thematic interests.

#### **Heaven Is Still Far Away** (2016)

#### **Passion** (2008)

#### **Touching the Skin Of Eeriness** (2013)

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### **21st Century Japan: Films from 2001-2020** **5—25 February**

This program was co-presented with the Agency for Cultural Affairs in collaboration with Visual Industry Promotion Organization.

Online. The 30-film ACA Cinema Project series looked back at the last 20 years of Japanese cinema to celebrate some of the most remarkable narrative fiction films and filmmakers that define the era.

#### **The Actor** (Satoko Yokohama, 2016)

#### **Air Doll** (Hirokazu Kore-eda, 2009)

#### **Blanka** (Kohki Hasei, 2015)

#### **Bright Future** (Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 2003)

#### **The Chicken** (Neo Sora, 2020)

#### **Complicity** (Kei Chikaura, 2018)

#### **Confessions** (Tetsuya Nakashima, 2010)

#### **The Devil's Path** (Kazuya Shiraishi, 2013)

#### **The Drudgery Train** (Nobuhiro Yamashita, 2012)

#### **Fires on the Plain** (Shinya Tsukamoto, 2015)

#### **The Great Yokai War** (Takashi Miike, 2005)

#### **Hush!** (Ryosuke Hashiguchi, 2001)

#### **Josee, the Tiger and the Fish** (Isshin Inudo, 2003)

**Journey to the Shore** (Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 2015)

**Listen to the Universe** (Kei Ishikawa, 2019)

**Lying to Mom** (Katsumi Nojiri, 2019)

**The Miracles of the Namiya General Store** (Ryuichi Hiroki, 2017)

**Mori, the Artist's Habitat** (Shuichi Okita, 2018)

**One Million Yen Girl** (Yuki Tanada, 2008)

**Our House** (Yui Kiyohara, 2017)

**Plan 75** (Chie Hayakawa, 2018)

**Real** (Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 2013)

**Rebirth** (Izuru Narushima, 2011)

**Red Post on Escher Street** (Sion Sono, 2020)

**Sakuran** (Mika Ninagawa, 2007)

**Shape of Red** (Yukiko Mishima, 2020)

**Still the Water** (Naomi Kawase, 2014)

**Sway** (Miwa Nishikawa, 2006)

**The Twilight Samurai** (Yoji Yamada, 2002)

**Yoshino's Barber Shop** (Naoko Ogigami, 2004)

TALK

**A Conversation with Kiyoshi Kurosawa 5—25 February**

Online. With Kiyoshi Kurosawa and Kent Jones. Abi Sakamoto moderating.

TALK

**What is Japanese Cinema in the 21st Century?**

**5—25 February**

Online. With selected Japanese filmmakers involved in the series.

**Aim for the Best: Sports In Japanese Cinema (Redux) 7—28 May**

Online. Part of Japan Society's *Passing the Torch* series.

**Youth: The 50th National High School Baseball Tournament** (Kon Ichikawa, 1968)

**Tokyo Paralympics: Festival of Love and Glory** (Kimio Watanabe, 1965)

**The Chrysanthemum and the Guillotine** (Takahisa Zeze, 2018)

**Cinema as Struggle: The Films of Kazuo Hara & Sachiko Kobayashi**

**4 June—2 July**

Online. A career-spanning retrospective marking the 50th anniversary of Shisso Productions, the independent film company founded by influential Japanese documentarian Kazuo Hara and his wife, producer and collaborator, Sachiko Kobayashi.

**Goodbye CP** (1972)

**Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974** (1974)

**The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On** (1987)

**A Dedicated Life** (1994)

**The Many Faces of Chika** (2005)

**Sennan Asbestos Disaster Parts I & II** (2017)

**Reiwa Uprising Parts I & II** (2019)

**MINAMATA Mandala Parts I, II & III** (2020)

**Tragedies of Youth: Nobuhiko Obayashi's War Trilogy 9 July—6 August (2021)**

Online. A trio of deeply personal and formally audacious films that confront Japan's wartime past, scheduled as a lead-up to the 76th anniversary of the end of WWII.

**Casting Blossoms to the Sky** (2012)

**Seven Weeks** (2014)

**Hanagatami** (2017)

FILM FESTIVAL

**JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film 2021**

**20 August—2 September (2021)**

This festival was sponsored by Shiseido, with additional support provided by Sapporo U.S.A., Inc.

Online and in-theater. Japan Society's annual summer film festival *JAPAN CUTS* returned for its 15th edition as a hybrid online and in-theater event, presenting an exciting and diverse slate of contemporary Japanese cinema screening on demand, along with selected onsite screenings plus Instagram Live discussions. Yu Aoi, star of *Wife of a Spy* and the face of Japanese cinema in the 21st century, received the CUT ABOVE Award for outstanding achievement in Japanese cinema. The festival's juried section, Next Generation, awarded Tatsuya Yamanishi (Mari and Mari) the Obayashi Prize for the most accomplished title, with the Next Generation Special Mention going to Kosuke Nakahama (B/B).

**Aristocrats** (Yukiko Sode, 2020)

**B/B** (Kosuke Nakahama, 2020)

**The Blue Danube** (Akira Ikeda, 2021)

**Come and Go** (Lim Kah Wai, 2020)

**Company Retreat** (Atsushi Funahashi, 2021)

**Double Layered Town / Making a Song to Replace Our Positions** (Haruka Komori & Natsumi Seo, 2021)

**The Goldfish: Dreaming of the Sea** (Sara Ogawa, 2021)

**The Great Yokai War: Guardians** (Takashi Miike, 2021)

**Hiruko the Goblin** (Shinya Tsukamoto, 1991)

**It's a Summer Film!** (Soushi Matsumoto, 2020)

**Ito** (Satoko Yokohama, 2021)

**Kiba: The Fangs of Fiction** (Daiichi Yoshida, 2021)

**Labyrinth of Cinema** (Nobuhiko Obayashi, 2019)

**Mari and Mari** (Tatsuya Yamanishi, 2021)

**My Sorry Life** (Kozue Nomoto, 2021)

**No Smoking** (Taketoshi Sado, 2019)

**The Pass: Last Days of the Samurai** (Takashi Koizumi, 2020)

**Robinson's Garden** (Masashi Yamamoto, 1988)

**Sasaki in My Mind** (Takuya Uchiyama, 2020)

**Spaghetti Code Love** (Takeshi Maruyama, 2021)

**Talking the Pictures** (Masayuki Suo, 2019)

**To Sleep So as to Dream** (Kaizo Hayashi, 1986)

**Town Without Sea** (Elaiza Ikeda, 2020)

**Ushiku** (Thomas Ash, 2021)

**Why You Can't Be Prime Minister** (Arata Oshima, 2020)

**Wife of a Spy** (Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 2020)

**Wonderful Paradise** (Masashi Yamamoto, 2020)

EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

**HONEYMOON** (Yu Araki, 2021)

**In a Mere Metamorphosis** (Onohana, 2020)

**June 4, 2020** (Yoko Yuki, 2021)

**Night Snorkeling** (Nao Yoshigai & Hirofumi Nakamoto, 2020)

**RED TABLE** (Hakhyun Kim, 2021)

**Reflective Notes** (Reconfiguration) (Koki Tanaka, 2021)

**School Radio to Major Tom** (Takuya Chisaka, 2021)

**ZONA** (Masami Kawai, 2021)

#### NARRATIVE SHORTS

**Among Four of Us** (Mayu Nakamura, 2021)

**Born Pisces** (Yoko Yamanaka, 2020)

**Go Seppuku Yourself** (Toshiaki Toyoda, 2021)

**Leo's Return** (Anshul Chauhan, 2021)

#### INSTAGRAM LIVE DISCUSSIONS

**23 August**

##### **Come and Go**

Online. With Kah Wai Lim. K.F. Watanabe, Deputy Director, Japan Society Film Program, moderating.

**24 August**

##### **Company Retreat**

Online. With Atsushi Funahashi and Chelsea Szendi Schieder. Ramona Handel-Bajema, Ph.D., Chief Program Officer, Japan Society, moderating.

**30 August**

##### **Among Four of Us / Leo's Return / ZONA**

Online. With Mayu Nakamura, Anshul Chauhan and Masami Kawai. Joel Neville Anderson, Japan Society Film Programmer, moderating.

**31 August**

##### **Ushiku**

Online. With Thomas Ian Ash and Professor Kihara-Hunt. Ramona Handel-Bajema, Ph.D., Chief Program Officer, Japan Society, moderating.

The season was generously supported by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund. Additional season support was provided by the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust, The Globus Family, Masako H. Shinn, David Toberisky, Akiko Koide and Shohei Koide, Geoff and Fumi Matters, Laurel Gonsalves, David S. Howe, and Masu Hiroshi Masuyama. Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines, the exclusive Japanese airline sponsor of Japan Society Film.

## GALLERY

### **From Here to There**

This exhibition was supported, in part, by the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust. Exhibitions and Arts & Culture Lecture Programs at Japan Society were made possible, in part, by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund; the Mary Griggs Burke Endowment Fund established by the Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation; The Masako Mera and Koichi Mera, PhD Fund for Education and the Arts; Masako H. Shinn; Peggy and Dick Danziger; Raphael and Jane Bernstein;

Friends of the Gallery; and an anonymous donor. Support for Arts & Culture Lecture Programs was provided, in part, by the Sandy Heck Lecture Fund. Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines, the exclusive Japanese airline sponsor of Gallery.

#### EXHIBITION

**24 September, 2020—21 January, 2021**

*From Here to There* was Japan Society's first online project initiated as a testing ground for artistic practice, dialogue and production, with disciplinary intersections and encounters spanning drawing, film, performance and photography. Commissions by three contemporary artists, Nobutaka Aozaki (New York), Hanako Murakami (Paris) and Aki Sasamoto (New York) came to fruition online over the exhibition's four-month run. A biweekly series of live, online programs presented performances, talks, and demonstrations with the artists.

#### EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

##### TALK

##### **Opening: Artists' Presentations & Discussion**

**24 September**

Online. Artists Nobutaka Aozaki, Hanako Murakami and Aki Sasamoto in discussion with Japan Society curators Tiffany Lambert and Yukie Kamiya.

##### PERFORMANCE

##### **Nobutaka Aozaki: Retail on Broadway Reading**

**8 October**

Online. Performative reading of the names of all retail businesses currently located along Broadway by invited artists and guests, choreographed by Nobutaka Aozaki.

##### PERFORMANCE

##### **Aki Sasamoto: Performance Attempt #1 + Q&A with Daisy Nam**

**22 October**

Online. With Aki Sasamoto and collaborators from the Yale School of Art, followed by a conversation with Daisy Nam, Ballroom Marfa, Texas.

##### TALK

##### **Hanako Murakami: Making Imaginary Landscapes**

**5 November**

Online. With Hanako Murakami.

##### PERFORMANCE

##### **Aki Sasamoto: Performance Attempt #2 + Q&A with Felipe Arturo**

**19 November**

Online. With Aki Sasamoto and collaborators from the Yale School of Art, followed by a conversation with Felipe Arturo, Jorge Tadeo Lozano University, Bogotá.

##### PERFORMANCE

##### **Aki Sasamoto: Performance Attempt #3 + Q&A with Kyle Dancewicz**

**3 December**

Online. With Aki Sasamoto and collaborators from the Yale School of Art, followed by a conversation with Kyle Dancewicz, SculptureCenter, New York.

##### TALK

##### **Nobutaka Aozaki: Artist Talk & Gallery Walkthrough**

**17 December**

Online. With Nobutaka Aozaki.

##### DISCUSSION

##### **Dialogue: Hanako Murakami x Simon Baker**

**14 January**

Online. With Hanako Murakami and Simon Baker, Director, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris.

### **When Practice Becomes Form: Carpentry Tools from Japan**

This exhibition was supported by Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum, Japan; TAKENAKA CORPORATION, and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. The exhibition was made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Exhibitions and Arts & Culture Lecture Programs at Japan Society were made possible, in part, by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund; the Mary Griggs Burke Endowment Fund established by the Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation; The Masako Mera and Koichi Mera, PhD Fund for Education and the Arts; Masako H. Shinn; Peggy and Dick Danziger; Raphael and Jane Bernstein; Friends of the Gallery; and an anonymous donor. Support for Arts & Culture Lecture Programs was provided, in part, by the Sandy Heck Lecture Fund. Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines, the exclusive Japanese airline sponsor of Gallery.



## EXHIBITION

**11 March—11 July, 2021**

Opening on the 10th anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, this exhibition celebrated the resilient spirit of Japanese architecture and craftsmanship. Featuring a variety of hand tools and wooden models reflecting joinery techniques used for hundreds of years to build Japan's wooden architectural masterpieces—from temples and shrines to bridges—the exhibition unpacked the intangible qualities of craftsmanship, such as consummate experience, expertise and the honed skills of master carpenters handed down over generations. The site-specific exhibition design, conceived by architect Sou Fujimoto in collaboration with Brooklyn-based Popular Architecture, highlighted the enduring connection between traditional Japanese wooden construction and modern architecture.

## EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

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### WORKSHOP

#### **Setting Up a Japanese Chisel** **29 April**

Presented in partnership with Kezurou-kai USA.  
Online. With carpenter (*daiku*) Jeff Bearce.

### INSTAGRAM VIDEO SERIES

#### **Tools for Working Wood** **16 April & 13 May**

Presented in partnership with Kezurou-kai USA.  
Online. A two-part video series on how Japanese tools are used, with demonstrations of Japanese planes and other joinery techniques.

### EVENT

#### **Family Art Day** **6 June**

Online. A family-oriented virtual exploration of the exhibition, featuring a guided craft activity using simple materials from home.

### LECTURE

#### **Sou Fujimoto: Between Nature & Architecture** **24 June**

Online. With Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto.

#### **Closing Event**

**8 July**  
In person.

# LANGUAGE CENTER

## JAPANESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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#### **Mini-Workshops: Learn to Read Hiragana & Katakana**

**28 August & 4 September**  
**8 & 15 January**  
**7 & 13 May**

Online. Workshops for beginner students to efficiently master the reading of the two Japanese syllabaries, hiragana and katakana.

#### **Mini-Workshops: Fundamentals of Kanji, Part 1 & 2**

**11 September**  
**19 & 20 January**  
**23 & 30 April**

Online. An introduction to the fundamental concepts of kanji structure, radicals, *on* and *kun* readings, and more.

#### **Mini-Workshops: Onomatopoeia**

**10 September**  
**21 January**  
**12 May**

Online. Students learned different groups of onomatopoeia such as *giongo* and *gitaigo*, covering many topics including animal sounds, weather, health, action and food.

#### **Japanese Language Courses**

**21 September—4 December**  
**25 January—5 April**  
**17 May—2 August**

Online. Thirteen levels of Japanese, from beginning to advanced, including JLPT preparation, kanji and special courses including J-Drama, Conversation, learning Japanese through Anime, Japan Right Now (breaking news), Short Stories, Japanese Society through Manga, Keigo & Business, and Topics in Japanese Twitterverse.

#### **Japanese Language Courses (Levels 1, 2, & 10)**

**10 August—9 September**  
**7 December—14 January**  
**12 April—11 May**

Online. Additional Japanese language courses offered outside of the 10-week semesters.

#### **Japanese Weekend Courses**

**11 July—2 August**  
**31 October—22 November**  
**20—28 March**

Online. Concentrated courses designed to teach beginners basic Japanese. March courses were offered in an intensive format.

#### **Conversational Japanese Courses**

**10 August—9 September**  
**7 December—14 January**  
**12 April—11 May**

Online. Beginner through advanced level courses designed to help students master the fundamentals of Japanese conversation, with an emphasis on communicating effectively in social situations. Special topic courses include Keigo & Business and Casual Japanese with Anime.

## SHODO PROGRAMS

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#### **Shodo Courses**

**10 July—7 August**  
**25 September—23 October**  
**30 October—4 December**  
**11 December—22 January**  
**29 January—2 April**  
**9 April—7 May**  
**4 June—30 July**

Online. Hands-on and small group courses on the techniques of shodo, Japanese calligraphy. Kanji and Kana emphasis courses were offered for experienced students, and Basic Kanji for those who completed the Beginners course.

#### **Shodo for Beginners**

**19 February—19 March**  
**9 April—7 May**  
**18 June—23 July**

Online. Hands-on and small group introductory courses for absolute beginners wishing to experience Japanese calligraphy.

## PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE JAPANESE SPEAKERS

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#### **English Conversation Courses**

**日本人対象の英会話教室**  
**20 July—9 September**  
**24 September—3 December**  
**26 January—30 March**  
**11 May—10 June, 12 May—14 July**

Online. Beginner, intermediate, and intermediate/advanced levels of English as a Second Language (ESL). Designed specifically for Japanese native speakers and taught by a bilingual instructor.

#### **Japanese-Language Teacher Training Program: Introductory**

**日本語教師養成講座：初級**  
**23 September—2 December**

Online. Essential classroom teaching skills for native and fluent speakers of Japanese with little or no formal training in the teaching of Japanese as a second language.

## **Japanese-Language Teacher Training Program: Intermediate** 日本語教師養成講座：中級 27 January—31 March

Online. A continuation of the teacher training program, providing the skills necessary to teach Japanese at the intermediate level.

### **ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS & EVENTS**

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#### **Mini-Workshop: Survival Japanese** 16 April

Online. An introduction to simple Japanese phrases, useful when dining, shopping and meeting new people.

#### **Mini-Workshop: Crash Course for Travelers to Japan** 2 November

Online. A quick introduction to the Japanese language and customs, especially useful for those who will travel to Japan, covering basic phrases for greeting, ordering food, shopping and daily life.

#### **Mini-Workshop: Japanese Business Etiquette** 10 September 24 November 9 April 10 May

Online. Practical expressions and manners used in Japanese corporate environments, such as formal greetings, business card exchange, seating order, proper bowing, unique hand gestures and table manners.

#### **Nihongo Chat & Nihongo Chat + J-Culture**

This series was presented in partnership with New York University, Hunter College, Baruch College, and LaGuardia Community College. This program was generously supported by The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles.

**21 August**

**28 September\***

Ikebana with Yasuko Otsue.

**29 October\***

Modern Shodo with Hiro.

**23 November\***

Samurai Tea Ceremony with Yoshitsugu Nagano.

**16 December\***

Origami Gifts with Sachiko Kogure.

**23 February\***

Manga Drawing with John Somoza.

**2 April**

**28 May\***

Japanese Cooking with Chikako Takahashi.

Online. Japanese language students and native Japanese speakers gathered at these informal events to practice Japanese and English conversation. \**Nihongo Chat + J-Culture* events featured special guests who demonstrated and spoke about an aspect of Japanese culture.

#### **Japanese Trial Lessons for Beginners**

**21 October**                      **25 March**

**19 November**                **30 March**

**20 November**                **23 April**

**4 January**                     **26 April**

**5 January**                     **30 June**

**1 March**

Online. A single trial lesson structured for absolute beginners wishing to experience a Japanese language class.

#### **English Trial Lessons**

英会話体験講座

**19 January**

**5 May**

Online. A single trial lesson structured for native speakers of Japanese wishing to learn about and experience English classes at Japan Society.

#### **Open House for the Teacher Training Program**

日本語教師養成講座 見学説明会

**19 August**

Online. An information session for the Japanese-Language Teacher Training Program and other Language Center opportunities for native speakers of Japanese.

### **PERSONALIZED PROGRAMS**

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#### **Private Lessons**

**Ongoing**

Online. Private lessons in Japanese language, shodo or English tailored to an individual's needs.

#### **Corporate Group Lessons**

**Ongoing**

Online. Group lessons tailored to a company's needs.

Support for Japan Society's Toyota Language Center was provided, in part, by the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust; Mark F. Goldfield and Mary E. Hatch; Christopher Hong; Steven Giordano; Juan Ruiz Gomez; a Special Covid Relief Grant for Teaching Materials from The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles; Frederick H. Katayama; and Dr. Bic Kanayjorn.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

Japan Society's 2020-21 Performing Arts season featured innovative online programming, including a virtual artists' exchange between choreographers and dancers in Japan and Taiwan, a live Buddhist chant workshop, and a free screening of new and old kyogen plays performed by Mansai Nomura. The season concluded with an in-person Virtual Reality theatrical production that was part of a Society produced and organized tour that traveled to upstate New York.

#### **Reiko Yamada: Sound Installation on Silent Films**

**Premiere: 21 October**

**On demand: 21 October—4 November**

This program was supported by Doug and Teresa Peterson. Special thanks to ICFO for funding Reiko Yamada's postdoctoral research. She was also a 2019-21 Composer-in-Residency at Fundación Phonos. Digitized prints courtesy of Kobe Planet Film Archive.

Online. Composer and high-tech sound artist Reiko Yamada used the latest technologies in electronic and acoustic music "installation" to bridge the gap between time and space. For this commission, Yamada performed on old, broken accordions, transforming their sounds with her novel ways of audio processing to accompany Japanese silent films from the early 20th century. She redefined the concept of "pastimes" in her avant-garde scores set to antiquated images of sumo matches, train travel and animations.

#### **Underground Fairy**

**Premiere: 18 November**

**On demand: 18 November—2 December**

This program was supported by The Saison Foundation, and Doug and Teresa Peterson. Special thanks to publishing company Hakuishisa, presenter of the annual Kishida Kunio Drama Award, for assisting in research of scripts written by contemporary Japanese playwrights.

Online. The 15th installment of Japan Society's annual *Play Reading Series* addressed themes of isolation, alienation and belonging. Playwright/director Satoko Ichihara examined the relationship between becoming an adult and conforming to societal norms in *Underground Fairy*—a play about a half-fairy-half-human living in a fairy community. Known for her cross-disciplinary collaborations, director Tara Ahmadinejad led Los Angeles-based actors in creating an innovative online presentation.

**Mansai Nomura's Kyogen:  
Kagami-kaja (A Mirror Servant)  
+ Shimizu (Spring Water)**

**Premiere: 9—12 December**  
**On demand: 9—31 December**

Footage of *Kagami-kaja (A Mirror Servant)* was recorded at Setagaya Public Theatre, edited by WOWOW, Inc., and converted by 16bit. Footage of *Shimizu (Spring Water)* from the 61st presentation of Gozaru-no-Za was provided by Mansaku-no-Kai Kyogen Company, recorded by Maejima Photo, Inc., and edited by Yohei Iwaki, iDaro, Inc.

Online. Mansai Nomura, the beloved traditional kyogen actor, appeared online to show his new kyogen creation—*Kagami-kaja*—accompanied by an additional piece from the traditional kyogen repertoire. This special online screening included pre-recorded commentary about each piece by Mansai, as well as a separate livestreamed talkback and Q&A with the artist on December 9.

**Ludic Proxy: Fukushima**

**With online audience participation: 6—11 March**  
**On demand: 12—26 March**

*Ludic Proxy* was originally commissioned by PlayCo and premiered at Walker Space in April 2015 and was developed as part of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Process Space, Swing Space and Workspace program. This program was supported by Doug and Teresa Peterson, and NYSCA-A.R.T./New York Creative Opportunity Fund (A Statewide Theatre Regrant Program).

Online, with live audience participation. A part of the Japan Society series *Ten Years Later: Japan Society Remembers 3.11*, this new online adaptation of Brooklyn-based theater-maker Aya Ogawa's play *Ludic Proxy* explored the human instinct to survive in the face of disaster. Viewers were asked to vote, in real-time audience polling, on how the main character Maho navigates daily life in her hometown post-3.11. Ticketholders were able to participate in multiple viewings, as well as watch this interactive choose-your-own-adventure style performance on demand.

**Japan x Taiwan:  
Choreographers Respond to COVID-19**

**Premiere: 28 April**

This program was supported, in part, by the Taipei Cultural Center in New York and The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and produced in Japan by NPO Kaibunsha. Thanks to Ryogoku BEAR for studio support in Japan and HORSE 舞劇場 for studio support in Taiwan.

Online. The Society presented a roundtable discussion between rising Japanese butoh artists Kentaro Kujirai and Barabbas Okuyama and Taiwanese contemporary dance choreographers Hao Cheng and Wei-Chia Su as the culmination of a seven-month virtual artist exchange. From September 2020 to April 2021, the choreographers and their respective dance company members met once a month virtually to conduct joint workshops. In this roundtable, the choreographers discussed how COVID-19 impacted the way they present and conceive of their work.

**Shomyo: Buddhist Ritual Chant—  
Moonlight Mantra (Tsuki no Kogon)**

**Premiere: 30 March**  
**On demand: 30 March—30 April**

This program was supported by The JEC Fund, Doug and Teresa Peterson, and The Asahi Shimbun Foundation. The University of Chicago Presents' co-presentation was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Center for East Asian Studies Title VI Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, International House at The University of Chicago, and Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. This video production was produced by the Agency of Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, as part of its Project of Cultural Economy Enhancement, and NPO Kaibunsha.

Online. Shomyo no Kai—Voices of a Thousand Years showcased their mastery of a millennium-old chanting ritual with a special performance recorded at An'yo-in Temple, one of the oldest temples in Itabashi Ward. Young female composer Yu Kuwabara created a new work, *Mantra of Moonlight (Tsuki no Kogon)*, that reimagined this early form of vocal music. The program began with pre-recorded interviews with Rev. Kojun Arai (Shingon sect), stage director Hiromi Tamura and Kuwabara, and concluded with a live Q&A featuring Rev. Arai. This online event was part of Carnegie Hall's *Voices of Hope* festival.

**The Dark Master**

**23—28 June**

The Virtual Reality (VR) production of *The Dark Master* premiered at Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre as part of Tokyo Festival 2020. This program was supported, in part, by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan through the Japan Arts Council, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), and Doug and Teresa Peterson.

In-theater. Inspired by an indie manga, psychiatrist-turned-director/playwright Kuro Tanino created an immersive and humorously dark experimental theater piece that engaged in-person audiences with sights, sounds and smells. Using Virtual Reality (VR) headsets and live on-stage cooking, the piece transformed audience members into the play's protagonist—an unassuming patron of a hole-in-the-wall Japanese diner. This production was part of a Society produced and organized tour that traveled to Performance Space 21 in Chatham, New York.

**WORKSHOP**

**Shomyo for Everyday Wellness**

**8 April**

Held in conjunction with *Shomyo: Buddhist Ritual Chant—Moonlight Mantra (Tsuki no Kogon)*.

Online. Audiences were invited to unwind with this workshop on how to use *shomyo*, Buddhist ritual chant, as a form of meditation led by the chief priest of Tokokuji Temple, Shujo Tsukakoshi, and the chief priest of Senzoji Temple, Kenkai Tobe—both members of the group Shomyo no Kai.

The season was sponsored by Lead Sponsor MetLife Foundation and Corporate Partner ORIX Corporation USA. The season was made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Major Support was generously provided by Doug and Teresa Peterson and The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., with endowment support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund and the Endowment for the Performing Arts, established with a leadership gift from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional support was provided by Helen and Kenneth A. Cowin, Dr. and Mrs. Carl F. Tausch II, Mr. Alan M. Suhonen\*, The Royal Little Family Foundation, Sarah Billingham Solomon and Howard Solomon, Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Michiko Levine, Marjorie Neuwirth, Hiroko Onoyama, Lyndley and Samuel Schwab, Dean Jeanette C. Takamura, and Nancy and Joe Walker. Transportation assistance was provided by All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

\* In memoriam.

**TALKS+**

**Artificial Elegance: Japanese  
Prosthetics for World-Class Athletes**

**22 September**

This program was supported, in part, by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission as part of the institution-wide *Passing the Torch Series*, and with support from the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust.

Online. With award-winning product designer Shunji Yamanaka.

**Tasty Creations: Vegan Sushi**

**7 October**

The *Food Talk* series was sponsored by Kikkoman Corporation. This program was supported, in part, by the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust.

Online. With Yuki Gomi, author of *Sushi at Home*.

**Painting Edo:  
Early Modern Masterworks  
from the Feinberg Collection**

**27 October**

This program, part of the *Richard J. Wood Art Curator Series*, was supported, in part, by an award from the National Association of Japan America Societies with funds from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and, in part, by support from the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust.

Online. With Dr. Rachel Saunders, the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Curator of Asian Art at the Harvard Art Museums.

**Sustainable Foods:  
A Mottainai Mindset**

**10 November**

This program was sponsored by Mizkan Holdings Co., Ltd.

Online. With Seiko Nakano from Mizkan Group, Paul Bello from ZENB and Brian Kateman, Cofounder and President of the Reducetarian Foundation.

**Crafting the Perfect Sake in Kanagawa**  
**8 December**

The *Food Talk* series was sponsored by Kikkoman Corporation. The *Get to Know Japan Series: Kanagawa* was co-organized by Kanagawa Prefectural Government.

Online. With sake expert John Gauntner and Izumibashi president Yuichi Hashiba.

**Habit-Making: A Minimalist's Tips for a Better Life**

**26 January**

Online. A two-part program consisting of a live webinar and workshop with Fumio Sasaki, author of *Hello Habits: A Minimalist's Guide to a Better Life*.

**Japanese Soufflé Pancakes:  
A Valentine's Treat**

**9 February**

The *Food Talk* series was sponsored by Kikkoman Corporation.

Online. With Maiko Kyogoku, owner of New York-based Japanese restaurant Bessou, assisted by Bessou cook Sanju Gurung.

**Women in Tech:  
Japanese & International Trailblazers**

**24 February**

Co-presented with Japan Society's Business & Policy Program.

Online. With Dr. Noriko Arai, Director, Todai Robot Project; Sara Hooker, Research Scholar, Google Brain; and Yuka Kojima, CEO & Co-Founder, FOVE Inc. Catherine Kobayashi, News Anchor/Reporter, NHK WORLD-JAPAN, moderating

**The Fight for Women's Judo:  
Rusty Kanokogi's Story**

**7 April**

This program was part of our *Passing the Torch* series.

Online. With Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D., author of *Get Up & Fight: The Memoir of Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi, The*

*Mother of Women's Judo.*

**Sake Cocktails: Sakura Celebration**  
**22 April**

The *Food Talk* series was sponsored by Kikkoman Corporation.

Online. With Sake Samurai Chris Johnson and mixologist Warren Hode.

**Mindfulness Through Ikebana:  
Spring Creations**  
**4, 11, 18 & 25 May**

Online. With Renée Niño de Rivera, Founder, Niño de Rivera Communications, Inc.

**Annual Sake Event:  
Brewers Share Their Insider Stories**

**9 June**

This program was co-organized by the Sake Export Association.

Online. With Miho Imada, President and Toji of Imada Sake Brewing, Yuichiro Tanaka, President, Rihaku Sake Brewing and Brian Polen, Co-Founder and President, Brooklyn Kura. Sake expert John Gauntner moderating.

The season was generously sponsored by MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group). Additional support was provided by an anonymous donor and the Sandy Heck Lecture Fund.

