

August 2025

A Collection of 219 Exquisite Pieces by Jakuchu, Shoen, Hokusai, Soseki, and others A Special Annual Auction

Japanese Art Auction MEGURU Vol.23 -MAIN SALE- Coming This August!



Kashima Art Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as Kashima Arts) is proud to present the prestigious Japanese Art Auction MEGURU Vol.23 -MAIN SALE- from August 23 (Sat) to August 31 (Sun), 2025.

Launched in 2019, the Japanese Art Auction MEGURU specializes in Japanese art, ranging from Edo to modern Japanese paintings, as well as Western-style paintings, calligraphy, sculpture, and crafts. The auction has introduced carefully selected works from across Japan to art enthusiasts both domestically and internationally.

The -MAIN SALE-, which began with Vol.15 two years ago, is a special annual auction featuring only carefully curated, top-quality pieces. Among them, Vol.23 presents the most exceptional lineup in the history of MEGURU, both in terms of quality and rarity.

This auction will feature masterpieces of Japanese painting, from Edo-period artists such as Ito Jakuchu, Maruyama Okyo, Yosa Buson, Katsushika Hokusai, and Sakai Hoitsu, to modern and contemporary masters including Yokoyama Taikan, Hishida Shunso, Uemura Shoen, Kaburaki Kiyokata, Hayami Gyoshu, and Hiroshi Senju. It will also include charming and profound “kawaii (cute)” ink paintings by Tokugawa Iemitsu and Sengai Gibon, as well as exceptional works by leading figures in the modern Western-style painting world, such as Yasui Sotaro, Kazuki Yasuo, and Matsumoto Shunsuke. Furthermore, the auction will bring together a wide variety of rare and noteworthy works, including a landscape painting from the final years of literary giant Natsume Soseki, formerly owned by his personal physician, the renowned ancient calligraphy masterpiece attributed to Emperor Shomu, the “Hinogire (Segment of the Senzai Wakashu)” transcribed with self-selected waka poems by Fujiwara no Toshinari, and the exquisitely detailed “Iris”, a masterwork of extraordinary craftsmanship by the enigmatic ivory sculptor Ando Ryokuzan.

● MEGURU Vol.23 Highlights

Ito Jakuchu

This year's -MAIN SALE- will feature nine works by Ito Jakuchu. Among them, "Rooster beneath Bean Vines" was previously exhibited in the Kyoto National Museum's special exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of Jakuchu's death, "Jakuchu!" The figure of the rooster, radiating energy and excitement, is rendered in a unique composition, with each feather meticulously depicted through delicate line work.

Additionally, "Mendicant Monks" highlights Jakuchu's characteristically ingenious composition. The gentle, slightly humorous expressions of each monk are sure to warm the viewer's heart.

Other works by Jakuchu in the sale feature rare and charming subjects such as puppies, an eagle, shrimp, turtles, and a dove.



《Mendicant Monks》



《Rooster beneath Bean Vines》

Uemura Shoen

"Spring Light" is a masterpiece painted by Uemura Shoen in her later years. This work crystallizes the ideal beauty that Shoen pursued, depicting an elegant woman bathed in gentle spring light.

The brushwork, delicately rendering everything from the woman's expression to her attire, conveys a serene beauty and refined emotion that deeply moves the viewer. This masterpiece offers a glimpse into the pinnacle of Shoen's artistic career. She was the first woman to receive the Order of Culture and remained true to her own aesthetic sensibilities throughout her life.



《Spring Light》

Yoshida Hiroshi

Yoshida Hiroshi's representative work, "Glittering Sea", was produced in 1926 as the first piece in his "Seto Inland Sea Series." It marks the early period when he began to avidly pursue woodblock printing. The work depicts a sailboat floating peacefully on the calm waters of the Seto Inland Sea, with a single ray of light sparkling on the surface.

The use of chisel engravings creates a dazzling reflection that captivates the viewer. Yoshida's keen observational skills, refined through extensive training in Western-style painting and watercolor, breathed new life into the traditional art of woodblock printing.

This masterpiece is also notable for having been displayed at Kensington Palace by the late Diana, Princess of Wales.



《Glittering Sea, from "The Seto Inland Sea Series"》

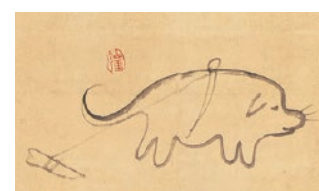
Charming Japanese paintings

Tokugawa Iemitsu's "Horned Owl" and Sengai Gibon's "Kushibussho (Zen Koan)" are among the most striking works in the -MAIN SALE-, distinguished by their humorous, relaxed, and charming forms. Both are representative of each artist's unique style and are rare, valuable pieces that seldom appear on the market.

Departing from realism, these heartwarming animal depictions reveal the artist's personality and inner world—such as Tokugawa Iemitsu's playful spirit and Sengai's Zen-inspired questioning. These masterpieces embody the profound depth of kawaii (cute) aesthetics in Japanese painting, a tradition that has captivated audiences across generations.



《Horned Owl》



《Kushibussho (Zen Koan)》

● Starting from August 18th (Monday), all works will be available for viewing and bidding on the website!

website



Sakai Hoitsu 《Corn and Mantis》



Nagasawa Rosetsu 《Bamboo, Morning Glory, and Sparrow》



Hayami Gyoshu 《Green Plums》



Yosa Buson 《Snowy Landscape》



Ito Shinsui 《Snowfall》

Natsume Soseki
《As Flowers Bloom, the Stream Flows》

Kusama Yayoi 《FLOWERS》



Kumagai Morikazu 《Seashore》



Hakuin Ekaku 《Hotei (God of Fortune) Unbags》



Senju Hiroshi 《Moonlit Symphony》



Takamura Koun 《Statue of Daruma》



Lucie Rie 《Bowl with Pink Linear Design》

Featured Artists

Old painting: Tokugawa Iemitsu, Ito Jakuchu, Soga Shohaku, Maruyama Okyo, Nagasawa Rosetsu, Yosa Buson, Sakai Hoitsu, Suzuki Kiitsu, Katsushika Hokusai, Teisai Hokuba, Kawanabe Kyosai, Watanabe Seitei
 Shin-hanga: Yoshida Hiroshi, Kawase Hasui
 Modern painting: Yokoyama Taikan, Hishida Shunso, Shimomura Kanzan, Saigo Kogetsu, Kimura Buzan, Uemura Shoen, Kaburaki Kiyokata, Ito Shinsui, Murakami Kagaku, Hayami Gyoshu, Senju Hiroshi
 Western painting: Kumagai Morikazu, Yasui Sotaro, Migishi Setsuko, Kazuki Yasuo, Okamoto Taro, Matsumoto Shunsuke, Kusama Yayoi, Marc Chagall, Paul Aïzpiri
 Calligraphy: Emperor Shomu, Hakuin Ekaku, Sengai Gibon, Saigo Nanshu, Tokugawa Yoshinobu, Yanagi Muneyoshi, Natsume Soseki, Shinoda Toko
 Mingei: Munakata Shiko, Kawai Kanjiro, Hamada Shoji
 Crafts: Takamura Koun, Itaya Hazan, Ando Ryokuzan, Kitaaji Rosanjin, Arimoto Toshio, Kuroda Taizo, Lucie Rie

● Three Key Points of Japanese Art Auction MEGURU Vol.23 -MAIN SALE-

Point
1

No glass casings! View the works up close

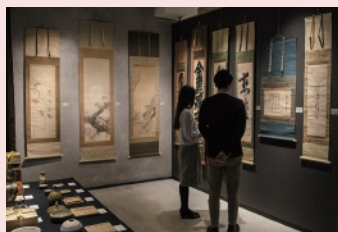
From Aug 23 (Sat) to Aug 31 (Sun), Kashima Arts will hold an exhibition where all displayed works will be presented without glass casings. This rare opportunity allows you to view museum-quality masterpieces up close and in detail.



Point
2

Extended hours! Open until 8 PM on Fridays and Saturdays

To make it easier for more visitors to enjoy the exhibition, our gallery will be open until 8 PM on Fridays and Saturdays during the exhibition period. Whether you're stopping by after work or visiting during a weekend outing, you can take your time and appreciate the artworks at your leisure.



Point
3

MEGURU Original bamboo fan! Free gift for guests

To commemorate the -MAIN SALE-, all visitors will receive a free MEGURU original bamboo fan. Quantities are limited, so we recommend arriving early to get yours!



* Please note that some works may not be on view during the preview. If you wish to see specific lots, feel free to contact our staff in advance.

* For those unable to visit the gallery, condition reports are available upon request.

● The Japanese Auction MEGURU Catalogue

Featuring details and images of all 219 lots, the catalogue is available for free, please don't hesitate to contact Kashima Arts to request your copy.

Request for a catalogue

https://meguru-auction.jp/mem_inquiry



● Simultaneous Event! Web-Exclusive Auction with Live Bidding

In conjunction with Japanese Art Auction MEGURU Vol.23, we will also be holding a web-exclusive auction. Participants can join the bidding through the Japanese Art Auction MEGURU website starting from:

Aug 18 (Mon) through Sep 10 (Wed) 2025, 9pm JST

Web-exclusive auction

https://meguru-auction.jp/mem_goodslist?action=interauc

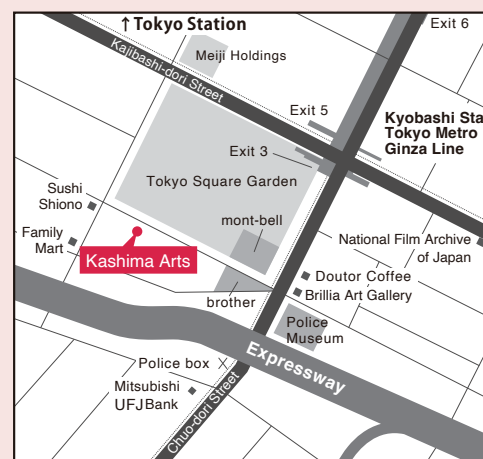


Japanese Art Auction MEGURU Vol.23 Event Outline

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|----------------------|---|
| Exhibition Dates | August 23 (Sat) to August 31 (Sun), 2025 |
| Hours | 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Free admission/Open daily *Extended hours until 8:00 PM on Fridays and Saturdays |
| Venue | Kashima Arts (3-3-2 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0031) |
| Exhibiting Works | Approx. 219 lots |
| Bidding Deadline | August 31 (Sun), 6:00 PM JST |
| Results Announcement | September 2 (Tue), 3:00 PM JST |
| Organizer | Kashima Arts Co., Ltd., |

► Media Inquires We welcome media coverage during the event period.
For all inquiries, please contact us at the address below.

Kashima Arts Co., Ltd.
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2 min walk from Exit 3 of Kyobashi Station, Tokyo Metro Ginza Line
3 min walk from Exit 7 of Ginza-itchome Station, Tokyo Metro Yurakucho Line
5 min walk from Exit A4 of Takaracho Station, Toei Subway Asakusa Line
9 min walk from Yaezu Minami-guchi (Yaezu south exit) of JR Tokyo Station