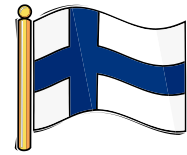


Embassy of Japan in Finland

Unioninkatu 20-22, 00130 Helsinki

Tel: 09 - 686 0200



Press Release

Exhibition “Sharaku Interpreted” Comes to Helsinki!

5th Aug 2015

An exhibition themed on the famous *ukiyo-e* (woodblock print) artist Toshusai Sharaku will be displayed at International Culture Center Caisa, in Helsinki, from 7 (Fri) to 27 (Thu) August. An opening event will be held on the evening of 6th Aug (Thu) for members of the media and invited guests.

The exhibition, “Sharaku Interpreted by Japan's Contemporary Artists,” takes as its theme Toshusai Sharaku, known throughout Japan and the world for his curious and inimitable bust portraits of *kabuki* actors. The exhibition consists 29 *fukkoku* reprints of Sharaku's works masterfully produced by the Adachi Institute of Woodblock Prints; 28 Sharaku-inspired posters by Japan's most famous graphic designers and 24 paintings, sculptures, ceramics and woodblock prints by some of the most influential of contemporary Japanese artists, who have reinterpreted Sharaku using a combination of fluid ideas and definitive expressions.

“Sharaku Interpreted by Japan's Contemporary Artists” is an exhibition produced by the Japan Foundation, and has been shown in many countries, most recently Slovenia and Croatia, before making its way to Finland. Over the years, Japan Foundation has organized many traveling exhibitions made up of works from its own collections related to Japan's arts and culture. Their exhibitions have often been shown in Finland – most recently, “Spirit of Budo” was shown at the National Museum of Finland last summer.

The local organization of “Sharaku Interpreted by Japan's Contemporary Artists” has been conducted by the Embassy of Japan in Finland, with support from International Culture Center Caisa and the Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation. As a side event of the exhibition, the Embassy of Japan will hold a Japanese woodblock print workshop for children on the 22nd Aug (Sat), with woodblock print artist Tuula Moilanen. The workshop is now open for registration, and further information can be found from the Embassy's website (see URL below).

For further information about the exhibition, please check the following websites, or contact Yukiko Nakahari, Head of Public Relations & Cultural Affairs (090-686 0200 / culture@hk.mofa.go.jp).

Embassy of Japan in Finland: <http://www.fi.emb-japan.go.jp>

Japan Foundation: <http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/project/culture/exhibit/traveling/sharaku.html>

International Culture Center Caisa: <http://www.caisa.fi/tapahtuma/E60DB531277D14D034B0208DF3847D6B/fi/Sharaku>