## HIRAGANA TIMES.





Hiragana Times Magazine Cover Artist | Gakyojin BUNTA iNOUE ひらがなタイムズ 表 紙アーティスト | 画 狂 人 井上文太

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There used to be a custom in Japan where if you put a picture of a treasure ship under your pillow and went to sleep, you would have a good first dream of the year. Many Japanese painters, including "Gakyojin (the man who's crazy to paint)" KATSUSHIKA Hokusai, have left behind pictures of treasure ships.

日本には、宝船の絵を枕の下に敷いて 眠ると良い初夢が見られる、という風 はなります。画狂人で知られる葛飾 かったがきまってが、多くの絵師が宝船の絵 はされる。 北斎をはじめ、多くの絵師が宝船の絵 はされる。 を残しています。

Starting from this issue, Hiragana Times will place a greater emphasis on artistry. We have asked BUNTA iNOUE, the contemporary Gakyojin, to be our cover artist and paint a picture of a lucky charm to celebrate the New Year. The painting tells the story

of a "rabbit" (the zodiac sign for 2023) with moon and heart markings, holding the cosmic scroll "Carpe Diem" in its mouth and coming with "treasures" (an auspicious "kissho pattern" of various treasures) like a treasure ship.

今号より、ひらがなタイムズはこれまで以上に芸術性を重視し、現代の画狂人は、井上文太た氏を表系紙でアーティストとして迎え、新年を祝らう縁起物の絵を描いていただきました。月とハートの印を持つ 2023 年の干えの「卯(兎)」が、宇宙の巻物「Carpe Diem」をくわえて宝船のように「宝尽・し(さまざまな宝物を並べた縁起のよい吉祥文様)」と共にやってくる、というストーリーを表しています。

Text 文 by SAWAGUCHI Shota 澤口翔太

ける

Rabbit with Moon and Heart /ymbols Oper the Pandora box of Love and the Universe

の印を持つ兎が愛と宇宙のパンドラを開

"Carpe Diem" means to "live in the present moment" in Latin. The crane and the turtle symbolize longevity, *kakure-mino* and *kakure-gasa* (a straw coat and hat that covers the body) symbolize good health, *kinno* (the purse) symbolizes wealth, and *gunbai* (a military leader's fan) is a prayer for victory.

「Carpe Diem」は、ラテン語で「いまの瞬間を大切に生きる」という意味です。 兎の周囲を取り囲む「宝尽くし」の縁起物は、鶴と亀が長寿、隠れ蓑のと隠れ笠は無病息災、金嚢(巾着)は高、軍配(うちわ)は必勝祈願を象がしています。

Wishing everyone a happy new year!

皆さまの新年が良いものでありますよ<sub>をなった。</sub>

January 2023

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\* Prices for products generally do not include sales tax.

The events on pages 38-39 may be postponed due to COVID-19.

商品の価格は原則的に税別で表記しています。

44-45 ページのイベントは新型コロナウイルスの影響で予定が変更になることがあります。

Published and Edited 発行・発売 | Hiragana Times, Incorporated 株式会社ひらがなタイムズ Publisher 発行人 | TARUISHI Koji 樽石幸治

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## the Virtues of

of Japan's representative traditional performing arts. However, this performing art, which was established in the Muromachi period (14th century), was not created from scratch in Japan.

はいえ、室町時代(14世紀)に

The framework of Nohgaku was shaped by the sensibilities and aesthetics nurtured in the land of Japan. In reality, however, Nohgaku is a composite art ments, cultures, and even the changing

能楽という枠組みを形作ったの 日本の土地で育まれた感性や 美学です。しかし能楽の実体は、 海外の楽器や文化、時代の移り 変わりすらも包み込む、複合的 な芸術と言えるものです。

Prayers for peace, gratitude for nature, and the beauty and ugliness of human life. Universal values common to all humankind are ab-

平和に対する祈りや自然に対する感謝、人の営みの美しさや醜 さ。人類に共通する普遍的な価値観が抽象化され、 されます。

For the next two months, Noh performer OKURA Genjiro will talk about the profound appeal of Noh. He is the 16th head of the Okura school of kotsuzumi, and a living national treasure.





"Learing It Unsaid"



今月から

Nohgaku is the collective name for two traditional performing arts: Noh and Kyogen. Simply put, Noh is a musical drama that expresses stories based mainly on history and legends through unique songs, dances, and musical instruments. Kyogen, on the other hand, is a conversational drama that uses dialogue and gestures to express stories based mainly on the lives of the people.

舞、そして楽器によって、主に歴史や伝説を題材にした物語を表現する楽劇。そして、狂言は台詞と仕草によって、主に民衆の生活を題材にしたがほしたがには、またいないには、またいないには、ないによったが語を表現する会話劇です。

Noh drama took shape in the 14th century. The indigenous art and various performing arts introduced from the continent were fused together and sublimated by father and son Kanami and Zeami into a stage play that excited the masses. (The old form of the word "gei" has meaning formed from "planting / growing plants." And the origin of the word is based on the idea that people who eat "plants, trees, flowers, and fruits," which are the arts of nature, create and nurture new art forms). For more than 650 years since then, Noh performers have continued to carry on their respective schools of Noh from generation to generation.

"Whenever I have an opportunity to talk about something, I talk about the *maki-e* (a crafting technique in which a picture is painted with lacquer and decorated with gold dust) on the drum body. This is called "*Karita-maki-e*" and depicts rice stumps. It expresses the joy of having successfully harvested rice in autumn," says Okura.

「何かお話をさせていただく機会があるとき、僕はこの鼓胴に描かれた蒔絵(漆で絵を描き、そこに金粉などを付着させて装飾する工芸技法)の話をします。これは刈田蒔絵と言い、稲の切り株を描いたものなんです。秋を迎えて、無事にお米を収穫できたっなが表現されています」と大倉さん。

"It was popular in the 17th century and has a hidden message saying that the period of war had come to an end. The design is not based on flowers or fruits, but on the cut end of the harvested rice plant. I think this aesthetic sense and philosophy symbolize the country of Japan."

「17世紀に流行ったもので、戦国時代が終わりを告げたというメッセージが隠れています。花や実でなく、刈り終えた稲の切り口を図柄に選ぶ。僕はこの美意識や哲学が、日本という国を扱していると考えています」。

"The original drum body was given to branch families by TOKUGAWA Ieyasu, who established the Edo shogunate in 1604, and is now in the collection of the Tokugawa Art Museum in Nagoya. The first coin was created in Japan in 708, and a monetary economy had been established by Ieyasu's time. However, what we now call wages were paid in rice."

「この鼓胴のオリジナルは、1604年に江戸幕府を開いた徳とく 川家康が分家筋に授けたもので、現在は名古屋の徳川美がいない。 まん はんじょう まん けんじょう



# The Virtues of "Learing (t Unsaid"





で支払われています。日本で初めて貨幣が でいます。日本で初めて貨幣が でいまりた。家康の時代には貨幣経 ない。家康の時代には貨幣経 ない。家康の時代には貨幣経 会で言う給料はお でで支払われていました」。

"Japan is prone to natural disasters, and rice, which can be stored at room temperature, has been used like money since ancient times. Therefore, rice had the same credibility as gold, and both monetary and barter economies were compatible."

「日本は自然災害が多く、常温保存できるお米。が古代から貨幣のように使われていました。そのが古代から貨幣のような信用を米が持ち、貨ため、今で言う金のような信用を米が持ち、貨がため、今で言う金のような信用を米が持ち、貨がため、今で言う金のような信用を米が持ち、貨がため、今で言う金のような信用を米が持ち、貨がため、

幣による経済と物々交換による経済が両 ここのです」。 ここしていたのです」。

"No matter how much money you have, if you don't have rice, you will die. Tokugawa Ieyasu must have understood that the blessings of nature have enriched the country. I think this maki-e is a symbol of that philosophy."

「いくらお金があっても、お米がなかったら 死んでしまう。自然の恵みが国を豊かにし 死んでしまう。自然の恵みが国を豊かにし できたことを、徳川家康は理解していたの でしょう。そうした哲学の象徴がこの蒔絵な でしょう。そうした哲学の象徴がこの蒔絵な のだと、僕は思います」。

### Gapan Artist

In the 7th century, a man named Enno Gyoja advocated the idea of Gongen. This is the idea that "God and Buddha are just different names for each other, and both appear in a 'temporary form' (=Gon) to protect the world of

"The maki-e on the drum body next to it (P7: on the left in the photo) is a hollyhock, which is the plant used in the Tokugawa family crest. The Tendai sect of Buddhism, which Ieyasu believed in, has a teaching called "Sansen-somoku-shikkai-jyobutsu," which means that Buddha resides in all things in nature, even flowers and plants. In short, this maki-e depicts the Buddha's image using gold, the finest pigment of the time."

mankind." It is said to be a further development of the idea of "Harmony is noble," which was advocated by Prince Shotoku in the 6th century. Okura believes that this idea of Gongen is important.

"Japan is the country of 'The syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism,' where both gods and Buddha are worshipped. For example, the sun is called differently in different countries and religions. Amaterasu, Dainichi Nyorai, Otentou-sama, Nitten-sama, Apollo ... But all of them are deities that preside

over the Sun. They are just called differently by different tribes and religions. We humans, who receive the same blessings, should get along!" The Japanese people have been aware of this for a long time."

「日本は神も仏もどちらも拝むという神仏習合の国です。例えば、
太陽も国や宗教によって呼び名はさまざまに変わりますね。天照大
ないようというできょう
神、大日如来、お天道様、日天様、アポロン・・・・・。しかしいずれも太陽を
かったいにもにょらい
これらは部族や宗教によって呼び名が違うだけ。同じ恵ったといる社会がある。
みを受けている私たち人間は仲良くしよう!!』と昔から日本人は気づいていた。
したいすね」。





Japanese people tend to favor ambiguity. Although often described negatively, listening to Okura's talk, the mentality of "not worrying about details as long

as we know the essence is the same seems to be the wisdom to recognizing diversity and to realizing peace and order.

日本人は曖昧さを好む傾向があります。ネガティブに評されることも多いですが、大倉さんの話を聞いていると、「本質が同じとわかれば、細かいことは気にしない」という精神性は、多様性を認め、平のなりにはない。という精神性は、多様性を認め、平のなりによりによってきます。

"We want to somehow convey this to the modern world through *Nohgaku*. No prior knowledge is necessary to see *Noh* plays. At least I think so."

「僕たちは、能楽を通してどうにかそれを現代に伝えたいと考えています。能楽を見るのに、事前知識は必要ありません。少なくとも僕はそう思います」。

"First of all, I want people to find out what they themselves find attractive about Nohgaku and enjoy it with their own sensibilities. If you do this, you will eventually find the universal philosophy of nature and peace that lies at the core of Nohgaku. I hope that you will not think that Nohgaku is difficult, but rather that you will take an atterest in it and experience it for yourself."

「まずは自分自身が能楽のどこに魅力を感じるのかを確認して、自分の 感性で楽しんでほしい。そうすればいずれ、能楽の芯にある自然や平和に対 する普遍的な哲学を見つけられるはずです。能楽を難しいと思わずに興味を持って、ぜひ触れてほしいと思います」。

bu hy of that you





In the next issue, we will introduce in more depth the unique origins of *Noh*, which was born from a fusion of continental culture and indigenous thought, as well as the magico-religious performance "Okina" which is said to be "*Noh*, but not *Noh*" and other unknown charms of *Noh*.

次号では、大陸文化と主着の思想が溶け合って生まれた能楽の特異な成り立ちや、「能にして能にあらず」とも言われる呪術的な演目「翁」など、知られざる能の魅力をさらに深く紹介します。



200 years ago 200 年前 thati 100 years ago 100 年前 nhsi Present day 現代

Kotsuzumi leather

小鼓の革

#### News Review ニュースからまなぶ What Saved Asakusa's Rickshaws あさくさの じんりきしゃを すくったのは













2. Their plight was saved by people living in Tokyo and its suburbs who had never experienced the ride before.



写真提供:えびす屋浅草

さゆう	55 E	9 ( )	たのは、	それ まで
_	chi wo plight	sukutta was s		sore made before
のり	にくることの	とうきょう とない		
	ri ni kuru koto no had never experien	toukyou tonai Tokyo		
ゃ	きんこう	に	すむ	ひとたちです。
ya and	kinnkou its suburbs	ni in	sumu living	hito tachi desu. (by) people

1. Although the number of customers has now returned to about the same level as before Covid-19, up until last year, the number of tourists, the main clientele for rickshaws in

Asakusa, Tokyo, had declined dramatically. いまは コロナ まえ ح おなじ くらい

	ころな					. –
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じんりき	しゃ	の	<b>メ</b> 1	(ンき	ゃくそう	である
jinnriki's rickshaw		no for		<u>meinn</u> 'k	yakusou nain clientel	
かんこう	きゃくは		げきげん	して	いました	た。
kannkou'kvaku ha			gekigenn shite i mashita.			

had declined dramatically

(the number of) tourists

3. It is spreading by word of mouth, especially among young people, who say that they can experience an extraordinary experience without having to travel far.

とおくまで	いかなくても	ひにちじょう が			
20/20	いかなくても	ひにちじょうか			
tooku made far	ikanaku temo without having to travel	hi'nichijou ga an extraordinary experience			
たいけん できる	٤	わかい ひと			
taikenn dekiru they can experience	<i>to,</i> who say that	wakai hito young people			
を ちゅうしん	に くち	コミ で			
wo chuushinn ni	kuchi	<u>'komi</u> de			
(especially) among	word o	f mouth by			
ひろがってい ます。					
hirogatte i mas it is spreading	u.				

4. Conversation with the rickshaw driver is fun, and the rickshaws are well received on social media.

との	かいわ は
tono with	kaiwa ha conversation
	じんりきしゃ が
	jinnriki'sha ga the rickshaws
	tono

SNS ばえ すると ひょうばん です。 esu enu esu'bae suru to hyoubann desu.

are well received on social media