

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Celebrating "The Tale of Genji" By Susan Hamaker

In the 11th century, noblewoman Murasaki Shikibu wrote "The Tale of Genji,"



a classic piece of Japanese literature and quite possibly the first full-length novel ever written. To celebrate the novel's one-thousandth anniversary, the Metropolitan Museum of Art launched an exhibition on March 5 that features art inspired by Lady Murasaki's story of the amorous adventures of handsome womanizer Genji, the son of the emperor, and the emperor's favorite concubine.

"The Tale of Genji: A Japanese Classic Illuminated" presents more than 120 works that include paintings, calligraphy, lacquerware, textiles and even manga. The scope of the exhibition spans from the time Genji was written to the present day, and features two National Treasures and several Important Cultural Properties. This



exciting look into the continuing influence of Lady Murasaki's masterpiece runs through June 16, 2019.

SEIZAN Gallery, which opened its doors in Chelsea last September, also has a current exhibition dedicated to "The Tale of Genji." On view through April 27, "Reimagined: Contemporary Artists Take on The Tale of Genji" features the commissioned works of ten artists who reexamined the novel to create unique pieces that reflect Genji's importance one thousand years later.

Make sure to see both exhibitions and read the one thousand-page book! (Susan Hamaker is the writer/editor of JapanCultureNYC, an English-language website for all things Japanese in New York.)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



United Nations Briefing

Explaining the Structure of the UN Staff Recruitment Examination

On the evening of February 22, the delegation of the United Nations Japanese government held a briefing at the UN headquarters to explain the structure of the UN staff recruitment examination. The purpose was to increase the number of Japanese workers working at international organizations.

Eva Jansen, Human Resources Officer, Outreach Unit Strategic Planning and Staffing Division Office of Human Resources Management of the United Nations, explained the recruiting system, and five active Japanese UN officials talked about their recruitment experiences. An official in the Human Resources Department conducted a mock interview in English. All 65 people that were admitted participated in the briefing session. Both Vice Ambassadors, Yasuhisa Kawamura and Toshiya Hoshino, were also present.

Ms. Hanayo Nakano, who works at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) headquarters, after

working for a general trading company and attending Cambridge University, passed the JPO Young Staff recruitment exam to be one of the five members to talk about the experience of their recruitment. Reiko Okumura, who works for UNICEF and who graduated from undergraduate studies in the department of sciences and entered graduate school after working at a home appliance manufacturer, was qualified for an opening job offer to talk about her experience. Mr. Takahiro Kiuchi of the United Nations Secretariat Information and Communication Technology Department said, "As long as you achieve your objectives, they do not ask for the complicated detail of the process that led to the achievement, as is done in Japan." Tomoyuki Uno passed the JPO recruitment test after working at an

automobile manufacturer, and is now working as a clerk at the delegation of the Japanese government in the United Nations.

What you will need for an interview is how much pride you have in telling your personal experiences, along with your academic background and experiences, explaining how you overcame whatever difficulties you had to face and what result came of it and the ability to describe all this in a short amount of time. Furthermore, the ability to speak English or French fluently, balanced human resources, cooperativeness, past experiences, and the ability to judge from real life experiences, etc. are all necessary elements for the interview, which was explained by Ms. Jansen, who conducted the demonstration interview for two candidates.

(Written by Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Masa Kawaguchi)



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New York Peace Film Festival on March 23 and 24

The 12th New York Peace Film Festival, co-organized by the Peace & Justice Task Force from All Souls Unitarian Church, will be held at All Souls Unitarian Church (1157 Lexington Avenue, East 80th Street) on Saturday March 23 and Sunday March 24.

Among the participants from Japan, Director Chihiro Kasai will be screening her film "LIFE: The Untold Story of the Fukushima Evacuation Zone," on Saturday the 23rd. It is a five-year documentary about a family from Minami who was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear accident. After the screening, Director Kasai will participate in a question and answer session. In addition, the feature animated film "In This Corner of the World," depicting the daily life of wartime people set in Hiroshima and Kure during World War II, based on the manga by Fumio Kono and directed by Sunao Katabuchi, will also be shown. On Sunday the 24th, a short animated film "How Can You Know Where To Go If You Do Not Know Where You Have Been?" directed by Mizuki Toriya, which depicts a grandmother who tells her grandson the experience of war, will be screened. After the screening, there will be a talk session with Mr. Michimasa Hirata, who is conducting testimonies of experiences of the atomic bombings in Japan and abroad.

The entrance fee is free, but it is necessary to pre-register. For details, please visit www.nypeacefilmfest.com. (Written by Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Masa Kawaguchi)

YASEIBAKUDAN Cookie, with rare talent accepted by geniuses, comes to NY!



YASEIBAKUDAN Cookie, of the comedian group YASEIBAKUDAN of YOSHIMOTO CREATIVE AGENCY Co. Ltd, who is popular in Japan for his "white-painted face imitation" where he uses his face as a canvas, will be displaying his artwork at Pier 90, located in Manhattan on the Hudson riverside (711 55th Street and 12th Avenue and West Side Highway) for four days for Artexpo New York, from Thursday, April 4 to Sunday, April 7.

For this exhibition, he will be using the artist name "NIKUGUSOTARO" instead of "YASEIBAKUDAN Cookie". The theme of the artwork is a portrait otome painting based off of himself, titled "NIKUGUSOOTOME". The artwork will make a successful entry into New York's art market.

Don't miss the chance to witness his unique world unfold this spring!

What is Artexpo New York?

Celebrating its 41st year, Artexpo New York is the world's greatest art exposition, displaying artworks of more than 400 artists around the globe. In a search for artwork and artists that will create new trends in galleries, more than a thousand members of the art industry such as dealers, buyers and gallery owners gather here and encounter new works. In total, over 35 thousand people visit the exposition within 4 days.

The opening day of Thursday, April 4th is for traders, and the other three days from Friday the 5th to Sunday the 7th will be open to the public. The entrance fees are \$40 (3-day multipass), \$25 (Friday and evening opening reception), \$20 (weekend one-day), \$15 for students and seniors (weekend one-day) and free for children 12 and under (parental supervision required). To purchase tickets and for more information, visit http://artexponeewyork.com.

Who is YASEIBAKUDAN Cookie?

Born on March 12, 1976 in Moriyama City of Shiga Prefecture, and currently 42 years old, YASEIBAKUDAN Cookie plays the role of the funny man in the comedy duo YASEIBAKUDAN of YOSHIMOTO CREATIVE AGENCY Co. Ltd. He handles everything from creating scripts to supplying props. After forming YASEIBAKUDAN in 1994, the group did not gain popularity for a while, however they successfully placed first in the "Top Breakout Comedians of the First Half of 2018" announced by Oricon News

last year. Their overly intense individuality acted as an obstacle, but after 25 years in the entertainment industry, the time "finally came where their humor is widely accepted and understood".

In regards to being a self-taught artist, YASEIBAKUDAN Cookie has created works full of originality using permanent markers and acrylic paint, with various styles from monochrome to colorful. In addition, he uses his face as a canvas to do imitation makeups of domestic and foreign celebrities. Many people are into his unique expressiveness where he is able to capture their essence while looking different at the same time. In the past, YASEIBAKUDAN Cookie has opened several art exhibitions, and the artworks and performances originating from his imagination and creativity have turned many creators and celebrities into passionate fans.

After receiving an offer from General Incorporated Association Artrates (Representative Director Yu Kaneko), which supports Japanese artists who are eager to spread their works globally, he will make his way to Artexpo New York with his intense and impactful artwork in hand. (Written by Yukiko Takada / Translated by Ai Omae)

