

# One hundred flowers

On now until 2 January 2012  
Art Gallery of New South Wales



**A pair of Shinto deities from the 1100s, dazzling golden folding screens from the mid-1600s, exquisite lacquerware from as recently as 2010—**

these are a few of the Japanese works of art that can be seen as part of the current *One hundred flowers* exhibition which showcases recent Asian art acquisitions at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The free exhibition includes pieces from many cultures and periods, ranging from the 1st-3rd centuries to 2010, from China, India, Tibet, Nepal, Vietnam and Indonesia. There are a number of Japanese works of art among them.

Pictured above\* is one of three newly acquired pieces by contemporary lacquerware master Unryuan (Kitamura Tatsuo). While this *suzuribako* (writing box) is a familiar lacquerware item, the lacquered lotus leaf complete with beads of

water made from crystal shows another spectacular side of this traditional craft. Unryuan's portable tea box with design of 100 flowers is simply exquisite.

Certainly not left in the shade are two sets of folding screens showing scenes from the classic novel *Tale of Genji* floating among golden clouds; one set from the mid-17th century by the Iwasa Matabei School and the other from 1700-1750 by the Tosa School.

Among the recently acquired Japanese works are several *ukiyo*e by Kitagawa Utamaro and Utagawa Kunisada/Toyokuni III.

And don't forget the Gallery's permanent Japanese collection on the lower level of the Asian galleries. Works from the extensive collection are rotated regularly and there is always something new to see or rediscover. Ceramics are very well represented.

[www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

\*Kitamura Tatsuo UNRYUAN b 1952 *Writing box (suzuribako) with design of dragonflies*, 2008 wood, black and red lacquer, gold and mother-of-pearl inlay

## Glimpses of Japan

*Japan of the 1970s and 80s will feature in the Japan Foundation, Sydney's Film & Talk series.*

Each session in the series will consist of a screening of a cultural film followed by a talk on the issues presented in the film given by a Japanese studies expert.

Issues to be covered are the ageing population, education, women's rights and foreigners living in Japan.

The Film & Talk series returns in November and December after a successful run last year. The main university year might be finished but these academics will still be getting people thinking.

16 November  
**School Days** (1970s)  
Mr Shun Ikeda  
Australian National University

28 November  
**Understanding the Japanese** (1970s)  
Professor Hugh Clarke  
University of Sydney

8 December  
**Women's Life** (1975)  
Dr Laura Dales  
University of Western Australia

14 December  
**Greying of Japan** (1981)  
Dr Katrina Moore  
University of New South Wales

### DETAILS

The Japan Foundation, Sydney  
Level 1, Chifley Plaza  
2 Chifley Square, Sydney

[www.jpff.org.au](http://www.jpff.org.au)

## Tokujiin Yoshioka: Waterfall

Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (SCAF) invited leading Japanese artist and designer Tokujiin Yoshioka to create an extraordinary installation transforming the SCAF gallery space. This is the first time the artist has visited Australia. See [www.sherman-scaf.org.au/exhibitions/](http://www.sherman-scaf.org.au/exhibitions/) for details.

Exclusive to Sydney, *Tokujiin Yoshioka: Waterfall* runs until 17 December 2011.