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THE ART OF TRANSFORMATION

Illuminating Japan's Industrial Revolution with *Nishiki-e* Prints

Opening Lecture

Tuesday, September 15th @ 6:30 pm

With guest speaker

Masahide Shibusawa

President, Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation



When Commodore Perry's black ships anchored at Edo Bay in 1853, Japan's era of seclusion came to an abrupt end. Almost overnight, the island nation was inundated with western ideas, goods, and technology. Almost overnight, railway and postal services were established and Western-style factories were built. More people moved to the cities and, with increasing leisure time and disposable income, Japan's modern society began to take shape.

A key architect of this emerging modern society, **Eiichi Shibusawa** recognized that strong international relations were another essential component to the country's modernization. A dynamic force in the industrial world, he helped to establish hundreds of enterprises, social welfare and education organizations. When the focus of his nation building efforts shifted from economic modernization to Japan's place in the international community, he devoted his extraordinary energies to building positive relationships with nations he saw as important actors on the world stage. In 1909, he led the first delegation of Japanese businessmen to the United States, where they were warmly welcomed by leaders in every field.

In celebration of the centennial anniversary of that historic exchange, over 50 color woodblock reprints from the Shibusawa Memorial Foundation will be on display, revealing the foundations of the nation's modern infrastructure, industrialization, and urbanization. Historic images and articles highlighting the Japanese Commercial Commission's trip to the United States will accompany these vibrant works of art in capturing the dynamic encounter of cultures that took place during the Meiji and Taisho eras of Japan.

Join us as guest speaker Masahide Shibusawa explores the contributions his great-grandfather and other pioneers made to Japan's economic development during this turning point in the nation's history. As Japan enters the twenty-first century, what possible lessons might be learned from the leadership and vision of one of the most compelling figures in modern Japanese history, whose life bore witness to Japan's transformation over a century ago?

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis.

Reservations required. Please send your name, affiliation, and the number in your party to jiccrsvpsummer09@embjapan.org.

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