

**Remarks by Mr. Iwama,
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Finland
at the Opening of Silent Beauty Exhibition on 14 June**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Ryoji Iwama, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Finland. I have the honor to congratulate on behalf of the Embassy of Japan on the opening of Silent Beauty exhibition which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Finland.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous efforts all the staff of the Ateneum Art Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama, the Japan Folk Crafts Museum and the National Museum of Western Art have made for successfully hosting this great exhibition.

Furthermore, I wish to appreciate the Ateneum Art Museum headed by Ms. Marja Sakari for its great contribution to promoting a mutual understanding of culture and art between Japan and Finland by holding various excellent exhibitions. I learnt that this Silent Beauty exhibition features a wide collection of Nordic and Japanese works from 1950s to 1960s as a continuation of the

exhibition of “Japonomania in the Nordic Countries” exhibition, which examined in 2016 how the phenomenon of Japonism had influenced Nordic countries from the second half of the 19th century to the 20th century.

We could say that the interactions and development in Japanese and Finnish artworks come from the commonality of the both countries, represented by a preference for a simple design, and consideration of harmony with nature and functionality. This commonality also lays the foundation of relationship of trust established over 100 years.

This year 2019 is a special year for the Japanese and Finnish relations to mark the 100th anniversary and, at same time, a particular year for Japan, in which the New His Majesty the Emperor was enthroned and the new Japanese era “Reiwa” was opened. The meaning of the new Japanese era “Reiwa” is beautiful harmony.

I sincerely hope through this exhibition, more and more people contemplate how the next 100 years might look like for Japan and Finland in a beautiful harmony.

Thank you. Kiitos paljon.