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Elevating Tradition: Japan's Culture in the Contemporary World The Fine Artist behind Lady Gaga's Heel-less Shoes

(Portland, Ore.)

[Portland Japanese Garden](#), with its newly debuted Cultural Crossing expansion - designed by world renowned architect Kengo Kuma - is bringing yet another distinguished name to Portland for **his first-ever solo exhibition in the United States.**

Fine artist Noritaka Tatehana will be showcasing his internationally renowned works in [Noritaka Tatehana: Refashioning Beauty](#) at Portland Japanese Garden from **October 5 – December 1.**

Refashioning Beauty showcases some of Tatehana's most established pieces including the 'heel-less shoes' worn by Lady Gaga and Daphne Guinness as well as pieces based on the 'scents' of Japanese culture. His many works are a result of his creative activities within the sphere of various traditional crafts spanning across Japan. All of his pieces are made from carefully selected materials and physical labor.

"I am concerned about the preservation of traditional Japanese craft and culture; the succession of critical skills and techniques that are handed down from generation to generation. But I am not working to revive obsolete craft items that we no longer use," said Tatehana. "I believe artists can bring revolution in Japanese traditional culture through artistic expressions if we embrace our modern time while encompassing the context and flow of past, present, and future," he adds.

Noritaka Tatehana: Refashioning Beauty covers not just Tatehana's "heel-less shoes;" but acrylic paintings, lacquer sculptures; and wooden platform clogs reminiscent of those worn by *Oiran* (high-ranking Japanese courtesans) of the Edo period (1615-1868). *Oiran* culture is the inspirational source of many of the works Tatehana creates. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Portland Japanese Garden is thrilled to showcase Tatehana's creations for his first ever solo exhibition in the United States.

Portland Japanese Garden is a nonprofit organization located within Washington Park in Portland, Oregon. Originally founded in 1963 as a place for cross-cultural understanding following World War II, it has become a global destination for Japanese art, nature, and peace. It is considered the most authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan and the foremost Japanese cultural organization in North America.