

Events

January - December 2017



Arts & Culture

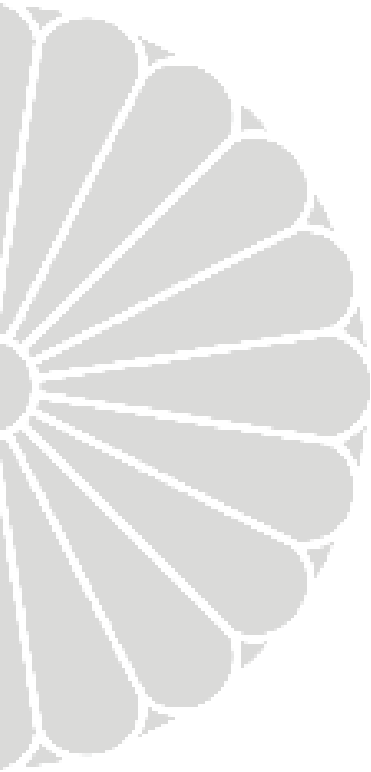
Business & Government

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 The Japan Society

The Japan Society, 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP
tel: 020 7935 0475 email: info@japansociety.org.uk www.japansociety.org.uk

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Lecture by Tim Hitchens, British Ambassador to Japan

Thursday 12 January 2017
(reception afterwards until 8.30pm)

6.00 for 6.30pm

Nomura International plc
One Angel Lane
London EC4R 3AB

Free.
Members of the Japan Society and their guests only.

Booking essential (deadline Monday 9 January)



The current British Ambassador to Japan, Tim Hitchens, will complete his tour of duty at the end of 2016. In this 2017 annual update for the Japan Society, Mr Hitchens will look back over his four years in Japan, as well as reflecting on the past eventful year in particular. This talk comes at an important time, in the wake of the UK's BREXIT decision and the recent US Presidential election. Both might be expected to have significant influence over the economy and security, both globally and regionally, and make the Japan-UK partnership increasingly relevant. The event will be chaired by Mr Hitchens' predecessor, Sir David Warren.

The Society's annual lecture by the current British Ambassador is always relevant, thought-provoking and useful to people from across its membership, as well as being extremely well attended. The Ambassador will speak for 30-40 minutes, after which there will be time for off-the-record discussion and questions.

There will be a reception immediately after the lecture. The Japan Society is extremely grateful to leading Corporate Member, Nomura International plc, for hosting this event.

Tim Hitchens read English at Cambridge. He joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1983 and held posts in Tokyo (1985-1989), Islamabad and Paris, as well as serving as Assistant Private Secretary to the Queen. He was Director for Europe in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 2008 to 2010 and then Director for Africa from 2010 to 2012, before serving as British Ambassador to Japan from 2012 to 2016.

This is always a very popular event and early booking is recommended. Places are limited to two per membership initially; additional guests will be placed on a waiting list. We thank members in advance for their understanding.

Hosted by:

NOMURA

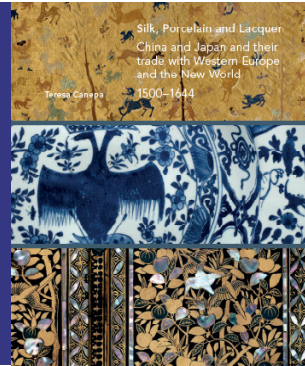
Silk, Porcelain and Lacquer: China and Japan and their Trade with Western Europe and the New World – Teresa Canepa

Monday 16 January 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free
Booking recommended



Focusing on the prolific trade, overseas transport and consumption of Chinese silk and porcelain, and Japanese lacquer between 1500 and 1644, this lecture will show how the material culture of late Ming China and Momoyama / Early Edo Japan on one side of the globe, and Western Europe and the New World on the other, became linked for the first time through an exchange of luxury Asian manufactured goods for silver.

Drawing on Teresa Canepa's multi-disciplinary research for her PhD dissertation and book, the lecture will explore the fascinating and complex commercial, cultural and artistic exchanges that occurred between the East and West in the early modern period. It will focus on the trade and consumption of three very different Asian goods: silk, porcelain and lacquer, first by the Iberian kingdoms of Portugal and Spain in the 16th century, and then also by the trading companies formed by the Northern Netherlands / Dutch Republic and England in the early 17th century. In particular, Dr Canepa will show the influence that European merchants and missionaries exerted on the goods made to order for them in both China and Japan.

Teresa Canepa is an independent researcher and lecturer in Chinese and Japanese export art. She completed a PhD in Art History at Leiden University, The Netherlands. The main focus of her research is the Portuguese and Spanish trade in Chinese porcelain and Japanese lacquer in the 16th and early 17th century, on which she has published a number of articles and lectured widely.

Dr Canepa's new book, *Silk, Porcelain and Lacquer: China and Japan and their Trade with Western Europe and the New World, 1500-1644*, will be available for sale on the night for the discounted price of £60 (retail price £75).

Gaea Girls Film Screening and Q&A

Tuesday 24 January 2017

6.00 for 6.30pm

Royal Anthropological Institute
50 Fitzroy Street
London W1T 5BT

Free
Priority for members

Booking essential. Places are limited and early booking is recommended.



Filmed over a period of three months, *Gaea Girls* (Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams, 2000) is a film about courage, transformation and dreams in the extraordinary world of Japanese women's wrestling or *joshi puroresu*. It marked the fifth collaborative film between Longinotto and Williams examining gender defined and gender defying roles in contemporary Japan.

Although Gaea Japan was disbanded in 2005, in 2015 its founder Chigusa Nagayo announced of a new wrestling group, Marvelous, which launched in 2016. As the violent spectacle of *joshi puroresu* continues to prove popular, Longinotto and Williams' work allows us to reflect upon the daily routines and social conditions of this sport's female participants.

Gaea Girls centres around the hopes and fears of the beleaguered Gaea Japan squad, whose reputation hangs by a thread after a series of setbacks in the ring. At the heart of the film is Nagayo, who attempts to fashion a group of new recruits in her own formidable image; the arresting documentary focuses on the physicality – indeed brutality – of the demanding training regime undertaken by the Gaea girls in tournament preparation. In

doing so, *Gaea Girls* addresses the broader question of women's empowerment in Japan.

The screening will be followed by a drinks reception and a Q&A with director Kim Longinotto, whose collection is housed and distributed by the Royal Anthropological Society.

Kim Longinotto has received numerous awards for her observational documentaries, including a BAFTA for her documentary *Pink Saris* (2010).

This is the first in a series of screenings co-organised by the Japan Society and the Royal Anthropological Institute that will revisit Japanese films housed in the RAI's collection.

21 February – *Node: An Elderly Village Community in the Global World*
at Royal Anthropological Institute

21 March – *Memories of the Ainu Past and Present*
at SOAS, in association with the Japan Research Centre

Co-organised by:



Experience the Art and Craft of Wasanbon

Wednesday 1 February 2017 3.00 to 4.30pm
or 6.30 to 8.00pm
(two available sessions)

Daiwa Foundation Japan House
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Booking essential (priority for members)
£12 per head



Wagashi are Japanese sweets, and they come in many stunning varieties, each belonging to traditions developed since the Edo period. This workshop is a rare opportunity to learn about the art of *wasanbon*, a particular type of *wagashi* which shares its name with the fine-grained sugar used to make it.

Wasanbon are shaped using intricate carved wooden moulds, or *kashi kigata*, and this workshop will be led by Ayumi Uehara, a confectioner whose father Yoshihiro Ichihara is one of the last living artisans who continues to carve them by hand.

In this workshop Uehara will explain how *wasanbon* sugar is made and guide attendees through the process of binding the sugar and shaping it in the moulds. Uehara will discuss the courtly tea culture which gave rise to *wagashi* and at the end of the workshops attendees will be served served with green tea and a mixture of just-made and several-day-old *wasanbon*.

Workshop numbers will be limited to 15 per session and priority given to members.

A story of locality and the creation of regional identity in Japan, from the viewpoint of producer, Hidetaka Ino

Thursday 9 February 2017

6.30pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free
Booking recommended



augment5 Inc. has recently attracted attention worldwide for its independent productions. Their stunning films, featuring views of a Japan which they find particularly beautiful, have gone viral among an internet audience. We are delighted to welcome producer Hidetaka Ino for this special event featuring some of his key works, including the *True North, Akita* series.

Ino will speak about the concept of locality in Japan, as he sees it, and how this is being developed. His *True North* series takes its title from the nautical term, referring to the geographical North Pole; the imaginary northern axis around which the earth turns. Ino hopes that the Japanese North can become a measure of beauty and abundance.

Hidetaka Ino was born in Aichi Prefecture in 1983 and has been involved in a range of different internet businesses since his student days. He is President of augment5 Inc. Since establishing the company, he has acted as consultant for the internet and development divisions of large corporations, while also achieving large worldwide audiences for his own films. Since 2013 he has focussed on film production.

Japan Society Book Club: Lost Japan by Alex Kerr

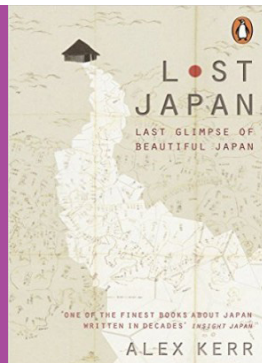
Monday 13 February 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members:
Booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month



An enchanting and fascinating insight into Japanese landscape, culture, history and future.

Originally written in Japanese, this passionate, vividly personal book draws on the author's experiences in Japan over thirty years. Alex Kerr brings to life the ritualized world of Kabuki, retraces his initiation into Tokyo's boardrooms during the heady Bubble Years, and tells the story of the hidden valley that became his home.

But the book is not just a love letter. Haunted throughout by nostalgia for the Japan of old, Kerr's book is part paean to that great country and culture, part epitaph in the face of contemporary Japan's environmental and cultural destruction.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the

book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

Alex Kerr (b.1952) is an American writer and Japanologist. Originally from the Bethesda area in Montgomery County, Maryland, Kerr's father, a naval officer, was posted in Yokohama from 1964 to 1966. Kerr returned to the states and studied Japanese Studies at Yale University. After studying Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, Kerr moved back to Japan full-time in 1977. He lived in Kameoka, near Kyoto, working with the Oomoto Foundation, a Shintō organisation devoted to the practice and teaching of traditional Japanese arts. An expert on Japanese culture and art, he frequently writes and lectures in Japanese. Through his experiences in Japan, as related in his books, he has become an avid art collector and patron of Japan's traditional theatre and other arts.

Joint Lunch with JCCI: Sir David King

Tuesday 14 February 2017

12.30pm for 1.00pm

National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HE

£50 per head:
members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests

Booking essential

Booking deadline: Friday 10 February



2016 saw the Paris Agreement enter into force, marking a turning point in the fight against climate change. Under the agreement 194 countries, including the UK, Japan and the US, have put forward commitments to cut carbon emissions and agreed limits to global temperature rises from 2020.

As we enter 2017, the current state of negotiations on climate change and their future development remains of strong interest among Japanese companies investing in the UK – not least in light of the recent US Presidential Election. With climate change scepticism a key feature of his election campaign, how President Trump's administration will affect global policy in this area remains to be seen.

Against this backdrop of uncertainty, Sir David King, the UK Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change, will discuss future developments on climate change and the transition to a low carbon economy, considering potential challenges facing the sector going forward.

Sir David King was appointed as the UK Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change in September 2013. Sir David was previously the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor from 2000 – 2007. He also served as the Founding Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment at Oxford, 2008 – 2012. Some of his other appointments have included the Chair of Future Cities Catapult, Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, Senior Scientific Advisor to UBS, and Adviser to President Kagame of Rwanda.

His discipline is in physical chemistry working in surface science and catalysis. He has published over 500 papers on surface science and heterogeneous catalysis, and on science and policy, for which he has received many awards and medals. He has received 23 Honorary Degrees from universities around the world.

Following a two-course lunch, Sir David will speak for about 20 minutes, after which there will be time for questions until 2.30pm.

In association with:



Exploring Japanese Art in Norwich

Thursday 16 to Friday 17 February 2017

(a) 9.45am London Liverpool Street, to travel together to Norwich, or

(b) by 1.50 pm, assemble at:
Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts
University of East Anglia
Norwich NR4 7TJ

Booking essential (On receipt of bookings for this event, we will send a detailed itinerary and confirm which elements of the visit you would like to participate in.)



Norwich is one of the cultural capitals of the UK, and as the home to the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures boasts a thriving programme of Japan-related events. We are delighted to be organising a special visit to coincide with the Masters of Japanese Photography exhibition at SISJAC's sister organisation, the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, while also giving members the chance to see behind-the-scenes at SISJAC itself.

Masters of Japanese Photography explores the work of three of the most prominent Japanese photographers of the second half of the 20th century: Nobuyoshi Araki, Eikoh Hosoe and Kikuji Kawada. It features 65 prints drawn from the artists' studios as well as from private collections. Dating between the 1960s and the early 2000s, the images represent a survey of recurring themes, ranging from the depiction of the human body to the enduring presence of nature.

We will join the SISJAC monthly Third Thursday lecture in which Tetsuei Tsuda of the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties will be speaking on Nise-e, or Japanese 'likeness' pictures. After staying overnight in Norwich, participants will visit SISJAC on Friday morning, when librarian Akira

Hirano will introduce some of the treasures held in the Lisa Sainsbury Library.

Provisional Programme

Thursday 16 February

10.00am depart London Liverpool Street*

12.45pm Lunch at Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

2.00pm Tour of Masters of Japanese Photography Exhibition, led by curator Monserrat Pis Marcos, followed by time to explore other parts of the collection.

4.00pm Free time. Travel to central Norwich, check in at hotel if staying overnight. Visit Norwich Cathedral (closes 6pm).

6.00pm SISJAC Third Thursday Lecture by Tetsuei Tsuda. Norwich Cathedral Hostry

8.00pm Post-lecture dinner with SISJAC

Friday 17 February

10.00am Visit to SISJAC. Introduction to treasures of the Lisa Sainsbury Library

* Participants may travel from London as a group, or independently, meeting at SCVA in time for the tour. We can provide suggestions for hotels/B&B, but individuals should arrange their own overnight accommodation. Entry to SCVA is priced at £7/£6 concessions.

In association with:

**SAINSBURY
CENTRE**



SAINSBURY INSTITUTE
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

New' Abenomics and Japan's Labour Market Policy – Hiroaki Richard Watanabe

Monday 20 February 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free
Booking recommended



This talk addresses the 'new' Abenomics, which was announced in September 2015, by focusing on the labour market policy. In addition to the three policy arrows of the original Abenomics, which were combined as the first new arrow aimed at GDP 600 trillion yen, the new Abenomics added two new arrows aimed at improving the fertility rate and reducing the number of workers who leave work because of elderly care (*kaigo rishoku*). To realize these new policies, the Abe administration proposed to limit overtime work and improve the work conditions of non-regular workers by introducing 'equal pay for equal work' and raising the minimum wage.

However, this labour market policy is contradictory to the previous deregulatory policy that has made the worksituation of non-regular workers more unstable and is likely to increase the working poor. Despite being useful for striking a better work-life balance and increasing women's labour market participation, the reform of working hours aimed at reducing overtime and improving labour productivity may also result in work-time deregulation aimed at reducing labour cost. This talk emphasizes that these reform measures are not only about improving

work conditions but also about achieving economic growth. The labour market policy in the new Abenomics can be characterised as based on economic nationalism, part of the Abe administration's grand strategy for revitalizing the economy and achieving a greater role and competitiveness in the global political economy.

Hiroaki Richard Watanabe (D.Phil., University of Oxford) is a lecturer at the School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield. He is an expert in comparative/Japanese political economy and the international relations in East Asia. His recent publications include *Labour market deregulation in Japan and Italy: Worker protection under neoliberal globalisation* (Routledge, 2014) and 'The struggle for revitalisation by Japanese labour unions: Worker organising after labour-market deregulation', (*Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 2015). He has appeared in TV programs for Channel NewsAsia Singapore and BBC News and provided his opinion on Abenomics, the Japanese emperor's abdication, TPP and President Obama's visit to Japan.

Node Film Screening and Q&A

Thursday 23 February 2017 6.00 for 6.30pm

Royal Anthropological Institute
50 Fitzroy Street
London W1T 5BT

Free
Priority for members

Booking essential. Places are limited and early booking is recommended.



Hirogawara is a village with a long lasting tradition of forestry located in a mountain area of Kyoto prefecture, Japan. Although municipal records drafted in 2009 recorded a population of 120 residents amongst its five districts, over half of these citizens also have an urban household in Kyoto. These *iribito* (newcomer) villagers who predominantly reside in the city are situated alongside a dwindling population of mostly elderly *jinomon* (native) residents. Therefore the interactions taking place in Hirogawara provide an interesting case-study of a typically underpopulated village in a rural Japanese region which is undergoing a form of social change cultivated by globalised mobility.

Node (Atsushi Koike, 2010) captures Hirogawara residents reflecting on the traditions of their environment in a period of transition. There is a prevalent connection to ancestry which manifests itself in the maintenance of the Hirogawara landscape by its villagers. In this film, public space comes to constitute social memory, which is relayed by the villagers who recount meaningful autobiographical stories linked to their native environment. Whilst traditional public spaces and private interiors are conserved

by members of the community, the aging population of Hirogawara is also seen to struggle with the workload of maintaining its surrounding forests.

The Royal Anthropological Institute welcomes the first public screening of *Node* in the U.K. The evening will open with a reflection on and introduction to the microcosmic issues that can be seen in Hirogawara through *Node* and will conclude with a drinks reception.

Atsushi Koike was born in 1983 in Shiga, Japan. He studied Documentary film making in The film school of Tokyo for two years from 2006 and visual anthropology at the University of Tromsø in Norway in 2010.

This is part of a series of screenings co-organised by the Japan Society and the Royal Anthropological Institute that will revisit Japanese films housed in the RAI's collection.

21 March – *Memories of the Ainu Past and Present*
at SOAS, in association with the Japan Research Centre

Co-organised by:



An evening with Alex Kerr

Monday 27 February 2017

6.30pm

Restaurant Tsuru
Broadgate
201 Bishopsgate
London EC2M 3AB

Price: £30 per person
Members of the Japan Society + guests

Booking deadline: Friday 24 February

Places are limited and early booking is recommended.



On the occasion of his visit to the UK to participate in Japan Now, we are delighted to host an informal dinner event with the author of *Lost Japan*, Alex Kerr.

Alex Kerr and his Chiiori Trust have been involved with rural revitalisation and preservation of heritage buildings in Japan. Over a Japanese meal, Japan Society members and their guests are invited to discuss with the author recent developments in this area.

The event starts at 6:30pm with a chat over drinks. Food will be served at 7:00pm. Following the dinner, the evening will continue with an informal roundtable discussion with the writer and will end at 9:00pm. The restaurant will remain open if participants wish to stay for further conversation.

The dinner includes a katsu curry set-menu (katsu curry, miso soup, salmon sashimi and edamame), served with green tea or an Asahi beer. Other drinks may be ordered on a pay-as-you-go basis. Vegetarian menu is also available. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements when you book.

Alex Kerr (b. 1952) is an American writer and Japanologist. Originally from the Bethesda area in Montgomery County, Maryland, Kerr's father, a naval officer, was posted in Yokohama from 1964 to 1966. Kerr returned to the United States and studied Japanese Studies at Yale University.

After studying Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, Kerr moved back to Japan full-time in 1977. He lived in Kameoka, near Kyoto, working with the Oomoto Foundation, a Shinto organisation devoted to the practice and teaching of traditional Japanese arts.

An expert on Japanese culture and art, he frequently writes and lectures in Japanese. Through his experiences in Japan, as related in his books, he has become an avid art collector and patron of Japan's traditional theatre and other arts.

Flora Japonica exhibition – private view

Wednesday 1 March 2017

2.00pm to 3.45pm

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Richmond
Surrey TW9 3AB

Members of the Japan Society and their guests
Free – booking essential

Booking deadline: Friday 24 February 2017

Places are limited and early booking is recommended



Botanical art has always been an important part of Japanese culture and continues to flourish, with both professional artists and also a large number of amateurs producing excellent botanical illustrations. Combining elegance and sense of design with scientific rigour, the botanical paintings show wild Japanese plants in perfect detail, capturing the diversity and artistic beauty of nature in Japan.

The Flora Japonica exhibition at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew celebrates the richness of Japanese native flora and its artistic representation portraying about 80 Japanese wild plants by 36 of the most eminent contemporary Japanese botanical artists as well as historic drawings and paintings of celebrated artists such as Dr Tomitaro Makino, Sessai Hattori and Chikusai Kato, which have never before been exhibited in Europe. In addition, the exhibition also features paintings of Japanese plants by non-Japanese artists in the Kew's Collection and pieces from Japanese artists in the Shirley Sherwood Collection.

Joining Kew's celebration of Japanese flora and botanical art, we are delighted to invite members and their guests to a private view of the exhibition, led by Masumi Yamanaka, botanical artist and co-curator of the exhibition. Born in Nara but now based in UK, Yamanaka is an artist specialising in ceramic design and botanical illustration. She has illustrated a number of monographs as well as contributing a significant number of illustrations to different botanical art magazines and publications. Yamanaka has shown work at the London Flower Show and Kew's Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art among others and was also awarded The Margaret Granger Memorial Silver Bow by the Society of Botanical Artists. Since 2007, she has been a freelance artist based in the Herbarium at Kew.

In association with:

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Japanese Conversation Group

Tuesday 7 March 2017
(and every first Tuesday of the month)

6.30pm

The Brewmaster
37 Cranbourn Street
London WC2H 7AD

Standard Admission £5.50
(£1 Discount for: Japan Society members/Students/
Regulars)



The Japanese Conversation Group provides a friendly and informal atmosphere for Japanese speakers of all nationalities to come together and speak Japanese. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month. They begin at 6.30pm with a pay-as-you-go bar, and finish around 11.00pm.

You will receive all discounts for which you qualify. The Regular Attendee Discount will apply if you attended at least 50% of meetings during the previous calendar year, or once you attend six meetings in the current year.

Please visit the Japanese Conversation Group website <http://jcg.org.uk> for further details on their programme, which may be subject to change.

Japan Society Book Club:

Record of a Night Too Brief by Hiromi Kawakami

Monday 13 March 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members
Booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month



One morning, a woman treads on a snake. She comes home that evening and realises the snake has moved into her house and is saying she is her mother... So begins the story of a woman trying to live with a snake, with herself – or perhaps with something else altogether.

This volume includes the three stories 'Tread on a Snake', 'Missing' and 'Record of a Night Too Brief' which together won the Akutagawa Prize in 1996. Filled with fantastically multicoloured images and unexplained collapses in time and place, these highly surreal, meticulously worked stories of longing and disappearance, love and loathing are the work of an enormously talented writer at the top of her game.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion

is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

Hiromi Kawakami (b. 1958) is a Japanese writer known for her off-beat fiction. Born in Tokyo, Kawakami graduated from Ochanomizu Women's College in 1980. She made her debut as "Yamada Hiromi" in *NW-SF* No. 16 in 1980 with the story 'Diptera' and also helped edit some early issues of *NW-SF* in the 1970s. She reinvented herself as a writer and wrote her first book, a collection of short stories entitled *God* published in 1994. She is also known as a literary critic and a provocative essayist.

From Dying Race to Indigenous People: the struggle over Ainu representation in modern Japan – Richard Siddle

Monday 20 March 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



The Ainu are the indigenous people of northern Japan. Dispossessed of their ancestral land and resources in Hokkaido by the expansion of a vigorous colonial state, traditional lifeways collapsed as hunting and fishing territories were settled by waves of immigrants and transformed into agricultural land. Government policies of relocation and assimilation aimed at the eventual extinction of the Ainu as a people, aided by a system of 'native education' that actively discouraged Ainu language and customs. Parallel to this economic, political and social marginalisation was an ideological discourse proclaimed by officials, scholars and educators that represented the Ainu as a 'dying race' (*horobiyuku minzoku*), primitive savages with no place in the modern world.

Nevertheless, the Ainu have refused to passively acquiesce to this dominant stereotype. At the beginning of the twenty first century the cultural symbols of a revitalised and contemporary Ainu identity have become prominent as Ainu activists press their claims on the basis of their distinct indigenous ethnicity. This talk will provide an overview of modern Ainu history and introduce the Ainu struggle for rights and identity as an indigenous people that has

been underway since the 1960s and peaked with the enactment of the controversial and divisive Ainu Cultural Promotion Act in 1997. Although finally recognised by the Japanese government as an indigenous people in 2008, Ainu, as both individuals and an ethnic group, still face challenges in today's Japan, not least over the authenticity of a contemporary Ainu identity.

Richard Siddle is a Professor in the Faculty of Media and Communication at Hokkaido University where he teaches and researches on minorities and multiculturalism in Japan from the perspectives of social history and social anthropology. Publications include *Race, Resistance and the Ainu of Japan* (Routledge, 1996), *Japan and Okinawa: Structure and Subjectivity* (with Glenn Hook, Routledge, 2003) and *Critical Readings on Minorities and Multiculturalism in Japan* (Brill, 2013).

Memories of the Ainu Past and Present

Tuesday 21 March 2017

7.15pm

SOAS Alumni Lecture Theatre (SALT)
Paul Webley Wing (Senate House)
SOAS University of London
10 Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG

Free – booking essential



Co-organised by the Japan Society and the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), this is the third and last in the current series of screenings that revisit Japanese films housed in the RAI's collection. On this occasion, we are delighted to present two documentaries considering the Ainu people in Japan in terms of ritual, memory and identity.

The main film of the evening is *The Ainu Bear Ceremony*, a short documentary (27 minutes) made in 1931 by Scottish anthropologist Neil Gordon Munro (1863-1942). A pioneer scholar of the Ainu people in Hokkaido, Munro recorded this traditional Ainu ceremony, now no longer performed, in which a bear was ritually killed and eaten by the participants. Screened will be the shortened, RAI edited 1961 version of *The Ainu Bear Ceremony*, which removed certain intertitles and images from the original film.

The evening will continue with a screening of extracts from Marcos Centeno Martin's documentary *Ainu. Pathways to Memory* (2014, Japanese, English and French with English Subtitles). This film not only aims to recover the history of the Ainu people often erased from the official record and scarred by discrimination, but also to explore what being Ainu means today.

Alongside the screenings, the event will also include a discussion of the films with George Barker from the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) and Dr Marcos Centeno Martin from SOAS University of London. They will consider the legacy and impact of the Munro documentary and the logic behind the RAI's 1961 edit as well as the situation of the Ainu people in contemporary Japan. A Q&A with the audience will follow the screenings and the discussion.

Co-organised by:



In association with:



JRC

Brexit and The City: Economic arguments for leaving the EU – Gerard Lyons

Wednesday 5 April 2017

12.30pm for 1.00pm

BDO LLP
55 Baker Street
London W1U 7EU

Free – booking essential
(priority for members)

Booking deadline: Friday 31 March



Following the result of the EU referendum in June 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May has committed to trigger Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon by the 31 March 2017 and formally begin negotiations on the UK's exit from the European Union.

As part of our commitment to presenting a diversity of approaches on this subject, The Japan Society has invited Dr Gerard Lyons, co-founder of 'Economists for Brexit', to present his view on the economic implications, and potential benefits, of leaving the EU.

We are very grateful to BDO LLP, one of our corporate supporters, for kindly hosting this event.

Dr Gerard Lyons is one of the UK's leading economists and is an expert on the global economy, financial markets and monetary policy, with an excellent forecasting record. He has testified to the US Senate Banking and Foreign Affairs Committees and to Committees in both Houses of the UK Parliament, spoken at the EU-China Summit in Beijing, and on the globalised televised BBC Debate from Davos.

He is a Board Member of Bank of China (UK), Chief Economic Strategist and shareholder at Netwealth Investments, advisor to financial consultants Parker Fitzgerald and Chief Economic Advisor to think tank Policy Exchange. He is on advisory boards at: Warwick Business School; the Grantham Institute on Environmental Change at the London School of Economics and Imperial College; and the Official Monetary Financial Institutions Forum, and is advising on a project at the Centre for Social Justice addressing low UK productivity and its wider economic and social impact. He is Vice Chairman of the 48 Group, Committee Member of the Hong Kong Association and he co-founded Economists for Brexit.

From January 2013 to May 2016 he was in a non-political role of Chief Economic Advisor to Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London. Previously he spent 27 years in senior roles in The City at Chase Manhattan, Swiss Bank Corporation, DKB International and Standard Chartered Bank. He has been ranked top global forecaster (out of 350) and the month before the financial crisis was one of only two UK economists predicting a deep imminent recession. He is a public speaker and author.

In association with:



Japan Society Book Club: *Tales of Ise*

Monday 10 April 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members:
Booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month



Along with the *Tale of Genji* and *One Hundred Poets, One Poem Each*, the *Tales of Ise* is considered one of the three most important works of Japanese literature. A poem-tale collection from the early Heian period, it contains many stories of amorous adventures, faithful friendship and travels in exile, framing the exquisite poems at the work's heart.

The *Tales of Ise* has influenced waka, Noh, tales and diaries since the time it was written, and is still the source of endless inspiration in novels, poetry, manga and cartoons.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

From page to screen to again: writing and reading Japanese film scripts – Lauri Kitsnik

Monday 24 April 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



Japanese cinema has often been explored from the perspective of auteur directors and film masterpieces, but much less attention has been paid to another significant aspect of filmmaking – scriptwriting. However, in Japan, scriptwriters have long been recognised as important figures in the Japanese film industry and film scripts (shinario in Japanese) have played an important part both in cinema’s production and reception.

In this talk, Lauri Kitsnik will discuss the historical representation of screenwriters as film authors by looking at their working methods and writing spaces within the studio system. He will also address the appearance of a new kind of reader that was prompted by the abundant publishing of film scripts for a wider audience since the 1950s. Consumed in this manner, scripts arguably complement as well as contest screen viewing experience while proposing alternative film histories.

Dr Kitsnik is particularly intrigued by the attention that screenwriting and screenplays have received in Japan not only as a preparatory phase in film production but as a practice in its own right. This trend was at its most prominent and visible in the 1950s,

commonly called the Golden Age of Japanese cinema. Leafing through film journals from that period, one cannot avoid noticing full texts of screenplays that take up a third or so of each volume. While usually coinciding with the film’s premiere, scripts often ended up appearing a little earlier, perhaps suggesting that Japanese film-goers were little bothered about getting to know the twists of the plot before actually seeing the film. At the same time, this practice suggests that there existed a wide and skilled readership among the general public that could visualise screen images out of a text.

Lauri Kitsnik (MA Tokyo PhD Cantab) is Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures in Norwich. His interests include world film history, comparative film theory, adaptation and screenwriting. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Japanese and Korean Cinema*, *Journal of Screenwriting and Women Screenwriters: An International Guide*.

Sheer Pleasure: Frank Brangwyn and the Art of Japan – A private tour of the exhibition, permanent collection and gallery

Tuesday 25 April 2017

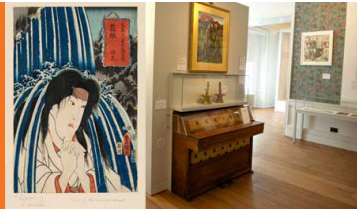
2.00pm to 3.30pm

William Morris Gallery
Lloyd Park, Forest Road
Walthamstow
London E17 4PP

£12 per head
Members of the Japan Society and their guests only

Booking deadline: Friday 21 April 2017

Places are limited and early booking is recommended.



To mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Anglo-Welsh artist Frank Brangwyn RA (1867-1956), William Morris Gallery is staging a special exhibition showing the rarely displayed Brangwyn collection of Japanese prints and paintings. On show are not only works of art including ukiyo-e prints by Utagawa Hiroshige and Katsushika Hokusai, but also works, sketches, and key block prints made by Brangwyn in collaboration with London based Japanese artist, Urushibara Yoshijiro. Work by Rebecca Salter RA, who studied printmaking in Kyoto, complements the display with a contemporary perspective on the Anglo-Japanese connections through the art of Japanese woodblock printing.

Brangwyn's love of Japanese art and his own practice influenced by Japan artistic traditions will be at the centre of the private tour that the Japan Society is pleased to present to its members and their guests. This special visit to *Sheer Pleasure: Frank Brangwyn and the Art of Japan* will be guided by the curator of the exhibition Carien Kremer.

Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the splendid permanent collection and the house which was William Morris' home from the age of 14 - 22 and which contains a tea room and charming garden. The William Morris Gallery won the Art Fund Prize for Museum of the year in 2013, so this private tour is also a great opportunity to discover a hidden gem in north-east London.

Carien Kremer is senior curator at the William Morris Gallery and curator of *Sheer Pleasure: Frank Brangwyn and the Art of Japan*. Carien worked on the award-winning 2012 redisplay of the collections and many of the Gallery's high profile exhibitions since, including those by David Bailey, Yinka Shonibare, Bob and Roberta Smith and Clare Twomey. Carien studied at Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

Reimagining Japanese craft traditions in the modern age – Shinichiro Hashiguchi

Wednesday 26 April 2017

6.30pm

Lecture Theatre
Chelsea College of Arts
UAL London
16 John Islip Street
London SW1P 4JU

Free – booking recommended



The Japan Society and Chelsea College of Arts (CCA) are delighted to welcome award-winning Osaka-based architect, Shinichiro Hashiguchi, for this special lecture. In it Hashiguchi will be discussing his practice and the ways he has been working with skilled crafts people and their companies to explore new ways to give life to the products they create.

When you visit a museum or art gallery, the chances are that you will see among the exhibits art objects which it would be almost impossible to recreate today. Craft techniques and traditions, refined and perfected over generations, are gradually being lost as lifestyles and consumer demands change. This is true of Japan's crafts as of those in many other parts of the world. In response to this, Shinichiro Hashiguchi has created a series of tea rooms which use unexpected materials and explore their qualities.

The lecture is part of a wider collaborative project between the Japan Society, Hashiguchi Architect & Associates and Chelsea College of Arts. From 25 April - 6 May 2017, Shinichiro Hashiguchi's Open Weave Tea Room will be on display on CCA's Rootstein Hopkins Parade Ground.

This enchanting space is created using fine twisted strings used in making fusuma and which demonstrate the delicate craft of the loom, refined and perfected over the years. Visitors will also be able to view three tea rooms designed and built in response by Chelsea's BA Interior Spatial Design students.

Shinichiro Hashiguchi graduated from Kindai University Graduate School, before studying under Izue Kan. He established Hashiguchi Architect and Associates in 2000. The practice has been recognised for outstanding design by numerous awards including the Good Design Award in 2012 and 2016 and the Design for Asia Award in 2012 and 2015 and 2016 and the AACA Award in 2016. Alongside his creative activities, he is currently a PhD candidate researching washi materials at Kyoto Prefectural University.

Related opportunities

We have a limited number of places for volunteers to assist with the construction of the Open Weave Tea Room on 20 & 21 April (Thurs & Fri). If you are interested in being involved, please let us know on events@japansociety.org.uk

In association with:



Hashiguchi Architect & Associates



ual: university
of the arts
london
chelsea

Kokedama workshop – Create a moss ball plant

Friday 28 April 2017

3.00 to 4.30pm or 6.00 to 7.30pm

Daiwa Foundation Japan House
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

£25 -30 per head

Booking deadline: Wednesday 26 April 2017

Places are limited and early booking is recommended



The art of *kokedama* draws on techniques from bonsai and tray landscapes to create a striking display. Literally meaning 'moss ball', the *kokedama* plant has its roots wrapped in a ball of soil and moss from where the bonsai or small houseplant emerges creating beautiful silhouettes and natural artistic compositions.

In this *kokedama* workshop, participants will learn how to create their own moss ball plant which they can take home afterwards. Indoor plant care guidelines will also be explained. All supplies (plant, moss and soil and decorative materials such as the display tray or string hanger) are included.

This workshop will be led by **Stefan Thomas** from Tranquil Plants who will give a presentation on Japanese *kokedama* and provide step-by-step guidance to create the moss ball plant. Inspired by botanical decoration, Stefan specialises in bonsai and *kokedama* and has a personal passion for the intriguing history and horticultural allure of this type of planting.

When booking, please specify which session you wish to book and whether you wish to use a bonsai (£30) or a palm (£25) in your kokedama.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Japan Society Book Club: *Horses, Horses, In the End the Light Remains Pure* by Hideo Furukawa

Monday 8 May 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month

**Horses,
Horses,
in the End
the Light
Remains
Pure**

A TALE
THAT
BEGINS
WITH
FUKUSHIMA

**Hideo
Furukawa**



Horses, Horses, in the End the Light Remains Pure is a multifaceted literary response to the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown that devastated northeast Japan on March 11, 2011. The novel is narrated by Hideo Furukawa, who travels back to his childhood home near Fukushima after 3/11 to reconnect with a place that is now doubly alien.

His ruminations conjure the region's storied past, particularly its thousand-year history of horses, humans, and the struggle with a rugged terrain. Standing in the morning light, these horses also tell their stories, heightening the sense of liberation, chaos, and loss that accompanies Furukawa's rich recollections. A fusion of fiction, history, and memoir, this book plays with form and feeling in ways reminiscent of Vladimir Nabokov's *Invitation of a Spring*, *Invitation of a Summer*, and *Invitation of an Autumn*, and W. G. Sebald's *The Rings of Saturn* yet draws its own, unforgettable portrait of personal and cultural dislocation.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

A dialogue between fire and clay: pottery and the appeal of the anagama kiln – an evening with Kazuya Ishida, potter

Thursday 11 May 2017

6.30pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
London
WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



With the advent of open fires, humans discovered that clay hardened when it was heated. When the fire place was covered in order to achieve high temperatures more reliably, the kiln was born. In the quest for ever more durable and more beautiful pottery, firing techniques continued to develop and improve. Until relatively recently, the wood fired *anagama* kiln was commonly used.

Firing an *anagama* kiln is generally perceived to be inefficient because each firing requires a great deal of wood fuel, is very labour intensive and takes several days, so they are seen less often. Together with the disappearance of *anagama*, we are losing traditional craft skills. However, with the application of wood ash, 'nature's own glaze', pottery which has been fired over a long time in heat regulated by skilled craftsmen has a powerful beauty which only nature can produce. For many people, its appeal is irresistible.

In this lecture, Kazuya Ishida, a young, up-and-coming potter from a Bizen-yaki family will discuss the attraction of pottery through an introduction to his own work, and from the perspective of the *anagama* kiln. His mission is to bring the tradition and skills of Bizen pottery to a wider audience and, in doing so, not simply

to imitate, but to encourage it to take root locally to create something new which reflects that locality. During this lecture, Kazuya Ishida will demonstrate pottery throwing on a wheel.

The Oxford Anagama Project

This project began in 2015, when Japanese and British potters and anthropologists came together to build and fire an *anagama* kiln in woodland owned by Oxford University. Participants include potters from Bizen in Japan and Whichford Pottery, university staff and numerous volunteers. The project spans various academic disciplines, including art, anthropology and environmental studies.

Kazuya Ishida was born in Bizen in Okayama Prefecture in 1986, the oldest son of potter Yasuhiro Ishida. In 2011 he began working at Kigbears Studio in Devon, then moved to Whichford Pottery in Oxford in 2012, where he continued to develop his craft. He returned to Japan in 2013 to set up his own workshop in Inbe in Bizen. He has won many prizes for his work over the years. Since 2015, he became involved in kiln building, as the Japanese lead on the Oxford Anagama Project, and has conducted many workshops in the UK as well as promoting the *anagama*.

The Meiji Ensoniment: Conflicting Ears and the Decision to Change Japanese Musical Culture – Jonathan Service

Monday 15 May 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



In *Doremi o eranda Nihonjin* (2007), Yuko Chiba notes that a radical transformation in music-theoretical knowledge, musical practice, and aural habitus took place in Japan from the late-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. In this talk, Jonathan Service asks why and how this transformation occurred. He will begin by outlining two schematic ears: an élite ‘samurai’ ear and the ear of the ‘educated Western visitor’. Through a reading of the diaries and reports of representatives from these two groups in the late-nineteenth century, he will show just how different the musical cultures of Japan and ‘the West’ were perceived to be. Indeed, the music of the other was often denied the status of organized sound and was heard instead as noise.

Given these differences, Dr Service will note the insufficiency of the thesis that the transformation in Japanese aural culture can be ascribed to a process of straightforward cultural diffusion. He will argue instead that this transformation resulted from a choice that was made on non- or extra-musical grounds – a decision made in the political sphere at a time of gunboat diplomacy; in other words, a decision made on the basis of asymmetrical power relationships rather

than aesthetics. From the perspective of music, this decision appeared ‘empty’: it did not prescribe any specific details, but rather a set of broad (political) goals. The immediate response, therefore, involved the hard theoretical work of defining the concept (as Eishi Kikkawa remarks, the term ‘music’ *ongaku* can be traced to this period). It was this theoretical ‘filling-in’ of an empty decision that was, Jonathan Service argues, the critical juncture in the transformation in musical practice and aural sensibility noted by Chiba.

Dr Jonathan Service is the Okinaga Junior Research Fellow in Japanese Studies at Wadham College, University of Oxford. He graduated from Harvard University with a doctorate in Japanese and music. He studies the transformation in musical culture and aural sensibility in Japan from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. He is particularly interested in the synergies that developed between Western theories of music and Japanese or East Asian theories of music and the impact that these theories had on musical practice. He is currently completing his first monograph, *Orchestrating Modernity*.

Japan Room Lecture

The Colourful Festivals of Kyoto

Tuesday 30 May 2017

6.30pm

Lodge Room No 11
The Freemasons' Hall
Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5AZ

Japan Society members: £9
Non-members: £15

Booking deadline: Friday 26 May 2017



Most famous for being considered a sacred part of Japan, the old Imperial capital of Kyoto seasonally adds splashes of colour to the city by celebrating up to five hundred annual festivals in and around many of its historical and spiritual attractions. The majority of these festivals were traditionally rituals held to protect Kyoto.

In this lectures Pauline Chakmakjian will cover 1) the three, major matsuri held in the City of Kyoto each year, 2) some of the lesser-known festivals and their significance and 3) a few of the more unusual festivals held every year.

Pauline Chakmakjian is a Visit Kyoto Ambassador and a writer and speaker on Japanese and British Masonic history.

Please let us know if you would like to take an optional tour of the Freemason's Hall at 5.15 for 5.30pm.

Dogs Without Names – film screening and Q&A with director and contributors

Wednesday 31 May 2017

6.30pm

Phoenix Cinema
52 High Road
London N2 9PJ

£10, £8 (concessions), £6 (children)

Tickets can be booked calling the Phoenix Cinema box office on 020 8444 6789 or online on the Phoenix Cinema website: <http://phoenixcinema.co.uk/>



Following the death of her beloved golden retriever, a film maker channels her grief into making a documentary about people who rescue dogs and cats ‘without names’ – in other words, those with no one to care for them.

Akane Yamada’s moving docu-drama looks at animal adoption centres and shelters around Japan including those struggling to handle the countless lost dogs and cats in the 20-kilometre ‘red zone’ around the Fukushima nuclear reactor. She meets and interviews many involved in such organisations and sees anew the power of our bonds with these animals and our responsibilities should we opt to care for them.

We are delighted to welcome director Akane Yamada to the UK for this special screening and are grateful to Small Hope Bay Productions and Phoenix Cinema for their support.

Please be aware that the screening starts at 6.30pm and there are no trailers before the film.

The screening will be followed by Q&A with the director and representatives of organisations featured in the film.

Dogs Without Names 「犬に名前をつける日」
(Japan 2015, 107 mins, English subtitles)
Starring Satomi Kobayashi and Takaya Kamikawa
Director: Akane Yamada

Akane Yamada has over 30 years experience as a film and television director. Recent productions include *The Happiness of Mucchan* (NHK, 2014) which tracks Mucchan, a dog abandoned in the 20 kilometer ‘red zone’ around the Fukushima nuclear reactor, and *The woman who sleeps with 1,000 cats* (Fuji Television, 2015) featuring Yuri Nakatani, of NPO Minashigo Dogs and Cats Rescue in Hiroshima.

In association with:



Trooping the Colour 2017 – Special Seats at the Major General’s Review

Saturday 3 June 2017

9.15 for 10.00am

Horse Guards Parade
Whitehall London
SW1A 2NS

Japan Society members only: £12

Booking deadline: Friday 12 May



One of the great annual sights in London is the Trooping the Colour ceremony on Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall on Her Majesty’s Official Birthday. All available Foot Guards, Household Cavalry and King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery march past Her Majesty starting at 11.00am.

The Household Troops are the personal soldiers of The Queen. It is important to remember that these are also fighting troops; many of those on parade will be veterans of various campaigns including Afghanistan and Iraq. About 1,000 men in bearskins, tunics and full uniform will be on parade; there will be Massed Bands, a Mounted Band, and a large number of cavalry. The troops will be reviewed and then will march past twice.

The Society has once again made application for a number of seats for the dress rehearsal, held two weeks before the real parade. The Queen will not be present on 3 June, but this Dress Rehearsal will be taken by the General in command of all Household Troops.

Members should be seated by 10.00am, but we are arranging to meet at 9.15am for coffee and a short talk. The cost of this is included in the price for the event. The talk will explain in more detail the conduct of the parade, its history and tradition. The event ends at approximately noon.

Full details will be sent to those who book.

This is always a popular event – **please register your interest by 12 May**. Once we know the result of our application for places, we will notify you. Should the number of people wishing to attend exceed the number of tickets, we will allocate places by ballot.

Behind the Scenes at Hankyu Department Store's celebrated British Fair

Monday 5 June 2017

6.30 pm

The Frameworks
4th Floor Nutmeg House
60 Gainsford Street
London SE1 2NY

Free – booking recommended



Join us for an evening discussing Hankyu's British Fair concept, hearing from those who have been involved and looking at future opportunities. From its beginnings in 1970 as the 'Traditional Royal British Exhibition', the now 'British Fair' with its record sales figures has become synonymous with the Hankyu Department Store, and celebrates its 50th incarnation in 2017. The fair is not only a popular event selling British products, but also an occasion for its Japanese audience to enjoy British culture and lifestyle. In this sense, the Hankyu British Fair epitomises the role of the department store as a space for exchange and communication between producers and consumers.

The Japan Society is pleased to welcome Wataru Kuwahara, who has been responsible for the Hankyu British Fair for over 10 years. Mr Kuwahara will provide a backstage view of the fair and how it is planned and produced. He will discuss the image of British culture among the Japanese consumer and the role Japan's department stores play in the Anglo-Japanese economic exchange at grassroots level. Also joining the discussion will be Keiji Hayashi from Hankyu Hanshin Express, who manages the local relationship with the exhibitors in the

UK, and John Shepherd, Managing Director of Partridges, who has been a participant in the Fair. They will share their varying experiences and points of view to present a multifaceted perspective on the Hankyu British Fair and the opportunities it presents.

Wataru Kuwahara joined the Hankyu Department Store company in 1989. After working in the sales, marketing and planning divisions, he became the manager of the British Fair taking care of the planning and organisation of the event.

Keiji Hayashi works as a project and business development manager at Hankyu Hanshin Express (UK). He joined the company in 2000 after working at Central Saint Martins, University of The Arts London.

John Shepherd is the Managing Director of Partridges of Duke of York Square on the Kings Road and has many years' experience in the world of food. He is credited as being a specialist in this field and also provides consultancy to locations which wish to start up markets, with guest appearances on the BBC's *Apprentice*, Sky's *Cooks to Market* as well as a column in *Speciality Food Magazine*.

In association with:



Japan Society Book Club: The Samurai by Shusaku Endo

Monday 12 June 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month

SHUSAKU
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Set in the period preceding the Christian persecutions in Japan, *The Samurai* traces the steps of some of the first Japanese to set foot on European soil. Rokuemon Hasekura, a low-ranking warrior, is chosen as one of Japan's envoys to the Viceroy of Mexico and Pope Paul V. The emissaries set sail in 1613, accompanied by an ambitious Franciscan missionary who hopes to bargain trading privileges with the West for the right to head his order in Japan.

The arduous journey lasts four years, and the Japanese travel from Mexico to Rome, where they are persuaded that the success of their mission depends on their immediate conversion to Christianity. In fact, the enterprise has been futile from the start and the mission returns to Japan where the political tides have shifted: the authorities are pursuing an isolationist policy and a ruthless stamping out of all Western influences. In the face of disillusionment and death, samurai Rokuemon's only support and solace come from the spiritual lord he is not even sure he believes in.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave – private view of the British Museum exhibition with curator Tim Clark

Tuesday 13 June 2017

4.30pm

British Museum (Room 35)
Great Russell Street
Bloomsbury
London WC1B 3DG

Free – booking essential
Japan Society members only (no guests)

Booking deadline: 31 May 2017



Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849) is widely regarded as one of Japan's most famous and influential artists. He produced works of astonishing quality right up until his death at the age of 90. This new exhibition at the British Museum will lead the visitor on an artistic journey through the last 30 years of Hokusai's life – a time when he produced some of his most memorable masterpieces.

Throughout the exhibition, outstanding examples of Hokusai's work will show the artist's creative breadth and depth. A selection of superb landscapes is introduced with the iconic Great Wave – itself part of a print series of views of Mt Fuji. Intimate domestic scenes capture fleeting moments in private lives. Exquisite depictions of flora and fauna display an innate skill in representing the natural world. The artist's imagination is given full rein in the portrayal of supernatural creatures such as ghosts and deities.

By kind permission of the British Museum, the Japan Society is delighted to invite its members to an exclusive private view of 'Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave' led by exhibition curator Tim Clark. We will assemble at the entrance to the exhibition for prompt entry at 4.30pm and the tour will last until 5.30pm when the Museum

closes. Please note that it is not possible to arrange earlier entry to the exhibition as part of this tour.

Tim Clark is Head of the Japanese Section in the Department of Asia at the British Museum. He has curated many exhibitions on aspects of Japanese art and authored and co-authored numerous books about Japanese pictorial art. In 2011 he published a small monograph for British Museum Press, *Hokusai's Great Wave*. He has co-curated the exhibition *Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave* with Asano Shūgō and is leading the related AHRC-funded research project *Late Hokusai: Thought, Technique, Society*, in collaboration with SOAS, University of London.

Please note that the number of places at this event is very limited and tickets will be allocated by ballot. Please register your interest by 31 May, and tickets will be allocated by a random draw shortly after the booking deadline.

Photo: *Clear day with a southern breeze (Red Fuji)* from *Thirty-Six Views of Mt Fuji*. Colour woodblock, 1831. © The Trustees of the British Museum

In association with: **The British Museum**

Women in the World of Haruki Murakami – Gitte Marianne Hansen

Monday 19 June 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



Haruki Murakami's most well-known character-type is without doubt the lonesome protagonist – the male narrator who tells his stories through the Japanese male pronoun *boku* ('I'). The few available literary analyses of gender representations in Murakami's work have generally led to two critical conclusions about his character construction. First, that his fiction mirrors Japanese patriarchy and second, that he positions female characters traditionally as objects for male subjectivities and sexualities.

While some of Murakami's stories do fit such generalizations, these criticisms appear incomplete. Murakami's works are not just '*boku*-stories' (male-narrated-I-stories) that reproduce established gender roles and exploit the female through the male narrative. His works also portray female main characters, protagonists and narrators that act as subjects in their own worlds, using their own language and first person pronoun (*watashi*) to convey stories of their own, as evident in *Sleep* (1989), *The ice man* (1991) and *The little green monster* (1991).

Murakami's female characters are therefore not limited to stories about the 'mysterious young girl' and 'disappeared woman' as

told by his well-known male *boku*-narrators. Readers also encounter female characters that are housewife-narrators and strong-willed protagonists, a character development that mirrors women's shifting position and paradoxical empowerment in contemporary Japanese society and feminist thought.

Dr Gitte Marianne Hansen is a lecturer in Japanese Studies at Newcastle University and an Associated Researcher at Nordic Institute of Asia Studies (NIAS), University of Copenhagen. An AHRC Leadership Fellow (Feb 2017-July 2018), Dr Hansen is currently working on the project *Gendering Murakami Haruki: Characters, Transmedial Productions and Contemporary Japan*. She holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge and studied and worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant to Professor Norihiro Kato at Waseda University in Tokyo (2004-2009). Her work focuses on Japanese culture since 1980, especially issues related to gender and character construction in literature, manga and other forms of narrative and visual culture. She is the author of *Femininity, Self-harm and Eating Disorders in Japan: Navigating contradiction in narrative and visual culture* (Routledge, 2016).

Joint Lunch with JCCI: with special guest Nick Clegg MP

Wednesday 21 June 2017

12.30pm for 1.00pm

National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HE

£50 per head

Members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests

Booking deadline: Friday 16 June



On Wednesday, 29 March 2017, Prime Minister Theresa May invoked Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, formally beginning negotiations on Britain's departure from the European Union.

In the run up to the EU Referendum, Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP – former Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Democrats – was a leading campaigner to remain in the EU. Recently appointed Liberal Democrat Brexit spokesperson, Mr Clegg has raised a number of challenges to the government on their proposed Brexit strategy, questioning the impact of a 'hard Brexit' on both the UK economy and wider geopolitical relations.

For their second joint lunch of 2017, the Japan Society and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK are delighted to welcome Mr Clegg, who will speak on the key issues facing the UK during the Brexit process. He will also consider the role of business and what companies can do to influence the ongoing negotiations.

Nick Clegg MP is a Liberal Democrat politician who served as Deputy Prime Minister in Britain's first post war Coalition Government from 2010 to 2015 and as Leader of the Liberal Democrats from 2007 to 2015. He is the Member of Parliament for Sheffield Hallam, where he was first elected in 2005, and was previously a Member of the European Parliament.

During the coalition years he established himself as the highest profile pro-European voice in British politics and is well known and respected in capitals across the continent. Following the UK referendum on EU membership in June 2016, Nick returned to the Liberal Democrat front bench as Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade in order to hold the Government to account over its plans for Brexit.

Following a two-course lunch, Mr Clegg will speak for about 20 minutes, after which there will be time for questions until 2.30pm.

In association with:



Miso Inspired Supper Club – With Japan Society and Clearspring – Hosted by Jay Morjaria

Tuesday 27 June 2017

7.00pm

Printworks Kitchen
20-26 Rosebery Avenue
London EC1R 4SX

£35 – Japan Society members
£40 – non-members

Booking deadline: Friday 23 June 2017



We are delighted to announce an informal Japan Society supper club, organised in partnership with Clearspring and chef, Jay Morjaria. Responding to requests from our members, this event combines an exciting dining experience with a relaxed opportunity to meet and get to know other members. We look forward to seeing you there, but please be quick – places are limited!

Inspired by Clearspring's extensive organic vegan range, Jay Morjaria has created a special well-balanced menu which features miso at its heart. Each dish, from the starter to the pudding, incorporates miso! Start the evening off with a glass of sake, after which you will enjoy a five course, tapas-style meal, served as sharing platters for groups of four people. A glass of prosecco will be served with the meal, and other drinks may be purchased from the bar. At the end of the evening you will go home with a goodie bag from our partners, Clearspring.

The menu* at this event includes:

1. Tacos – crispy tofu with a hatcho miso mole, pickles, guacamole, coriander
2. Cauliflower fritters with a chipotle & barley miso sauce

3. Seasonal greens with a brown rice miso satay sauce
4. Miso mushroom ragu with penne Caesar salad with miso ranch dressing, garlic and herb croutons.
5. Chocolate brownie with miso

*Depending on availability of seasonal ingredients, this menu may be subject to last minute change. Please ensure you notify us of any food allergies when you book.

Jay Morjaria is a Chef, F&B consultant, Author and founder of Sutra Kitchen, Central London's first Vegetarian and Vegan cooking school. Jay works with well-known brands and start-ups to advise them how to create innovative dishes and build new restaurant concepts.

The **Clearspring** brand promises premium quality Japanese specialities and organic fine foods that are authentic, versatile and support good health. Made to traditional recipes by master artisan producers, they bring you full, authentic flavours of some of the most exciting food cultures from around the world.

In association with:

Clearspring

Japan Society Golf Tournament 2017

Thursday 29 June 2017

8.30am

Essendon Country Club
Bedwell Park
Essendon
Hatfield AL9 6HN

Japan Society Members and their guests:
£70 per head (all-in price for the day)

Booking deadline: Monday 19 June 2017



The Japan Society's Annual Golf Tournament, for the Asprey and Garrard Plate, is due to take place at Essendon Country Club on Thursday 29 June, with a shotgun start at 9.30am. The format will be Stableford and players have to be ready by 9.00am for transport to their allocated teeoffs.

The all-in price is £70, including breakfast, 18 holes of golf and a two-course lunch on completion.

BDO, a leading member of the Japan Society, is once again generously providing the prizes and there will be competitions for 'Nearest the Pin' and 'Longest Drive'; a mobile halfway house will be on hand to provide refreshments.

Designed by Fred Hawtree, the old Course was opened about forty-one years ago and is a testament to parkland courses. Undulating in nature, the course provides a real test for golfers of all abilities whilst they can enjoy the spectacular views.

Probably the most demanding par 5 is the 12th, with tee shots halted by a sloping, narrow, tree lined fairway. The final hole, whilst being a long par 3, has a green well below the tees and will hopefully ensure a good end to a most enjoyable round

In association with:



Japan Airlines / Football Samurai Academy 5-a-side Tournament

Sunday 2 July 2017

4.00pm

Park Lodge
North Acton Playing Field
Noel Road
London W3 0JF

Free – Japan Society members and their guests only

Booking deadline: Friday 23 June



Players Needed!

The Japan Society is once again recruiting members for a team to compete in the Football Samurai Academy 5-a-side Tournament. We are looking to improve our semi-final appearance at last year's event. Whether you currently play football or enjoyed playing at school, university or for a club, we need you. Players of all abilities, men and women, are welcome, and if demand is sufficient we will form two teams.

Now in its third year, the tournament takes place on the Football Samurai Academy's 3G artificial pitch in North Acton, following their U6 and U13 5-a-side tournaments

earlier in the day. Players are required to wear full football kit with either trainers or astro trainers (no football or rugby boots). Matches are 10 minutes long (NO half time) with rolling substitutions and teams will consist of up to 10 players.

During the day there will be food and drink stalls, community groups and many other activities, and the Samurai Academy's five adjacent tennis courts will be open for everyone. Even if you aren't playing, please do come and support us!

Companies interested in fielding their own teams should contact Samurai Academy directly at hello@footsamurai.com.

In association with:



Japan Society Book Club: *The Samurai* by Shusaku Endo

Monday 10 July 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month

WINNER OF JAPAN'S PRESTIGIOUS
AKUTAGAWA PRIZE



I Want to Kick You in the Back follows Hatsu, who is in her first year of high school and having a hard time fitting in with her classmates. She meets Ninagawa, an outcast who is obsessed with a model/pop idol but who has no interest in the actual girls around him. Gradually, Hatsu develops an impulse towards Ninagawa, not of love or infatuation, but one that can best be described as a desire to kick him in the back. This novella does a great job of exploring the ambivalent feelings of a teenager in search of a meaningful relationship.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

Carmen Blacker Lecture 2017 – The archaeology of Ritual Sites and the Origins of Japanese Shrines and Festivals

Monday 17 July 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



For this year's Carmen Blacker Lecture we are delighted to welcome Mamoru Saso, Professor of Japanese Archaeology and History of Japanese Religion at the Kokugakuin University and Director of the Kokugakuin University Museum. The Carmen Blacker Lecture Series honours the memory and scholarship of Carmen Blacker (1924-2009) and is organised jointly by the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the Japan Society. Each year a senior scholar is invited to speak on a theme related to Blacker's research in the area of Japanese religion and folklore.

Shinto shrines are places of worship for many in Japan. Considered sacred, pilgrims visit shrines to commune with the tutelary spirits. Rituals and festivals are held regularly to maintain harmony between people and nature.

This talk will focus on Omiwa Shrine, the oldest surviving shrine in Japan, and Munakata Grand Shrine and the associated ritual sites on the island of Okinoshima. Through images of landscapes and excavated artefacts, Professor

Mamoru Saso will discuss the formation of ritual sites during the fourth and fifth centuries and the relationship between the environment and the kami spirits nurtured through festivals. He will also explore how ritual practices played an important part in state formation and in the development of Japanese mythology.

Mamoru Saso received his PhD in Religious Studies from Kokugakuin University in 2006. Since 1985, he assumed various roles for the Board of Education at Chiba Prefectural Government, including Senior Researcher for Awa Museum and Head of Cultural Education and Properties Division, Department of Educational Promotion. In 2009 he became Associate Professor at Kokugakuin University and then Professor in 2010. In 2015, he was appointed Director of Kokugakuin University Museum. His recent publications include *Nihon Kodai no Saishi Kōkōgaku* (Archaeology of Ritual and Religion in Ancient Japan, Yoshikawakōbunkan, 2012) and *Kami to Shisha no Kōkōgaku* (Archaeology of Kami and the Dead, ed., Yoshikawakōbunkan, 2016). He won the Society of Shinto Studies Award in 2004.

Co-organised by:



SAINSBURY INSTITUTE
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

The Present and Future of Financial Technology – A Tool for Financial Inclusion with Doreming

Tuesday 25 July 2017

6.30pm

Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc
Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6BA

Free of charge – Booking essential

Booking deadline: 21 July 2017



We increasingly hear references to ‘FinTech’ in our everyday. No longer solely a topic of interest to the financial or computing media, it is frequently the subject of lifestyle and news stories.

London has positioned itself at the centre of the FinTech revolution. Initiatives from national and local government, as well as financial and technological industries serve to attract investment and industry leaders driving change both for us as individuals and as businesses. Among those working in this field are significant numbers of people who have come to London from Japan.

Through a series of linked seminars, the Japan Society is celebrating this new phase in the UK-Japan relationship, while exploring the opportunities and challenges presented by the new technology in many different spheres of activity. Focussing on four people, working under the broad umbrella of FinTech, we will investigate some of the ways in which it will have an impact our future lives.

This first seminar will feature **Tomohiko Nakamura**, Country Manager of Doreming

Ltd, UK. A spin-off from Kizuna Japan, Doreming provides real time payroll services to companies, which allow them to give employees easy access to their earnings and greater control of cash flow. Operating as a social business, Doreming aims to increase financial inclusion and support people with limited access to banking services.

In his presentation, Tomohiko Nakamura will share his own experience, as entrepreneur and now as UK representative of a Japanese start-up company. He will look at the contribution financial technology services can make in meeting the challenge of social inclusion and helping ‘to end poverty in all its forms’, the first of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Following an open session for questions and discussion, the evening will conclude with an informal networking reception.

The series will continue in the autumn with seminars led by Akio Kurata founder and CEO of Equity-X, Ali Adnan co-founder of Authlete and Makoto Fukuhara, Managing Director of Skwile. Each seminar will focus on a different application of financial technology.

In association with:

 Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc

Doreming

Tanabata: Celebrate the Japanese Star Festival at Kew Gardens

Wednesday 2 & Thursday 3 August 2017

10.30am – 4.30pm

Bamboo Garden and Minka House
Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew
Richmond

Standard Kew admission charge

No booking required – just turn up on the day!



Tanabata is a Japanese festival that celebrates the coming together of two stars, Orihime and Hikoboshi, who can only meet once a year, on the 7th day of the 7th month. In collaboration with Kew Gardens, the Embassy of Japan and Japan House London, Japan Society welcomes all visitors to once again celebrate Tanabata with us and to enjoy workshops, activities and performances marking this ancient summer event.

Try your hand at Japanese calligraphy and write your wishes on colourful *tanzaku* (wish strips) during our all-day workshops at the Minka House. Learn how to make the best origami, follow the Tanabata Treasure Trail and discover the fascinating story of Tanabata through *kamishibai* (Japanese storyboard theatre). You can also visit the Open Weave Tea Room to observe a tea ceremony and try a cup of Japanese tea. During the day, taiko drummers will perform in the bamboo garden and other locations at Kew.

Don't miss out on taking part in the Tanabata festival!

Tanabata Festival Programme (tbc)

Events	Times
Origami workshops	All day (drop-in)
Calligraphy workshops	All day (drop-in)
Try on a yukata	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11.00 - 12.30• 14.00 - 16.00
Bamboo tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11.00• 14.00
Tanabata <i>kamishibai</i> storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12.00 - 12.30• 13.30 - 14.00• 15.00 - 15.30
Tea ceremony + tea tasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11.30 - 12.00• 12.30 - 13.00• 15.00 - 15.30• 16.00 - 16.30
Tea room lectures by Shinichiro Hashiguchi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13.00 - 13.30• 15.30 - 16.00
Joji Hirota and the London Taiko Drummers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11.00 - 11.15 (Orangery)• 13.00 - 13.15 (Palm House)• 13.30 Procession to Minka• 14.30 - 14.50 (Minka House)• 15.30 - 15.45 (Japanese Gateway)

In association with:

Embassy of
Japan
in the UK

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew


JAPAN HOUSE
LONDON

Japanese Whisky Tasting at Anzu Restaurant

Monday 7 August 2017

6:30pm for 7:00pm

Anzu
1 Norris Street
St. James's Market Square
London SW1Y 4RJ

£45 per person

Booking deadline: Friday 4 August 2017



Due to popular demand our Japanese whisky tasting event is returning this year, hosted by Anzu, a new Japanese restaurant in the heart of London. Japan Society is pleased to offer its members and guests the opportunity to experience the distinctive, wonderful tastes of Japanese whiskies whilst meeting old friends and making new ones.

An exclusive five course Japanese tasting menu has been created to match five exquisite Japanese whiskies, which include a 12 year old single malt whisky and whiskies from the prestigious distillery Nikka.

With an intimate atmosphere and luxury dining room, places are limited so please book quickly. Non-members are also very welcome to join us for this event.

Anzu is a newly opened Japanese bar and restaurant located centrally in St James's Market Square. Offering an *a la carte* brasserie-style menu which can be paired beautifully with cocktails, Japanese whiskies or sake.

The menu* at this event includes:

1. 12 year old Single Malt served with Pork and King Crab Gyozas
2. Nikka Pure Malt Black served with Seared Tuna with Sesame and Pickled Daikon
3. Akashi White Oak Sherry Cask served with Runner Beans and Black Goma
4. Nikka from the Barrel served with Lamb Rump and Red Chilli Miso
5. Nikka Coffey Malt served with Miso Caramel Ice Cream Sando, Chocolate Guinness Cake and Caramel Popcorn.

*Depending on availability of seasonal ingredients, this menu may be subject to last minute change. **Please ensure you notify us of any food allergies and dietary requirements when you book.** An alternative vegetarian menu is also available for this event.

In association with:

ANZU

Japan Society Book Club: *Hiroshima* by John Hersey

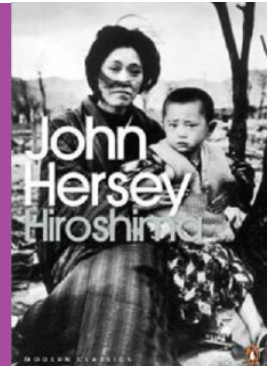
Monday 14 August 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month



Hiroshima is a book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Hersey. It tells the stories of six survivors of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, covering a period of time immediately prior to and one year after the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. It was originally published in *The New Yorker*. Although the story was originally scheduled to be published over four issues, the entire edition of August 31, 1946 was dedicated to the article. The article and subsequent book are regarded as one of the earliest examples of the New Journalism, in which the story-telling techniques of fiction are adapted to non-fiction reporting.

John Richard Hersey (1914-1993) was born in Tientsin, China, to American missionaries. He graduated from Yale University and studied eighteenth century English literature in Cambridge University. From 1939 to '45 he worked for *Time* magazine, and returned to China as a war correspondent in Chungking. From 1943 to 1945, Hersey worked out of

Sicily and Russia, and in 1944 he published the Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Bell for Adano*, the story of an occupied village in Italy. In 1946, he published *Hiroshima*, adjudged the finest piece of American journalism of the 20th century by a 36-member panel associated with New York University's journalism department.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

In conversation with Philip Harper, Japan's first and only British toji (sake brew-master)

Thursday 17 August 2017

6:30pm

Daiwa Foundation Japan House
13/14 Cornwall Terrace (Outer Circle)
London NW1 4QP

£30 British Sake Association and Japan Society members
£35 guests and others

Booking deadline: Monday 14 August 2017

To register your place, please email events@britishsakeassociation.org



Toji is usually translated as “master brewer” referring to the person responsible for the entire brewing process in a particular sake brewery. Highly skilled in the craft of sake brewing, a *toji* has to work over the years to gain the necessary knowledge and training about the practical business of producing sake and, as a final step, to pass an exam on topics such as fermentation and chemistry to qualify as a sake master brewer.

In collaboration with the British Sake Association, Japan Society is pleased to invite its members to an evening with Philip Harper, Japan's first and only British *toji*. This is a very special joint event: expect a discussion and tasting of aged sakes, temperature and yeasts.

Accompanying the sake, we will serve a mixed sushi bento box with a side dish of broccoli and aubergine sesame sauce (vegetarian sushi is also available).

In an informal atmosphere, Philip will talk about his experience in the sake world and discuss the production process of a sake brewery. It will also be a chance for you to ask Philip all those questions you have wanted to ask about sake.

Philip Harper was born in Birmingham and raised in Cornwall. After graduating in English Literature at Oxford University, he went to Japan in 1988 on the Ministry of Education's JET Programme, and worked as an English teacher in public schools in Osaka. Following this experience, he started working at Ume no Yado, a Japanese sake brewery in a rural town within Nara Prefecture. After around ten years of work and training, he qualified as a master brewer and has worked at breweries in prefectures including Ibaraki, Osaka and Kyoto. Philip is the author of *The Insider's Guide to Sake* (1998) and *The Book of Sake: A Connoisseurs Guide* (2006), both published by Kodansha International.

Interested in sake? Japan Society is preparing more sake-related events for this autumn. Please check our website www.japansociety.org.uk for further details or follow us on:



JapanSocietyLondon



japansocietylon

In association with:



The Art of Nishiki Weaving in Japan. Preservation and Restoration of Yarn Dyed Textiles – with Amane Tatsumura

Monday 21 August 2017

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



Nishiki-ori brocades are magnificently elaborate and multi-coloured figured silk textiles, hand-woven on *takabata* looms, which were introduced to Japan from China over 1,200 years ago. Reflecting the high monetary value of the product, the character for *nishiki* (錦) is made up of two other characters, 金 meaning gold or money and 帛, meaning silk. The word *nishiki* has historically been used to describe something of great beauty, in phrases such as '*nishiki no mihata*' banners flown by imperial troops; '*kokyo ni nishiki o kazaru*' (lit. decorate the hometown with *nishiki* brocade) used to describe someone returning home in triumph; and '*kinshu*' to refer to spectacular autumn leaves (*kin* is an alternative reading of the character *nishiki*). However, today *nishiki* weaving is in real danger, with a lack of skilled craft workers to carry on the tradition.

We are delighted to welcome Amane Tatsumura to give the Society's August lecture. Tatsumura, who is actively working to preserve and continue the techniques used in yarn-dyed weaving, will speak about the revival of this tradition. The Tatsumura family has

studied the various traditional skills involved in the historic production of woven textiles, such as methods of spinning cocoons and the construction of looms and other equipment, and as far as possible use those techniques in their weaving today. Through these efforts to restore the traditional methods, it has been possible to create employment for craftspeople whose work has been in decline, while preserving techniques and ensuring that these skills are passed on and recorded.

Amane Tatsumura was born in 1974, the oldest son of Koho Tatsumura, one of the leading masters of the art of *nishiki* weaving in Japan. After graduating from Tokyo Zokei University, he concentrated on the weaving of *nishiki* brocade, learning how to weave on a *takabata* loom. Amane Tatsumura has followed in his father's footsteps in continuing this tradition and has worked to restore the yarn-dyed weaving tradition and promote its growth. He is a special lecturer attached to the Project Faculty of Doshisha University.

Joint Lunch with the JCCI: The UK-Japan 21st Century Group's 34th Annual Meeting

Thursday 7 September 2017

12.30 for 1.00pm

The Cavalry & Guards Club
127 Piccadilly
London W1J 7PX

£57 per head for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests.

Booking deadline: Monday 4 September

Payment must be made in advance, by bank transfer, credit/debit card or cheque made payable to the Japan Society.



The guests at the next Japan Society and JCCI Joint Lunch will be the co-Chairmen of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group, Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki and The Rt Hon the Lord Lansley, together with other British and Japanese members of the Group.

The 21st Century Group is a non-Governmental forum. It was set up in 1984 to help cement closer links between British and Japanese politicians, business and media figures, and academics. It meets each year, alternating between Japan and the UK, to discuss issues of mutual national interest, reporting direct after each meeting to the British and Japanese Prime Ministers. Membership of the group varies from year to year but includes Members of the UK Parliament and of the Diet, experts on the issues being discussed, senior business representatives and well-known media commentators.

For this lunch, members of the 21st Century Group will be spread through tables of ten, otherwise made up of members of the Japan Society and of the JCCI; all attendees will be allocated seats. The co-Chairmen will make brief speeches, but the aim of the lunch will be to enable the members of the Society and the Chamber to discuss current issues

of interest in UK/Japan relations directly with the members of the Group. There will be designated rapporteurs on each table, who can feed back any specific points after the lunch as necessary.

We are indebted to Honda Motor Europe Ltd who have generously funded the participation of delegates from the 21st Century Group.

This is an important event: dialogue with the parliamentary and other delegates who will be going straight on to debate the same issues over the weekend, will give our members a chance to provide input to key questions and also to ensure that the members of the Group are aware of the issues faced by those involved in UK-Japan relations here in the UK.

In association with:



supported by:



Japan Society Book Club: *The Moon over the Mountain* by Atsushi Nakajima

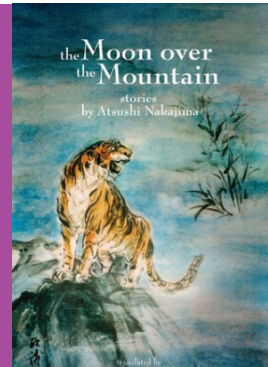
Monday 11 September 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The Book Club is held on the second Monday of every month



Ancient China is illustriously brought to life in these folk tales, legends, and stories of historical figures. When they first appeared in Japanese periodicals in 1942 and 1943, they sparked a promising career for author Atsushi Nakajima, who tragically died of asthma complicated by severe pneumonia shortly thereafter, but whose work has continued to grow in Japanese regard ever since. This collection marks the first time these works have been translated into English.

Atsushi Nakajima was a Japanese writer known for his meticulously researched short stories based on Ancient China. Nakajima was born in Tokyo, and his father was a scholar specialising in Classical Chinese. Nakajima was sent to Palau in 1941 to teach Japanese but returned in 1942 after being tormented by severe asthma, and died later that year after contracting pneumonia. He completed one major novel, *Light, Wind and Dreams*, based on the life of Robert Louis Stevenson.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

History and Reception of Horoscope Astrology in Japan – from esoteric tradition to the boom in fortune telling, with Ryuji Kagami

Tuesday 12 September 2017

6:30pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



Western horoscope astrology has its roots in the astronomical observations of ancient Babylonia. From there it spread, over the course of many years, to Greece, India, the Arab world, Europe and China. It was brought to Japan by Kukai, one of the founder of esoteric Buddhism, as part of the manuscripts he brought back from China such as the *Sukuyo-kyo*. During the Heian period it gained in popularity alongside the Japanese divination system Onmyōdō, which had its origins in Taoism and the theories of yin and yang and the five elements.

Though having the same point of origin, horoscope astrology developed in different directions on the east and west edges of the European continent, beginning to converge again in the early 20th century. The astronomer and mathematician, Aritaka Kumamoto, studied in Europe with funding from the Meiji Government. Here he encountered the teachings of Rudolf Steiner and, in the UK met the 'fathers of modern astrology', Alan Leo and Sepharial. Upon returning to Japan, Kumamoto published on and translated

European astrology texts, introducing the horoscope astrology to the modern Japanese audience.

Ryuji Kagami, one of Japan's leading astrologers, will trace the history of horoscope astrology in Japan from its roots in esoteric Buddhism to the contemporary boom in fortune telling. He will also reflect on the reception of this astrology in Japan, bringing to light a little known chapter in the history of UK-Japan cultural exchange.

Ryuji Kagami was born in Kyoto. He graduated from International Christian University with a master's degree in comparative cultures and is a researcher and translator of astrology and psychology. Kagami began contributing to astrology magazines as a high school student and is one of Japan's foremost astrologers. He writes astrology columns for popular magazines and does astrology reports. He is a board member of Japan Transpersonal Association, and a guest professor at St. Agnes University, Kyoto, and Kyoto Bunkyo University.

Japan Society Rose Fund – an update from Yuji Suzuki, Sanaburi Foundation

Thursday 14 September 2017

6:00 for 6.30pm



Suntrap
91 Bell Street
Marylebone
London NW1 6TL

Free – booking recommended

Japan Society members will well remember their feelings on hearing of the devastating earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011, and watching with great sadness as the tragic aftermath unfolded over the subsequent days and weeks. Members and many others immediately responded with generous donations to support the recovery of the region.

The Japan Society's Tohoku Earthquake Relief Fund raised over £750,000 and we worked with the Sanaburi Foundation in Sendai to identify and support local activity throughout the region. Known in Japan as the Rose Fund, this support was distributed to local NPOs and voluntary organisations working with members of their communities to meet needs identified by those on the ground.

We are delighted to welcome Yuji Suzuki, Secretary General of the Sanaburi Foundation, who will be passing through London on a short visit. He will be joining us for an informal session, in which he will speak about some of the projects supported by

the Fund as well as reflecting on the current situation in Tohoku, six and a half years after the disaster. Although short notice, we are sure that many members and others who contributed to the Fund will be interested to hear both about achievements since 2011 and about challenges still remaining.

Yuji Suzuki is the Senior Managing Director & Secretary General of the Sanaburi Foundation, a community foundation established after 11 March 2011 to address community issues and to serve as a local intermediary organization for recovery in Miyagi, Fukushima and Iwate Prefectures. The Foundation supports the business community with start-up funds for entrepreneurs, works to increase donor and civic engagement, makes grants or loans in response to locally assessed needs, and promotes and facilitates collaboration and partnerships among individuals, businesses, non-profit organisations and government. Prior to his current position, Yuji worked for the Japan Office of International Youth Foundation and helped corporations develop their CSR programs.

In association with:



公益財団法人

地域創造基金さなぶり

Yuko Nasaka and Kim Lim Exhibition at Sotheby's S|2 Gallery – A Private View with Deputy Director Bianca Chu

Friday 22 September 2017

10:30am

S|2 Gallery
31 St. George Street
London W1S 2FJ

Members of the Japan Society only
Free – booking essential

Booking deadline: Wednesday 20 September 2017
Places are limited so early booking is recommended



In addition to already well-known figures such as Yayoi Kusama and Yoko Ono, a number of other Japanese women artists from the same generation have been “rediscovered” in the past decade. Yuko Nasaka was one of the first and few women to be invited by leader Jiro Yoshihara to join the Gutai art group in 1963. Though she has exhibited widely in Japan since then, her work is rarely seen in exhibitions outside her home country. The presentation of her work at Sotheby's S|2 Gallery in London is her first exhibition in Britain.

Japan Society members are invited to a special viewing of this exhibition led by Bianca Chu, Deputy Director of Sotheby's S|2 Gallery, who will give a brief insight of the works and career of Nasaka and contextualise the exhibition within the field of Post-war Japanese Art. The tour will also include a viewing of the exhibition by Singaporean-British sculptor and printmaker Kim Lim, who is best known for her exploration of form through balanced wood structures and detailed stone-carved sculptures.

Following the tour of the exhibition, light refreshment with tea, coffee and pastries will be served.

Yuko Nasaka was born in Osaka in 1938. After graduating from Osaka Shoin Women's University, Nasaka began experimenting with abstraction during the early 1960s. She was invited by the mentor and leader of the Gutai Art Association, Jiro Yoshihara to join the art group and presented her first solo exhibition at the Gutai Pinacotheca in 1964. Nasaka would continue to play a significant part in the critical transformation of Gutai over the years.

Kim Lim was born in Singapore in 1936. She studied sculpture and wood carving at St. Martin's in London and developed as a print maker at the Slade. In 1979, the first retrospective of Lim's work was held at the Roundhouse Gallery and Lim's stone sculptures were also exhibited at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 1995. Editions of Lim's works such as her *Intervals* series from 1973 are part of the Tate collection.

Bianca Chu is deputy director at S|2 Gallery, the private sale and gallery arm of Sotheby's Contemporary Art Department. Before joining Sotheby's this year, she worked as Associate Director for Christie's, engaging with established collectors as well as contemporary art aficionados and new collectors.

In association with:

Sotheby's EST. 1744 **S | 2**

Ayakashi – An Evening of Unnerving Japanese Literature on Stage

Saturday 23 September 2017

7:00 for 7:30pm

The Horse Hospital
Colonnade, Bloomsbury
London WC1N 1JD

£15 advance ticket - booking deadline: Wednesday 20 September 2017
£18 on the door (Please note that only cash will be accepted on the day)



Japanese folklore and literature take to the stage in a one-time performance of *Ayakashi*, a double bill of ghost storytelling and staged reading, specially picked to match the dungeon-like beauty of The Horse Hospital in Russell Square. In collaboration with theatre company Doubtful Sound, the Japan Society is pleased to present this unique show in which actors from London and Tokyo collaborate in adapting and reading Japanese modern stories and traditional legends on stage.

The evening will start with storytelling of Japanese folktales from Yamagata and Ishikawa. Doubtful Sound has chosen some of the darker tales from their repertoire for this event. Growing private parts, snake wives, dancing necromantic cats, and 'the woman who wouldn't eat' all feature in these tales from rural Japan.

Following the storytelling, Japanese actress Kisato Nishi will perform a staged reading of Natsume Soseki's *The Tower of London*. The story combines Natsume's real observations of the Tower of London while he was living here in the early 1900s with fictional visions the tower conjured up.

Doubtful Sound is a bilingual theatre company from Tokyo, now based in London. They create theatre works inspired by traditional Japanese stories and folktales from around Japan.

Kisato Nishi studied at the Faculty of Letters Gakushuin University, graduating with an MA in Cultural Studies on Corporeal and Visual Representation. She currently works at the Drama Studio of the New National Theatre in Tokyo.

Shinako Wakatsuki is an actress and co-founder of Doubtful Sound, working with both the Tokyo and London troupes. She trained in Nihon-buyo from the age of three, and graduated from Royal Holloway with an MA in theatre studies.

The show runs approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, including one 15 minute interval. Language: English & Japanese (with English subtitles).

Japan Matsuri 2017

Sunday 24 September 2017

10.00am – 8.00pm

Trafalgar Square
Westminster
London
WC2N 5DN

Free



London's very own festival of Japanese culture – Japan Matsuri – returns on Sunday, 24 September 2017 in Trafalgar Square in the centre of the city. A regular fixture now in the London calendar, this free annual festival brings people together to enjoy Japanese food, music, dance, and activities for all the family.

Everything kicks off at 10.00am and runs through till 8.00pm. With two stages, there is plenty to see all day with an exciting programme of martial arts, the thrilling sounds of taiko drumming and festival dance. There is also the opportunity to join in with the ever popular Nodojiman karaoke contest (application deadline 3 September).

The programme of stage performance for this year is still being finalised, and will feature exciting new acts as well as the return

of favourites from previous Matsuri. Follow Japan Matsuri on Facebook (@Japan.Matsuri. London) or on www.japanmatsuri.com for all the latest news.

Enjoy the atmosphere with Japanese festival food from the numerous stalls. Join in the fun in the family activities area with games and dressing in kimono. Try your hand at Japanese cartoons on the manga wall.

Japan Matsuri is organised jointly by the Japan Association, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Japan Society and Nippon Club, with support from the Embassy of Japan and Japan House London.

Come and meet Japan Society staff at our stall on the north terrace in front of the National Gallery (opposite St. Martin in the Fields).

In association with:



JAPAN ASSOCIATION
英国日本人会



Praemium Imperiale - El Anatsui at the Royal Academy

Monday 25 September 2017

8.30 - 9.45am

Academics' Room
Royal Academy of Arts
Burlington House
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD

Free of charge
Japan Society members and a guest



In conjunction with the Japan Art Association and October Gallery, we are delighted to invite members to an exclusive arts event to celebrate the recent announcement of the 2017 recipients of the Praemium Imperiale.

The 2017 Sculpture laureate is the Ghanaian artist El Anatsui, whose work is currently showing in the Academics' Room of the Royal Academy of Arts. We are very fortunate to be able to offer a few places to a short talk by Gerard Houghton, Director of Special Projects at October Gallery, who has worked closely with El Anatsui since 1991 and is particularly knowledgeable about the artist's activities in Japan.

Every year, **The Japan Art Association** gives the Praemium Imperiale awards to artists in five different categories (Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Music and Theatre/Film) in recognition of their international impact in their chosen field. This year's recipients were announced on 12 September. Next year will see the Praemium Imperiale celebrate its 30th anniversary and the Royal Academy of Arts, their 250th anniversary.

El Anatsui's complex artwork defies traditional categories. He is well known for malleable sculptures created from discarded metal, such as cassava graters or liquor bottle tops. Often large in scale, their size and luminous nature can render them immersive. His transformation of these found materials enhances their significance and imbues them with a certain dignity – something he deeply values. His long held opinion is that “art is something that grows from the environment, it is not something you have to create.” Born in Ghana, he moved to Nigeria in 1975, where he is based today. He has been collected by major international museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tate Modern, the Centre Pompidou and the Smithsonian Institution, among many others. In 2015, he was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale. He was the subject of large-scale retrospective in Japan that travelled to several venues (2010–11). In 2015, a major work was included in the exhibition *The Contemporary 2: Who Interprets the World?* at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan. He is the first Ghanaian recipient of the Praemium Imperiale.

Fukushima Devil Fish: Susumu Katsumata's Anti-Nuclear Manga – with Ryan Holmberg

Monday 25 September 2017

6:45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



One of the regulars of the legendary alternative manga monthly *Garo* in the magazine's heyday of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Susumu Katsumata (1943-2007) has the curious distinction of having risen within the world of political cartooning and literary comics while studying toward a graduate degree in nuclear physics in Tokyo.

While best known for his stories about life and myth in the Japanese countryside, Katsumata also drew frequently about political and social issues since the mid 1960s, including numerous satirical strips about nuclear arms and the influence of big science within Japanese universities. After the anti-nuclear power movement gelled in Japan in the late 70s, Katsumata began illustrating critical science books about the history and dangers of nuclear power. He also drew frequent humor strips on related topics, as well as moving stories about the "nuclear gypsies" who maintained Japan's nuclear plants under oppressive work conditions.

This talk will survey Katsumata's work on the subject of nuclear power, which is the

largest, most diverse, and most trenchant such oeuvre in Japanese visual art prior to the 2011 meltdowns in Fukushima. The talk will serve as a preview of two forthcoming publications, a collection of Katsumata's manga titled *Fukushima Devil Fish* (SISJAC and Breakdown Press) and a history of antinuclear thought, protest, and cartooning in Japan around Katsumata's career, titled *No Nukes for Dinner: How One Japanese Cartoonist and His Country Learned to Distrust the Atom* (publisher TBD).

Ryan Holmberg is an Academic Associate of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture. As a freelance art historian and critic, he is a frequent contributor to *The Comics Journal*, *Artforum International*, and *Art in America*. As an editor and translator of manga, he has worked with Breakdown Press, *Drawn & Quarterly*, *Retrofit Comics*, *PictureBox Inc*, and *New York Review Comics*. He is also the author of *Garo Manga: The First Decade, 1964–1973* (Center for Book Arts, 2010) and *No Nukes for Dinner: How One Japanese Cartoonist and His Country Learned to Distrust the Atom* (forthcoming).

In association with:



SAINSBURY INSTITUTE
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

Landscapes of lights and shadows. Legacies and innovation in the production of *chochin* – with craft-maker Kenichi Fushitani

Wednesday 27 September 2017

6.30pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

£5 per person

Booking deadline: Monday 25 September 2017



The craft of making *chochin*, the Japanese paper lantern, is said to date back to the Muromachi period (c. 1333 – 1573) when it was introduced to Japan from China. At that time it took the form of *kago chochin*, a basket lantern made of a rigid frame of bamboo and covered with paper. By the end of the Muromachi era, a collapsible version of the *chochin* appeared and was mainly used in Buddhist temples and funerary practices.

In the Edo period (1603–1867), paper lanterns were widely produced and became affordable, entering into the everyday life of common people and businesses. During this period, the city of Nagoya was one of the centres in the manufacturing of *chochin*, thanks to its good supply of *washi* and bamboo, the main materials for producing paper lanterns. Moreover, the increasing population of the city provided the workforce needed to produce the component parts of *chochin*.

At this event, Japan Society warmly welcomes Kenichi Fushitani, the second generation of *chochin* craftmaking company Fushitani Shoten in Nagoya. Fushitani will look back at the history and techniques of paper lantern manufacturing in Nagoya and at how the *chochin* style of lighting has shaped the lives of Japanese people. Employing traditional techniques passed on in his family since the Edo period, Fushitani will also offer a live demonstration of the handmade process of making a lantern.

Kenichi Fushitani is the head of Fushitani Shoten. This family company was founded by his father Koshichi Fushitani who decided to start his own business in 1962, after serving a ten-year apprenticeship in the traditional Edo techniques of *chochin*. As his eldest son, Ken Fushitani is now the second generation of the family to lead the company. He values using the traditional techniques, materials and tools, but also wants to stay relevant to modern life. Although *chochin* for religious purposes (for funerals, festivals & shrines) are still their main products, his goal is to also make high quality items for people to use in their everyday life.

In association with:



Japan Society Book Club: *The Eternal Zero* by Naoki Hyakuta

Monday 9 October 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The book club is held on the second Monday of every month



'Your grandfather was a coward.' That is the angry recollection with which a former Zero fighter pilot greets two Japanese siblings who know next to nothing about the war in the Pacific. The testimony rattles and confuses aspiring lawyer Kentaro and journalist Keiko since the only thing they know about their grandfather, Kyuzo Miyabe is that he died a kamikaze. At the heart of this book is a mystery about a long-dead man, his actions and intentions, and his understanding of the meaning of wartime loyalty and sacrifice.

Naoki Hyakuta (b. 1956) is a Japanese author and screenwriter, best known for his 2006 novel *The Eternal Zero*, his controversial period as a governor of government broadcaster NHK, and his denial of the Nanking Massacre.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

Japanese Castles and the Making of Regional, National and World Heritage – with Oleg Benesch

Monday 16 October 2017

6:45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



Castles are among Japan's most iconic structures, and are recognized worldwide. They are powerful symbols of local, regional, and national identity. This exalted status of Japan's castles obscures their troubled modern history, however, when the vast majority of premodern structures were abandoned, dismantled, or destroyed immediately following the Meiji Restoration of 1868. By the turn of the twentieth century, however, castles were being rediscovered and reinvented as physical links to an idealized martial past, and the 1920s saw major movements to rebuild lost castles across Japan.

From the late nineteenth century to the present day, castles have played a key role in the development of concepts of cultural heritage in Japan. This has been a highly international process, with Japanese attitudes influenced especially by European trends, while Japanese approaches to heritage protection have helped define global standards.

This talk explores the modern history of Japanese castles as sites of public history and heritage, including the destruction of castles in the Meiji period and the Second World War, the great proliferation of concrete castles

in the early postwar, the global recognition of Japanese castles by UNESCO, and the immediate challenges faced by castles in the twenty-first century.

Dr Oleg Benesch is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of York, specializing in the history of early modern and modern Japan and China. His publications and research interests cover a variety of fields, including Japanese intellectual, religious, and social history, Chinese intellectual history, as well as the transnational history of modern East Asia. Dr Benesch's first book, *Inventing the Way of the Samurai: Nationalism, Internationalism, and Bushido in Modern Japan* (Oxford University Press, Sept. 2014), examines the historical development of the ostensibly traditional Japanese ethic of bushido—the 'way of the samurai'—from the nineteenth century onward. He is currently working together with Prof Ran Zwigenberg of the Pennsylvania State University to complete a manuscript examining the history of Japanese castles in the modern period. For more information, please see www.olegbenesch.com

London-brewed sake tasting with Izakaya pairing at Okan Ramen

Thursday 19 October 2017
1st session 6:00 for 6:30-8:30pm
2nd session 8:30 for 9:00-11:00pm

Okan Ramen
338 Coldharbour Lane
London SW9 8QH

£40 per head - Priority for Japan Society members
Booking deadline: Friday 13 October 2017



We are delighted to announce a truly special evening in which the founders of the UK's first sake brewery share their story and their local sakes paired with very special Japanese comfort food, organised in partnership with Kanpai London Craft Sake and Okan Ramen.

You'll be greeted with a welcome drink and a starter to enjoy while Kanpai founders Lucy and Tom Wilson explain what inspired them to open a sake brewery in south London. Following the introduction, you will be served a tapas-style sake-paired meal. This includes very premium small batch sakes not available anywhere else!

Kanpai London Craft Sake is a microbrewery set up and launched by Tom & Lucy Wilson in 2017. After falling in love with sake in Japan and spending years brewing and experimenting at home, they believe they have successfully honed their techniques and developed their own unique 'London' robust style.

Okan Ramen. Following the success of Okan Okonomiyaki in Brixton Village, in which she brought the flavours of her Osaka hometown to London, the wonderful Moto has now opened a sister restaurant which showcases ramen and all things noodle.

Menu*:

Cold starter with *Nigori Cocktail*

- Tofu okra hiyayakko with yuzu kosho
- Onasu – fried aubergine aubergine cooked with honey, soy and ginger
- Romanesco gomae

Hot nibbles with *Special Edition Kanpai Sparkling Hopped Junmai*

- Karaage
- Kushikatsu – tomato&chashu pork
- Chicken Tsukune

Main with *Kanpai Junmai #3*
Tsukemen – pork or veg

Puddings with *Special Edition Kanpai Junmai #2*

- Yuzu cheese cake
- Shiso sorbet

Soba Buckwheat tea

*A vegetarian option is also available. Please inform us of any food allergies when booking.

We are extremely grateful to Kanpai London Craft Sake and Okan Ramen for generously hosting this event.

In association with:



The Present and Future of Financial APIs – with Authlete

Wednesday 25 October 2017

6:30pm

Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc
Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6BA

Free of charge – Booking essential

Booking deadline: Monday 23 October 2017



The third seminar in our series dealing with FinTech related topics, features Ali Adnan, co-founder and Director at Authlete. This series of lectures seeks to explore different aspects of the FinTech revolution and to highlight some of the Japanese organisations and individuals who have chosen to base themselves in London's technology hub.

APIs are an enabler to turn a business or organization into a platform and the API Economy is expected to reach US\$2.2 Trillion by the end of 2018 which is a number that is higher than the GDP of France. Thousands of services generate billions of dollars in revenue from offering API's such as Google, Facebook, Expedia and Ebay, just to mention a few. In fact, we live in a world where most online services whether big or small have already implemented API's or in the process of implementing one.

Ali will discuss the connected world that we live in and the variety of on-line services that are interlinked to deliver more convenience to the user; and on how Open Banking in the UK and Japan will deliver innovation and drive competition. He will also touch upon the use cases of OAuth 2.0 that secures API's and Open

ID Connect that allows services to offer their users the ability to log-in to third party sites with a single sign-on; and the importance of implementing an authorization focused solution.

Following an open session for questions and discussion, the evening will conclude with an informal networking reception.

We are extremely grateful to Mitsubishi Corporation for generously hosting this seminar.

Ali Adnan is Co-founder and Board Director of Authlete. Born and raised in Japan, Ali is a British citizen who comes from a multicultural background and speaks several languages. Ali has led high-tech European and Japanese start-ups for over 15 years creating value by bringing people together from varied backgrounds.

AUTHLETE provides the solution to implement OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect standards to secure API's including Financial API's that can be adopted quickly and securely.

In association with:

 Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc



Financial Technology – The Present and the Future of Virtual Currencies. Do they herald a new era?

Wednesday 1 November 2017

6:30pm

Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc
Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6BA

Free of charge – Booking essential

Booking deadline: Friday 27 October 2017



We increasingly hear references to ‘FinTech’ in our everyday. No longer solely a topic of interest to the financial or computing media, it is frequently the subject of lifestyle and news stories. Through a series of linked seminars, the Japan Society is celebrating this new phase in the UK-Japan relationship, which sees many Japanese individuals and companies active within London’s technology hubs.

For this our fourth seminar, we are delighted to welcome Dr Robert Learney and Mr Yuichiro Kawasaki, to introduce this important topic. Dr Learney will discuss the current status of digital currencies and their future potential. Yuichiro Kawasaki will introduce MUFG’s showcase model of digital currency in Japan.

Virtual currencies have attracted considerable attention in recent years, with bitcoin being the most familiar. What lies behind this is the increasing use of virtual currencies in a wide range of situations and services, including their acceptance by big companies in commercial transactions and their use by individuals for speculation purposes.

However, on the other hand, virtual currencies, being “invisible” money, also have a number of shortcomings. The most significant of these is the lack of official recognition by governments, which can make them a double-edged sword in terms of guaranteeing transactions.

Following an open session for questions and discussion, the evening will conclude with an informal networking reception.

We are extremely grateful to Mitsubishi Corporation for generously hosting this seminar.

Dr. Robert M. Learney was formerly Associate Director of the Imperial College’s Centre for Cryptocurrency Research and now leads the Blockchain work at the Digital Catapult in London.

Yuichiro Kawasaki is the head of Global Innovation Team for EMEA region at Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG). He is responsible for scouting start up FinTech companies in EMEA to form potential partnerships with MUFG to develop the digital business strategy in Asia.

In association with:

 Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc

Sixth Form Japan Day 2017:

a global perspective, a door to new opportunities

Thursday 9 November 2017 10.20am to 4.00pm
(Registration from 10.00am)

SOAS University of London
Russell Square Campus
London WC1H 0XG

Free of charge to schools
Booking deadline: Monday 23 October 2017
(Please book early to avoid disappointment)



The Japan Society, in association with Ritsumeikan University (UK) and SOAS, is pleased once again to invite sixth form students to attend its popular FREE one-day course about Japan, its culture and its role in the global community.

The day is designed to give insights into aspects of Japan, traditional and modern, through lectures and practical workshops. It is aimed at students who are studying Japanese, but will also be of interest to those who have not had the opportunity to do so formally at school, but who are considering Japanese studies at university in the UK. Students will also have the chance to speak with representatives of universities offering Japanese studies.

The course will feature lectures by Mr Ian Cheung, UK Sales Manager of Clearsping Ltd., Professor Monte Cassim of Ritsumeikan University and a talk by final year Japanese studies students from SOAS. Elective practical workshops in small groups will allow students to take part in a range of activities, including: calligraphy, cookery (sushi), Oekakinden -Smart Wearable Sports Technology, manga, origami, sumi-e and yosakoi soran. Students can indicate their preference for workshops on the booking form. We will endeavour to accommodate

everyone's preferences however we cannot guarantee students will get their top choices.

Booking information

Reserve your place today! Places will be issued on a first-come-first served basis. Students may attend on their own or accompanied by a member of staff. To book, please fill in our online booking form and send to **education@japansociety.org.uk**. Please also read and acknowledge on the booking form that you have read our terms and conditions.

During the day students will have the opportunity to join three out of seven possible workshop sessions. Please head to our website and use the booking form to specify workshop preferred options. We will try, where possible, to give students their chosen workshops, but please note that this may not be possible in all cases. To help us match interests, please rank the workshop options 1-7, where 1 is the top preference.

Please note, in the past we have held this event at Vernon Square Campus which had coach parking. This year it will be held at Russell Square Campus which has no parking spaces available and alternatives will need to be found. We apologise for any inconvenience.

In association with:



SOAS
University of London

R RITSUMEIKAN
UNIVERSITY

Japan Society Book Club: *The Thief* by Fuminori Nakamura

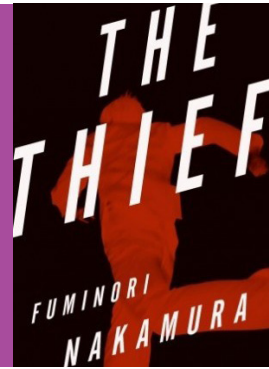
Monday 13 November 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The book club is held on the second Monday of every month



Nishimura is a seasoned pickpocket, weaving through Tokyo's crowded streets, in search of potential targets. He has no family, no friends, no connections... But he does have a past, which finally catches up with him when his old partner-in-crime reappears and offers him a job he can't refuse. Suddenly, Nishimura finds himself caught in a web so tangled and intricate that even he might not be able to escape.

Fuminori Nakamura was born in 1977 and graduated from Fukushima University in 2000. In 2002, he won the prestigious Shincho Newcomer's Award for his first novel, *A Gun*, and in 2005 he won the Akutagawa prize for *The Boy in the Earth*. *The Thief*, winner of the 2009 Oe Prize, Japan's most important literary award, is his first novel to be published in English.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

Beyond FinTech. Who will benefit from an open ecosystem? – with Skwile

Tuesday 14 November 2017

6:30pm

Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc
Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6BA

Free of charge – Booking essential

Booking deadline: Thursday 9 November 2017



The final seminar of our FinTech series will feature Makoto Fukuhara, managing director at Skwile Ltd., who will discuss how financial technology can provide a solution to the cash flow problems frequently faced by small and medium-sized enterprises. In this session, we will take a closer look at the uses of financial technology to solve social problems.

Business surveys consistently indicate that, while the UK scores highly with regard to the number of new businesses established each year, many of these struggle to survive past their first trading year. One of the main issues facing small and medium-sized enterprises is cash flow. During periods of high economic growth or for larger businesses, it is relatively easy to raise finance by prioritising market share over sales, net capital or profit. However, during periods of economic recession, SMEs often have limited assets and find it difficult to gain the finance they need.

Against this background, companies such as Skwile combine know-how and IT in the field of finance, including fund management and risk management, and develop and provide the financing platforms “FundlinQ” and “Cashflow-CaFE (Cash Flow Engine)” based

on their own indicators and risk models.

Following an open session for questions and discussion, the evening will conclude with an informal networking reception.

We are extremely grateful to Mitsubishi Corporation for generously hosting this seminar.

Makoto Fukuhara is Managing Director at Skwile Ltd. He has been in IT-Finance for more than 20 years, having worked with IBM amongst others. He is driven by a desire to use technology to make life easier for small businesses and give them access to the sort of information that is normally the preserve of larger businesses.

Skwile Ltd. is a FinTech start-up at the leading edge of changing the SME credit market. It offers a cloud-based service, called “Cashflow-CaFE (Cash Flow Engine)”, which works as a value chain between SMEs and their accountants, making both businesses effective. Cashflow-CaFE provides the fact-based insights that enable them to see current and future cash health.

In association with:

 Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc


Cashflow management

A Japanese View on World Energy Future: Outlook for Global Energy-Environmental Challenges Up to 2050

Monday 20 November 2017 10.00am to 11.45am (registration: 9.45am)

JETRO London Office
Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6BA

Free of charge – Booking essential
Members of the Japan Society and their guests or those introduced by JETRO only

Booking deadline: Wednesday 15 November 2017



JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) London, the Japan Society and JOGMEC (Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation) London would like to invite you to a seminar on a Japanese view on world energy outlook with special focus given to analyzing the impacts of “peak oil demand scenario”, as well as the issues related to the challenges for climate change.

Professor Ken Koyama, Chief Economist and Managing Director of Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ), will present an outline of the IEEJ’s latest long-term Energy Outlook up to 2050, followed by comments and discussion by prominent energy experts. Professor Koyama will also touch upon Japan’s latest energy policy challenges to achieve government energy-mix target for 2030.

Minister Plenipotentiary with Embassy of Japan, Mr Takashi Okada will offer some brief remarks at the opening of the seminar.

Commentators:

Professor Paul Stevens, Distinguished Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources, Chatham House

Peter Hughes, Director, Peter Hughes Energy Advisory Ltd.

Professor Ken Koyama received his BA and MA degrees in Economics from Tokyo’s Waseda University, and his PhD from the University of Dundee where his thesis was titled *Japan’s Energy Strategies toward the Middle East*. He joined the IEEJ in 1986 and has held various positions within the Institute, such as Senior Economist and later Head of the World Oil and Energy Group, and Senior Research Fellow in the Energy and Strategy unit. Alongside his current position, Professor Koyama has also taught at the University of Tokyo’s Graduate School of Public Policy since 2010.

Organised by:

JETRO

In association with:

JOGMEC

Japan's Foreign and Security Policy Under the 'Abe Doctrine' – with Christopher W. Hughes

Monday 20 November 2017

6:45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's foreign and security policy —highly charged with ideological revisionism— contains the potential to shift Japan onto a new international trajectory. Its degree of articulation and energy makes for a doctrine capable of displacing the 'Yoshida Doctrine' that has been Japan's dominant grand strategy in the post-war period.

Many have argued that Abe will remain pragmatic and not challenge the status quo. However, Abe has already begun to introduce radical policies that look to transform national security, US-Japan alliance ties, and relations with China and East Asia. The 'Abe Doctrine' is dynamic but also high-risk. Abe's revisionism contains fundamental contradictions that may ultimately limit the effectiveness, or even defeat, his doctrine.

Christopher W. Hughes is Professor of International Politics and Japanese Studies, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Warwick, UK. He has held visiting professorships at Harvard University, University of Tokyo and Waseda University. He is the author of *Japan's Reemergence as 'Normal' Military Power* (2004), *Japan's Remnants Anilitarisation* (2009), and *Japan's Foreign and Security Policy under the 'Abe Doctrine'* (2015). He is co-editor of *The Pacific Review*.

Japan Society Christmas Party 2017

Wednesday 6 December 2017

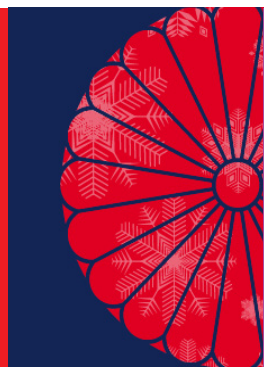
6.30 to 8.00pm

Embassy of Japan
101-104 Piccadilly
London W1J 7JT

£20 per head

Members and their guests only

Booking essential (deadline Friday 1 December 2017)



This year's Christmas Party will once again be held in the Ballroom of the Japanese Embassy, by courtesy of The Ambassador.

This annual gathering provides members with a great opportunity to catch up with friends at the close of the year and start thinking ahead to new challenges in 2018. Members may bring guests but space may well be limited, so early booking is advised; places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

We are extremely grateful to our hosts the Embassy of Japan.

Names are required for the Embassy security in advance therefore early booking is advised. You will be sent a confirmation of your booking to print out and show on arrival.

Please bring photographic identification with you as those without may be denied entrance.

Cancellation policy: a full refund will be given where notice of cancellation is received by Friday 1 December 2017. In other cases, refunds will be given at the discretion of the Japan Society and event partners.

Supported by:

J Embassy of
Japan
in the UK

Japan Society Book Club: *Something Strange Across the River* by Kafu Nagai

Monday 11 December 2017

7.00pm

The Japan Society
13 / 14 Cornwall Terrace
London NW1 4QP

Free for Japan Society Members – booking recommended

The book club is held on the second Monday of every month



First published in 1937, *Something Strange Across the River* is both modern and nostalgic. It shows a changing city, its slums, backstreets, temples and shrines, a city filled with erudite establishments and brothels. It shows a man trying to justify his life, and a glimpse into the creative process and a gentle eulogy on things passing.

Kafu Nagai (1879-1959) was the pseudonym of the Japanese author, playwright, essayist, and diarist Nagai Sokichi. His works are noted for their depictions of life in early 20th-century Tokyo, especially among geisha, prostitutes, cabaret dancers, and other denizens of the city's lively entertainment districts.

The book club is held every month. There is no restriction on the nationality of the authors read, but books should be available in translation in both Japanese and English. The discussion is conducted mainly in English, but you can choose the language in which you read the book. The intention is simple: to explore the themes of the book, express personal opinions on the style and content, discuss how the book has changed (or not) in translation and to have a relaxed discussion with others who have similar interests.

The Man who Knew about Furnaces: Thomas Walton (1833-1897), a British glassmaker in early Meiji Japan – with Sally Haden

Monday 18 December 2017

6:45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended



In the spring of 1873 the foundations for a revolutionary new glass factory were laid in Shinagawa, Tokyo, the like of which had never been seen in Japan before. Employing British experts and, within ten years, making all kinds of common and industrial goods, it completely transformed the Japanese approach to glass, and set the seed for the country's primary role in glassmaking across the world today. This lecture presents the story of one of those British men, Thomas Walton, the man who knew about furnaces.

At the time, Japanese glass craftsmen understood very little about how glass was then being made in Europe, where ordinary products such as glass for windows, the domestic table and science had long been mastered. But from about the 1860s as Japan began to modernise, they wanted to learn all the latest Western techniques, recipes and fashions so they could bring to market the kinds of glassware which modern Western countries had.

The beating heart of any glass factory is a set of furnaces, and it was Thomas Walton from Manchester, England, who shouldered the responsibility of setting up Japan's first Western-style industrial glass furnaces in the 1870s. This illustrated lecture will explore his background in the Victorian glass industry, his interesting experience at Shinagawa and the significance of his contribution to Japan.

Sally Haden was born in 1948 into a family steeped in British manufacturing, including the Victorian glass industry. It was the discovery eleven years ago that her Scottish great grandfather taught glassmaking in early Meiji Japan which set her on the path to becoming a glass historian, with a special interest in the transfer of glass technology to Japan. Her writing has been published by the Society of Glass Technology, the Glass Association, and the Association for Glass Art Studies, Japan, and she has twice visited Japan to do first hand research and meet leading glassmakers and manufacturers.