

The Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan
and The Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C. present

Netsuke

Miniature Art in the Palm of Your Hand
Contemporary Netsuke from the Price and Kinsey Collections



Opening Lecture

Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30pm

Before the introduction of European fashions, Japan was quite literally a "world without pockets." Men carried their belongings in small pouches or boxes suspended from the sash of their kimono with cords and a toggle, or *netsuke*. Commissioned by only the best artisans, *netsuke* were valuable, enviable symbols of status. But when Japan's ports opened to foreign trade and the Japanese began to adopt the western style of dress, *netsuke* fell out of use and were soon forgotten. The extraordinary miniature carvings had captivated many foreigners, however, and soon found their way into collections in the U.S. and abroad. Today this traditional craft has evolved into a vibrant international art form. Fifty of these contemporary miniature masterpieces from the collections of Joe and Etsuko Price and Robert Kinsey will be on display.

To celebrate the opening of the exhibit *Netsuke: Miniature Art in the Palm of Your Hand*, **Mr. Robert Kinsey** will give a lecture at the Japan Information & Culture Center on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30pm. Joe and Etsuko Price will also be in attendance.

Mr. Kinsey has been referred to as the "father of contemporary netsuke." For over 30 years, he has contributed tremendous support and research to its development, creating the largest collection of its kind in the world. Mr. Kinsey served as the President of the International Netsuke Society from 1987 to 1991 and continues to serve as its director.

Over fifty years ago, Joe Price bought a painting by the artist Ito Jakuchu (1716-1800). Since then, Mr. Price and his wife Etsuko have been committed to preserving and promoting Edo period art. The Price Collection is widely regarded as one of the finest private collections of Japanese art in the world. Nearly 900,000 visitors paid to see a selection of the Price Collection's Edo period paintings, including many by Jakuchu, during its tour of Japan, making it the most successful traveling museum exhibit in the world. The Smithsonian Institute's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art welcomed the exhibit's triumphant return last year with "*Painted Feathers, Piercing Eyes: Edo Masters From the Price Collection.*"

The opening lecture is free and open to the public. Reservations are required. Please RSVP to: 202-238-6949 or email jiccrsvpspring09@embjapan.org with your name and the number in your party.

This exhibit will be on display from March 16-29, 2009.

This exhibit is free and open to the public. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.
Special viewing on Saturday, May 2. Closed March 20, April 10 and May 25.



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