WASHINGTON DC, (March 1, 2018) – The Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan, DC, is honored to host a unique exhibition, “Evolving Traditions: Paintings of Wonder from Japan,” to present the evolution of traditional Japanese paintings. With generous support from PIGMENT, a Tokyo-based seller of rare pigments, and All Nippon Airways, the JICC invites you to explore the common materials, stylistic expressions, and aesthetic concepts found in traditional Japanese paintings and their modern, evolved counterparts through this headline exhibit, held as part of the 2018 National Cherry Blossom Festival, which celebrates the strong and enduring friendship between Japan and the United States, and the gift of 3,000 cherry trees given by Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the City of Washington, DC in 1912.

The materials an artist uses lie at the core of their creative processes – such are pigments to traditional Japanese paintings. This 8-week long exhibition will not only feature the modern, captivating works of Yuki Ideguchi, a talented up-and-coming artist whose creative processes are inspired by traditional Japanese painting methods and themes, alongside a special collection of rarely-seen traditional Japanese paintings dating from the Meiji period (1868 – 1912) and onwards from the Embassy’s collection, housed at the Japanese Ambassador's residence – it will also feature a special spotlight on these beautiful pigments and variety of materials that encompass the creations of both traditional and modern Japanese paintings.

The JICC and the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Galleries will also organize an open studio with Artist Yuki Ideguchi and PIGMENT Director Dr. Kei Iwaizumi for DMV residents to explore pigments and create their own works of art using traditional Japanese painting methods and materials. This open studio will invite visitors to delve into the essence of Japanese paintings by experiencing the pigments themselves.

Organized by the Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan and Artist & Curator, Yuki Ideguchi. Sponsored by All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Materials Lab “PIGMENT.”
PRESS RELEASE FROM THE JAPAN INFORMATION & CULTURE CENTER, EMBASSY OF JAPAN

For media inquiries, please e-mail the Publicity Coordinator at jicc-press@ws.mofa.go.jp.

► Opening Lecture: Evolving Traditions: Paintings of Wonder from Japan

March 28, 2018 || Wednesday at 6:30 PM || Japan Information & Culture Center
Admission: Free, Registration Required

ABOUT THE LECTURERS

• Yuki Ideguchi is a Japanese artist who holds an MFA in Japanese Painting from Tokyo University of the Arts. Ideguchi uses a combination of traditional Japanese painting materials and recently developed acrylic and spray paints to showcase the relationship between Japan and America. His art often incorporates Japanese perspectives and motifs on nature, life and death, and history.

• Dr. Kei Iwaizumi is the Director of PIGMENT, a subsidiary of Warehouse TERRADA that buys and sells rare, quality pigments, inks, and glues. Iwaizumi is an expert on painting materials and a lecturer at the Kyoto University of Art and Design.

► Exhibition: Evolving Traditions: Paintings of Wonder from Japan

March 28, 2018 to May 25, 2018 || Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM || Japan Information & Culture Center
Admission: Free, Walk-Ins Welcome

FEATURED WORKS

• Works & awards by modern, up-and-coming artist Yuki Ideguchi, including “Japan Celebration,” “Genesis 起源”, and “Circulation,” among others.

• A unique collection of rarely seen paintings from the Embassy collection housed in the Ambassador’s Residence, such as “Hototogisu (Little Cuckoo)” by Yuki Ogura (1895 - 2000), the first female to be admitted into the Japan Art Institute.

• A vitrine dedicated to Japanese painting materials and brushes used by Yuki Ideguchi and other traditional Japanese painting artists, sponsored by Materials Lab PIGMENT

► Open Studio: Paints, Pigments, Brushes: All About Japanese Paintings

March 31, 2018 || Saturday from 12PM to 4PM || Freer | Sackler
Admission: Free, No Registration Required

OVERVIEW

• Enter the world of traditional Japanese painting, or nihonga, in this drop-in workshop celebrating the National Cherry Blossom Festival. View a display of colorful pigments and brushes, and try making your own painting alongside Artist and Curator, Yuki Ideguchi, and Director of PIGMENT, Dr. Kei Iwaizumi at this open studio at the Freer | Sackler Galleries.
Evolving Traditions: Paintings of Wonder from Japan

EXHIBITION
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LECTURE
Wed. March 28, 2018, 6:30PM [Registration Required]

OPEN STUDIO
Sat. March 31, 2018, 12PM to 4PM

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Evolving Traditions: Paintings of Wonder from Japan

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WHERE
Japan Information & Culture Center || Exhibition & Lecture
1150 18th St NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC

Smithsonian Freer and Sackler Galleries [Sackler Level B2, ImaginAsia Studio] || Open Studio
1050 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20560

WHY
The world of art and aesthetics is one that is in constant motion: eternally evolving with the introduction of modern concepts, materials, and processes, yet firmly rooted in cultural heritage and tradition. The JICC is hosting this exhibition to introduce the American audience to the unique evolution of traditional Japanese paintings, the beautiful pigments and materials instrumental to their creation, and the perspectives of Japanese aesthetic principles and motifs that underlie both the old and modern.

PICTURES

Pictures are available for download at:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/22vicsmebb2hz9n/AAA33wXiBWp2E14HQ1AWjYt5a?dl=0

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ABOUT THE JICC

The Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan in Washington DC is the region’s #1 authoritative resource for Japan-related information and culture, a gift sponsored by the people of Japan since 1981. As part of the Embassy of Japan’s public outreach program, the JICC is deeply committed to enriching the relationship between the people of Japan and the United States through an active, vibrant cultural and informational exchange. For more information, please visit http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation’s greatest springtime celebration. The 2018 Festival, March 20 - April 15, includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out Facebook (CherryBlossomFestival), Twitter (@CherryBlossFest), and Instagram (@CherryBlossFest).