

Japanese art and design in Sydney

Exciting and thought-provoking Japanese art and design are currently on display in Sydney. The Art Gallery of New South Wales has a small but beautiful exhibition of Japanese contemporary art in the upper level of its Asian Galleries, and the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation in Paddington, Sydney, has dedicated both its indoor and outdoor space to fascinating works by the great Japanese architect Shigeru Ban.

Time, light, Japan

Art Gallery of New South Wales

Until 21 May

NOTE:
now
closes
14 May

Time, light, Japan is a free exhibition of contemporary Japanese art from the 1990s to now. The exhibition includes several recent acquisitions to the Gallery's collection.

teamLab is the name of the Tokyo-based artist collective responsible for *Flowers and People-Gold* 2015 on display for the first time at the Gallery. A digital artwork, flowers bloom and fade in response to the presence of viewers. The multi-panelled screens are reminiscent of the Japanese folding screen tradition but the responsive nature of this work means that each interaction is unique. Another recent acquisition is the fascinating series of photographs by **Yasumasa Morimura**, *Las meninas reborn in the night* 2013, and this will have you thinking about how you (and artists) relate to art and galleries.

While the number of works in this exhibition is comparatively few, you might be surprised how much time you end up spending at *Time, light, Japan*.



Closing on 30 April at the AGNSW

Beyond Words—calligraphic traditions of Asia

Worth mentioning again: *this excellent free exhibition includes several Japanese art works, items used in calligraphy and kimonos with embroidered characters. The exhibition provides a very interesting opportunity to appreciate similarities and differences between calligraphic traditions in Asia.*

The inventive work of Shigeru Ban: SCAF Projects 34 & 35

Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation

Until 1 July

This is Shigeru Ban's first project in Australia. The exhibition will focus on Ban's *pioneering and resourceful designs and importantly his dedication to humanitarian efforts around the world.*

Winner of the internationally prestigious Pritzker Prize for architects, Ban is probably best known in Australia for the Cardboard Cathedral which was opened in 2013 as a temporary replacement for Christchurch's cathedral devastated by the February 2011 earthquake (the congregation refers to it as Christchurch's Transitional Cathedral). There is a scaled model of the Cardboard Cathedral [below left] in the Gallery Space together with other models and examples of components used in his work.

Outside in the Courtyard Garden, there are two examples of Ban's disaster relief shelters [below centre]. He first proposed using the paper tubes he is now known for when doing consultancy work for the UN response to the 1995 Rwanda conflict. Using



materials to hand at the location of the disaster is another defining characteristic of his designs. While these designs are necessarily humble, Shigeru Ban Architects have also been responsible for designing major cultural institutions, including the Mount Fuji World Heritage Centre due to open soon, and other commercial works.

Exhibition open: **11am-5pm, Wednesday to Saturday**, Paddington, Sydney
www.sherman-scaf.org.au

For more about Shigeru Ban's projects: www.shigerubanarchitects.com/works.html

Photos: Brett Boardman