

武道 Martial artists from Japan

Free demonstration & workshop
Sydney Olympic Park
Sunday 13 November 2016

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Australia and Japan, a delegation organised by the Nippon Budokan and the Japanese Budo Association will be visiting Sydney.

What is budo or budō? Budō refers to Japanese martial arts. As the Japanese Budo Association explains:

Budō is a form of Japanese physical culture that has its origins in the ancient tradition of bushidō – literally, “the way of the warrior.” Practitioners of budō develop technical martial skills while striving to unify mind, technique and body; to develop their character; to enhance their sense of morality; and to cultivate a respectful and courteous demeanour. Thus, budō serves as a path to self-perfection.

The delegation will include groups from twelve different disciplines including judo, kendo, kyudo, karatedo, aikido, and sumo. *Entry is on a first-come basis.*

Find out more at:

www.nipponbudokan.or.jp/english/delegation2016_to_Australia

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The art of museum buildings

The *National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo* Japan is one of 17 buildings by the famous 20th-century French architect Le Corbusier which were listed as an international World Heritage Site by UNESCO in mid-July this year.

Many Japanese museums and galleries have been designed by top architects and for lovers of design this really adds to the enjoyment of the visit. A new *ukiyo-e* museum is set to open in Tokyo this November, designed by leading architect Kazuyo Sejima, part of the SANAA architecture practice which is currently designing Sydney Modern for the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The Le Corbusier-designed **National Museum of Western Art** in Tokyo was built to house the Matsukata collection of Impressionist works that arrived from France in 1959. Once owned by the art enthusiast and Japanese businessman Kojiro Matsukata, circumstances in the inter-war years had led to the works remaining in Paris. France had the legal right to keep the artworks, however, as a sign of renewed friendship, France returned the works and the museum was born. The museum building was extended twice, each time by Kunio Maekawa, who had studied under Le Corbusier.

There are a large number of excellent museums and galleries to enjoy in Japan, and particularly in the case of many recent museums, the buildings that house them have become major attractions in themselves. Established in 1992, the **Benesse Art Site** museums now spread over Naoshima, Teshima and Inujima islands on Japan's Inland Sea. Teshima Art Museum is a perfect example of how the line between buildings and artworks can blur, in this case the serene space created by artist Rei Naito and architect Ryue Nishizawa.

Nishizawa is one half of the SANAA team mentioned in the introduction. Together Nishizawa and Sejima are responsible for a number of art galleries around the world including **Kanazawa City's 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art** which has become a major attraction for the city, drawing in domestic and international tourists.

One for next year's diary—Hokusai in Melbourne in 2017

The National Gallery of Victoria will hold *Hokusai* from 21 July to 15 October 2017. The NGV purchased several works by Hokusai back in 1909 including *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa*. The exhibition will include 129 works including pieces from the NGV collection and from the Japan Ukiyo-e Museum in Matsumoto. For the first time, paintings by Hokusai will be shown in Australia as part of the exhibition.



© Tokyo National Museum

The **Sumida Hokusai Museum**, opening on 22 November 2016, is designed by SANAA's Sejima, and it should prove to be a similar drawcard (www.hokusai-museum.jp). The Tokyo suburb of Sumida is where the great *ukiyo-e* artist Katsushika Hokusai lived and worked for most of his life.

Hokusai is best known for *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa* and other depictions of Mt Fuji, but he also captured many images of Edo period life such as the sumo image above (part of the Tokyo National Museum collection) and humorous sketches that were called Hokusai *manga*—the first known use of the term *manga*. The new museum is close to the excellent Edo-Tokyo Museum in its unusual space-ship-like building, and a little further along the street is the home of sumo, Ryokoku Kokugikan, by the Sumida River.