

February/March 2023



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HAIKU

Bird song everywhere
Can it be? The night's forecast
calls for snow

– Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

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Email marketing@japanesegarden.org



📷 Christina Sjogren

Dear Members,

I hope you are enjoying the tranquility of winter and taking the time to reset and restore yourselves for the year ahead. Walking through the Garden, the twists and turns of bare branches draw attention to the expert care and maintenance our gardeners put into their work every day, rain or shine (or snow and ice!). Plants appear still, but we know they are making a steady approach to new growth. Soon enough, spring will be upon us.

One of the most anticipated moments this year will be the art exhibition, *Subtle Intimacy: Here and There*. This is the culmination of Japan Institute's inaugural Artist-in-Residence, Rui Sasaki. Sasaki has been heralded by *The New York Times* as "the Japanese glass virtuoso." As you may recall, her residency with us happened over two different stretches last year. She has walked the grounds with our team to collect different plant life that felt distinct to the Garden and the Pacific Northwest. Working with our longtime partners and friends at Bullseye Glass Co., she then pressed the plant life between glass in massive kilns, creating something almost like a transparent fossil. The result is truly remarkable artwork that takes the fleeting beauty of nature, frozen in time.

Part of the reason why I have been anticipating this exhibition is because of how it will provide new ways to experience this Garden we cherish so deeply. As you know, Portland Japanese Garden has been a treasured gem of its city for 60 incredible years now. During this time, millions of visitors have sought us out, hearing of others' experiences that were emotional, physical, and even spiritual. Because a Japanese garden is never truly "finished," every visit has

the potential to reveal perspectives on things both ordinary and remarkable.

Starting in March, we have Member-Only Garden Tours as well as a new tour, Seasonal Strolls with our Chief Curator, Sadafumi Uchiyama. In late spring, we're bringing back our Mindfulness Tours as well. I highly recommend taking advantage of these opportunities to rediscover Portland Japanese Garden throughout the year. The volunteers who lead these are the heartbeat of the Garden and many have been strolling our grounds for decades. The understanding you will gain from their knowledge will grow your love for the Garden even more.

Whether it's to experience art, immerse in Japanese culture, or to ground yourself in the beauty of nature, I hope you'll visit often. It's no secret that one of the most incredible moments to visit the Garden is in the rain.

With gratitude,

Steve Bloom
Chief Executive Officer



© Jonathan Ley

Upcoming Member Events

Hina Matsuri, The Doll Festival

March 5

The Doll Festival is a special time to pray for the growth and happiness of girls. It is also called *Momo no Sekku*, or "Peach Blossom Festival." Visitors can appreciate a traditional display of dolls representing the Emperor and Empress with members of the Imperial Court. The event will also feature storytelling, music, and an *ikebana* workshop for young Garden guests.

Subtle Intimacy: Here and There

Japan Institute's first artist-in-residence, Rui Sasaki presents her exhibition, *Subtle Intimacy: Here and There*. Featuring plant specimens selected from the grounds of Portland Japanese Garden, Sasaki has created an immersive experience where ephemeral impressions of the Garden's foliage are forever preserved in panes of clear glass. In addition to visiting this art exhibition during regular Garden hours, members have special access to experience the art through these events:

Golden Crane Society Opening Reception

March 17 / 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Member Exhibition Preview

March 18 / 9:00 – 10:00 am

Cherry Blossom Season

In Portland Japanese Garden, our Yoshino and Weeping Cherry trees typically blossom mid-to-late March. While we will share progress updates on our website and social media platforms, we recommend using your membership to visit often to witness this fleeting seasonal beauty. Updates will also be included in our weekly member newsletters, which you can subscribe to by going to japanesegarden.org/newsletters

RETURN TO SUMMER HOURS

Portland Japanese Garden is pleased to share that it will have expanded hours beginning March 12. The Umami Café, Gift Shop, and Pavilion Gallery will be open from 9:00am – 7:00pm.

Member Hours: 8:00 – 10:00am

Public Hours: 10:00am – 6:00pm (guests out by 7:00pm)



📷 Nina Johnson

📷 Thomas Armeli

Seasonal Strolls with the Chief Curator: Spring

March 2 & 9, 2023 / 8:30 - 9:30am

Come stroll Portland Japanese Garden with our Chief Curator, Sadafumi (Sada) Uchiyama. Uchiyama is a fourth-generation Japanese gardener and landscape architect whose been at the Garden for over 15 years, playing a key role in the construction of the Cultural Village, Entry Garden, and establishment of the International Japanese Garden Training Center and Japan Institute. Focusing on the seasonal plants, cultural significance, sensory experience, and its relationship to daily life, this unique tour offers an opportunity for members to interact with Uchiyama and dive into his vast wealth of knowledge that extends beyond the 12 acres of Portland Japanese Garden.

Limited spots are available for this free event. Additional tours will take place in August and November.

Monthly Member Tours

Starting March 4, one of our volunteer guides will be providing tours for members and their guests only, during member hours. Our knowledgeable tour guides, some of whom have been patrons of Portland Japanese Garden for decades, will provide members with interesting and informative cultural, historical, and horticultural information about the Garden. Guided tours can provide insights into the vision of the Garden and its place in the community. Tours will begin in the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation Courtyard starting at 9:00am, and typically last about 45 minutes.

Member-only garden tours will be available on the first Saturday of every month starting March 4.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

October 21, 2023

Portland Japanese Garden will be celebrating our 60th anniversary with a formal Gala this October. Proceeds will benefit the Zeze Gate installation. It is sure to be a night to remember; more details to come! Read more about the Zeze Gate at japanesegarden.org/zeze



David M. Cobb

Community Support Helps Restore Natural Garden *Machiai*

Long-Awaited Renovation Overseen by Master Woodworker Trained in Japanese Design

From December through the beginning of the new year, a beloved structure tucked away in the Natural Garden – the *machiai* (sheltered waiting arbor) - went through a long-awaited restoration project.

The Natural Garden's *machiai* was originally handcrafted in the 1980s with a high quality of workmanship and integrity of tradition. Authentically designed to sit without one front post so as to preserve an unobstructed view for those seated inside, the unsupported corner had begun to sag, pulling the roof, beams, and walls with it. As part of the restoration, joints were restructured and balanced to help keep the unsupported corner of the roof up. Additionally, the roof was reinforced. Because of the traditional design of the *machiai*, an approach that does not use nails, the structure can be replaced piece-by-piece rather than face demolition.

Careful restoration was conducted under the supervision of Dale Brotherton, an expert in Japanese woodworking with more than

40 years of experience, and owner and operator of Takumi Company, a traditional Japanese design and architecture firm based in Seattle. Brotherton's masterful craftsmanship has been a welcomed presence at Portland Japanese Garden dating back to the 90s, with projects including wooden sliding doors and interior shoji for the Pavilion Gallery, the Moon Gate that one passes through to enter the Natural Garden, and the wooden interiors for buildings in the Cultural Village.

This project was made possible through the generous support of 250 donors, a matching grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Dorothy Piacentini.



"I believe the *machiai* is one of the most peaceful spots in the Garden. Because of their investment, they have ensured it will remain a place of tranquility for our community for generations to come."

Hugo Torii, Garden Curator





City of Portland (OR) Archives, AP/4896

From Asphalt Grounds to Urban Oasis

Portland Japanese Garden was Once a Zoo

Because of the careful and diligent maintenance of its grounds by generations of gardeners, facilities technicians, volunteers, and more, Portland Japanese Garden appears as though it has been perched atop the West Hills for as long as Washington Park has existed. It may be surprising to know that the site it sits on today was once the old location of the Portland Zoo, now known as the Oregon Zoo.

In 1959, with the zoo opened in its new location, the now vacated property emerged almost immediately as the preferred site for what would become Portland Japanese Garden. Businessman Don Bates, an early proponent of the Garden, had premonitions of Portland Japanese Garden's spectacular views come to mind. "Traditional buildings and the Japanese mastery of the miniature garden vistas presented in this spot a magnificent opportunity for Portland's citizens," he wrote.

By 1960, the Garden's location was all but decided upon and in 1961 it was made official when the city of Portland agreed to a 99-year lease of the old zoo's site. Now began the hard work of transforming the landscape, including all the former homes of the animals.

To read the full article, see: japanesegarden.org/zoo

60th Anniversary Special Story

As part of our 60th anniversary, we'll be highlighting a different element of our history in every issue of *The Garden Path* in 2023!

How the Spaces Transformed

Flat Garden

In 1962, a few months before Portland Japanese Garden was officially formed as an organization in 1963 (under the name of the Japanese Garden Society of Oregon), City Commissioner Ormond Bean supervised the removal of four feet of soil next to the location of an old primate house. It would be here that the Flat Garden would be built.

Tea Garden

While coyotes can be spotted throughout Washington Park, they were once a feature of the Portland Zoo and were kept in what today is our Tea Garden. Now sitting where the coyote pens once stood is the Kashintei Tea House, a staple of this lush green corner of the Garden since it was installed in 1968.

Strolling Pond Garden, Upper Pond

The upper pond of the Strolling Pond Garden may appear to be a naturally occurring body of water, but in fact it was redesigned after being home to the Zoo's aviary. Today, the only birds that permanently reside here are two bronze cranes, gifts from the Bank of Tokyo, and a family of ducks that occasionally hang out and say hello to visitors.

Heavenly Falls

Finally, perhaps the greatest transformation in the entire Garden was that of the Strolling Pond Garden's lower pond where our beloved Heavenly Falls are located. Just a few decades too late to enjoy the koi who swim there today, bears were once kept here. The pond itself was once a bear grotto and the Heavenly Falls are in a hillside that once held the bear's winter hibernating den.





Keynote speaker Kjersti Fløgstad, Nobel Peace Center Director, addressing attendees at Japan Institute’s London Peace Symposium. 📷 Hayley Madden

Nobel Peace Center and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Partner with Japan Institute for London Peace Symposium

A Global Cultural Initiative

In December 2022, Japan Institute of Portland Japanese Garden took its international peace programming to the United Kingdom. Over the course of a week in London, Japan Institute facilitated a variety of different events motivated by the pursuit of peace through dialogue, art, and the human relationship with the rest of the natural world. These exciting endeavors included a gathering at the United States Embassy in London, a pine pruning and bamboo fence building workshop, a presentation of a masterfully handcrafted Peace Lantern to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and a Peace Symposium, *Peacemaking at the Intersection of Culture, Art, and Nature*.

Peacemaking at the Intersection of Culture, Art, and Nature

Following its first symposium in Tokyo, Japan in September, Japan Institute partnered with some of the U.K.’s foremost Japanese cultural and gardening organizations to convene in the auspicious trappings of Guildhall in front of a diverse group of attendees who hailed from not just the U.K., but the world at large. “This was our first international program outside of the U.S. and Japan,” notes Japan Institute’s International Exchange Forum Director, Paula Esguerra. “It was a watershed moment for us because it not only helped introduce Japan Institute’s work to another part of the world, but because it helped us engage in an active dialogue and exchange with partners we rarely have the opportunity to see in person.”

Attendees heard a congratulatory address from Tokyo Governor, Yuriko Koike, and a keynote address given by Nobel Peace Center Director, Kjersti Fløgstad. The core program of the





Guildhall, the location of Japan Institute's 2022 London Peace Symposium. 📷 Hayley Madden



James Chau (R) leads a panel discussion at the London Peace Symposium with panelists (L-R) Joseph Grimaldi, Robert Ketchell, and Shiro Nakane. 📷 Hayley Madden

symposium consisted of two panel discussions, “Japanese Gardens: Transforming the Global Cultural Landscapes” and “Re-imagining Peace at the Intersection of Architecture, Art, and Nature,” both moderated by WHO Goodwill Ambassador, James Chau.

Flogstad, whose organization will be partnering with Japan Institute in 2023, set the tone for the event with a keynote speech, sharing a quote by former South Africa President and Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Nelson Mandela, “The best weapon

is to sit down and talk.” The greatest impact in the room came from anecdotes rooted in human experience.

“Being open and curious are peaceful acts,” shared Esguerra. “That’s what is so valuable about the Symposium—it was a successful convening of inclusive and creative views around peace. Japan Institute and Portland Japanese Garden want to continue to build these platforms where diverse opinions are welcomed, shared, and transformed into action.”

An Important Symbol of Peace, in a Renowned Institution

A Peace Lantern, an exact replica of one in Portland Japanese Garden’s Strolling Pond Garden, now stands in the tranquil Japanese Landscape at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a globally-renowned garden and UNESCO World Heritage Site. “Receiving this important symbol of peace is a source of great pride for all of us at RBG Kew,” shared Richard Deverell, Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. “We have always sought to leverage the power of nature and our stunning living collection to make a positive impact in our shared world. The lantern will be a beautiful and important addition to the Japanese Landscape here at Kew Gardens and we hope that visitors will come from far and wide to enjoy it and learn about its important meaning.” To learn more about our Peace Lantern gift, go to japanesegarden.com/2022/11/21/kew-peace-lantern/.



Japan Institute’s peace programming is made possible through Robert and Deborah Zagunis.

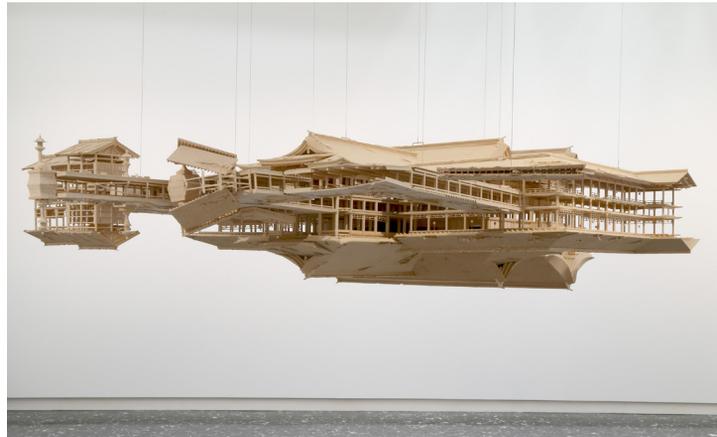


2023 Art Exhibitions

Art in the Garden

In 2023, Portland Japanese Garden will continue to be a destination for those interested in experiencing world-class Japanese art and culture in one of the world's most celebrated gardens. This year, we will exhibit artworks exploring a range of human ingenuity expressed in techniques both modern and traditional, as showcased in the work of Japan Institute's Artist-in-Residence program.

📷 Keizo Kioku. Photo courtesy of the Japan Foundation, © Takahiro Iwasaki, courtesy of ANOMALY





Japan Institute Artist-in-Residence Rui Sasaki at Bullseye Glass Co. preparing for *Subtle Intimacy: Here and There*. 📷 Quincy Woo

Subtle Intimacy: Here and There

March 18 - June 12, 2023

After two seasonal residencies in Portland, Japan Institute’s inaugural Artist-in-Residence, Rui Sasaki, will exhibit her site-specific works inspired by the natural beauty of Portland Japanese Garden. Sasaki’s work uses glass to meditate on memory, place, and atmosphere as she draws inspiration from the environment around her. Sasaki’s art is a form of research that builds connections and creates a sense of intimacy as she confronts the unfamiliar in a new place. She reveals, “Glass is my special language to unveil what I am thinking through my five senses.” Having worked in Japan, the U.S., Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and now Portland, Sasaki is not just a world traveler but someone who immerses herself in studying the subtle similarities and differences between places through examining the nuances of weather, flora and fauna, and even the often-unnoticed corners of rooms.

As Japan Institute’s inaugural Artist-in-Residence, Sasaki was chosen for her dedicated engagement with a place as she creates site-specific work to resonate with the local environment. Using plant specimens selected from the grounds of Portland Japanese Garden, Sasaki has created an immersive experience where transparent impressions of the Garden’s foliage are forever preserved in panes of clear glass. Simultaneously scientific and ethereal, Sasaki doesn’t focus on individual works but instead combines pieces into an installation that creates an immersive experience for its viewers. Originally scheduled to begin her residency in 2020, the pandemic’s disruption of Sasaki’s visit gave her time to collect and consider the plant-life around her home in Japan. The glass panels that make up the Pavilion installation of *Subtle Intimacy* are composed from plants both from Portland and Sasaki’s neighborhood in Kanazawa. As she gathered plants, Sasaki engaged with Garden staff, volunteers, and members to discover individualized stories about their sense of connection to Portland, the Garden, and its flora, to forge her own sense of familiarity with her temporary home.

Takahiro Iwasaki: Constructed Worlds

Autumn - Winter 2023

The craftsmanship of Hiroshima-based artist, Takahiro Iwasaki, has led to awe-inspiring architectural sculptures and earned him many accolades as one of Japan’s young artists to watch. Iwasaki, Japan Institute’s second Artist-in-Residence, plays with our sense of the familiar, using everyday materials such as duct tape, wooden dowels and toothbrushes, and transforming them into extraordinary model landscapes that literally turn our expectations upside down.



📷 Jack Jakobsen



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japanesegarden.com/support-your-garden
 For corrections, contact
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If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about the Golden Crane Society, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Philanthropy, at (503) 542-0281 or ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org.





📷 Stephanie Moss



📷 Portland Japanese Garden

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Members of the Phoenix Legacy Society have named the Garden as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift. We are grateful to the following people for letting us know of their plans to support the Garden in this enduring way.

If you would like to include the Garden in your estate plans, or if you have already done so and would allow us to list you as a Legacy Society Member, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Philanthropy, at (503) 542-0281 or ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org.

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Portland Japanese Garden Garden Curator, Hugo Torii, and Chief Curator, Sadafumi Uchiyama, leading a fence-building workshop at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

📷 Hayley Madden



Japan Institute of Portland Japanese Garden staff, Board Members, and their fellow guests at the U.S. Embassy in London, England.

📷 Kyle Mannock

Portland Trail Blazers legend Bill Walton enjoying the craftsmanship of the Zagunis Castle Wall.

📷 Portland Japanese Garden



Former Garden Director Masayuki Mizuno (1977-1980), Garden Curator Hugo Torii, and Dale Brotherton of Takumi Company in front of the Natural Garden machiai during its restoration. This project was made possible through the generous support of 250 donors, a matching grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Dorothy Piacentini.

📷 Portland Japanese Garden





Japan Institute Artist-in-Residence Rui Sasaki looks up as she tests a display of glass art ahead of her upcoming exhibition, Subtle Intimacy: Here and There.

📷 *Portland Japanese Garden*



Ice and snow in the Flat Garden in December of 2022.

📷 *Caleb Hendrickson*



Visitors to Portland Japanese Garden reach out for a lucky bite during the shishimai (lion dance) during our 2023 O-Shogatsu celebration.

📷 *Portland Japanese Garden*



Consul General Masaki Shiga of the Consular Office of Japan in Portland with Curator Emerita Diane Durston and Chief Curator Sadafumi Uchiyama at a special event honoring honors both received from the government of Japan.

📷 *Nina Johnson*

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