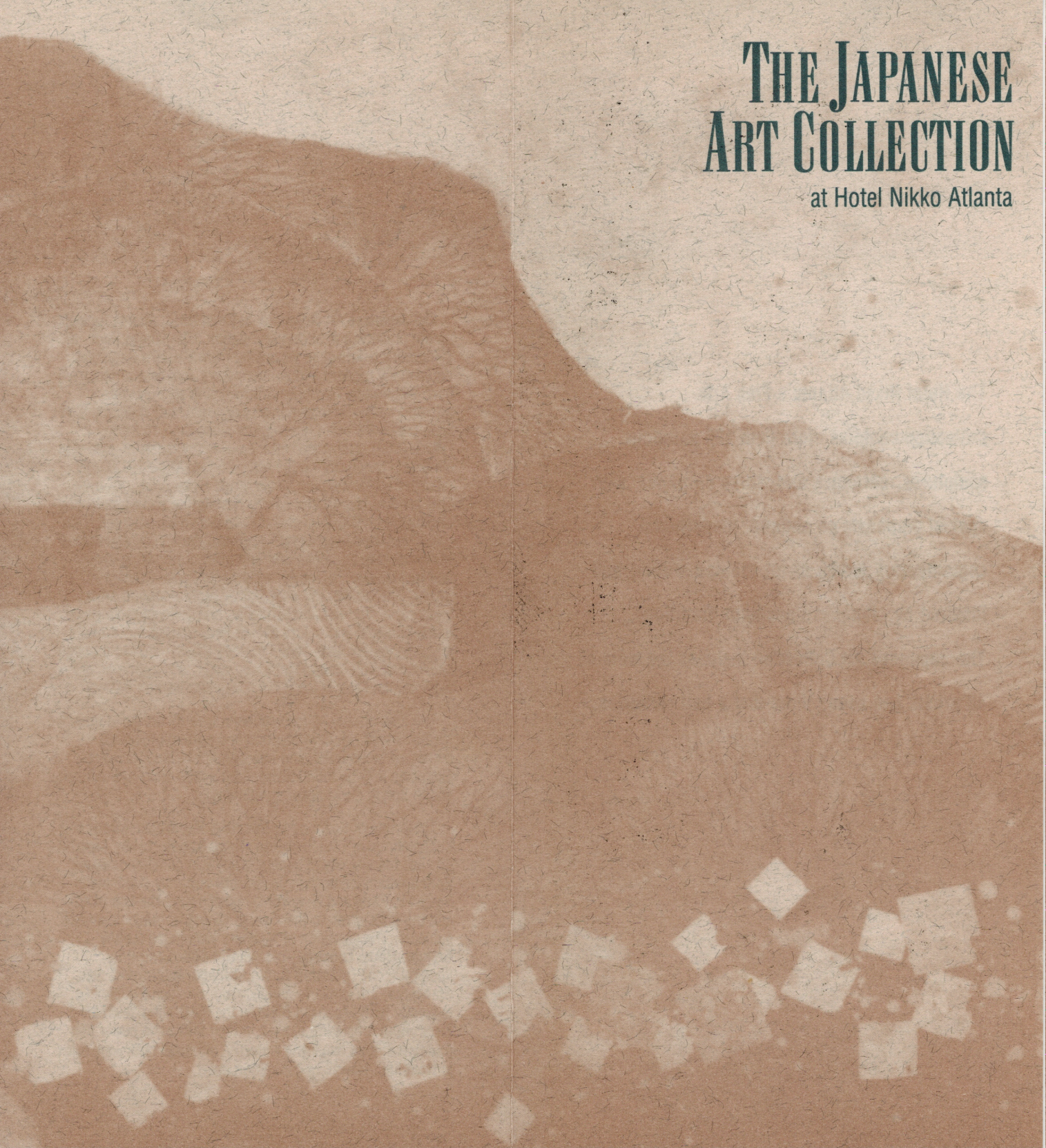


THE JAPANESE ART COLLECTION

at Hotel Nikko Atlanta



The Hotel Nikko Atlanta's Fine Arts

Collection contains more than 125 paintings, sculptures, ceramics and works on paper, with special emphasis on antique, modern and contemporary works of art created within, and inspired by, Japanese aesthetic traditions.

The Japanese Art Collection includes the work of 43 artists and spans three and a half centuries.

The Japanese Art Collection at Hotel Nikko Atlanta focuses on the preservation and interpretation of Japanese Style, as distinct from Japanese art arising from Western traditions. While many modern and contemporary Japanese artists have been inspired by European artforms and style periods, artworks rooted in time-honored artforms and concepts have been created without interruption since the Edo Period (1603-1868). The Westernization of many facets of Japanese life which began during the Meiji Period (1868-1912) was recorded in the medium of the wood block print (*ukiyo-e*). This artform has an immediacy rivaling the photograph, and shortly after 1900, two distinct *ukiyo-e* styles emerged. One, called *sosaku hanga* (creative prints), drew inspiration from contemporary European and American printmaking styles and techniques. The other, called *shin hanga* (modern prints), maintained the cooperative venture among artist, block carver, printer and publisher, and adheres more closely to the subjects and colors of Edo Period wood block prints, embodying Japanese Style. Yoshida Hiroshi formed a bridge between *sosaku hanga* and *shin hanga*, and examples of his work can be seen in the hotel's **Meeting Rooms Gallery**.

The idea of *shin hanga* was embraced by artists of other media as well. Modern painters and potters preserved respected techniques, and interpreted esteemed subjects. Examples may be found throughout public areas of the hotel, and in luxury guest accommodations.

The prints of Kozo Inoue (**Meeting Room Peachtree**) and the paintings of Tsugio Hattori (**Registration, Lobby Arcade**) express the viability of Japanese Style in contemporary art. Both artists were born in Japan, but currently make their homes in Paris and New York, respectively. The use of color and the titles given to their works spring from old Japanese subjects. The paintings of Matsumi Kanemitsu (**Lobby Arcade, Nikko Lounge, Presidential Suite**) and Brian Yoshimi Isobe (**Meeting Room Chicago, Boardroom San Francisco**) are similarly derived from traditional Japanese subjects, with Japanese Style as the motivating aesthetic force. Both artists are explicit in their wishes to honor the tradition of their Japanese ancestry, although both were born in Honolulu, Hawaii, a generation apart.

Japanese Style has long been a vehicle for expressing happiness in nature and in life. Many works selected for the Japanese Art Collection at Hotel Nikko Atlanta bear traditional happy signs of Japan. To endow Hotel Nikko Atlanta with a happy spirit, two three-scroll hanging scrolls from the 17th century were selected for the collection. Both scroll groups depict *Hotai* accompanied by birds in the mid-17th century scrolls (**Convention Preassembly**) by Kano Naganobu (1577-1654), and by the happy signs of pine and bamboo in the late 17th century scrolls (**Main Lobby Alcove**) by Tsunenobu Kano (1636-1713).

Cranes (tsu-ru)—a happy symbol, particularly with regard to long life and peace—greet hotel visitors as they enter (**Main Entrance, Convention Entrance**), and are seen again in the six-panel screen (**Main Lobby**) created by the 18th century Kano School artist Kouami. Wealthy households of the Edo Period took pride in sponsorship of artistic expression. Fortunately, high quality screens of this period have survived for the enjoyment of those who congregate here. The subjects of pine trees and ocean waves appear with the cranes in the Kouami six-panel screen. These three subjects recur in artworks throughout the hotel.

A monumental ceramic vase created by Shuhei Tateyama adorns the north entrance of the hotel (**Convention Entrance**). A great sweep of cranes fly over the surface of this large vase, and waves roll beneath them. This nine-part vase was created in 1989 and donated to the hotel in honor of its opening.

Two large stencil dye works on paper grace this same entrance (**Convention Entrance**). Commissioned by the hotel in 1990, they are the creations of Kunio Isa, one of Japan's greatest practitioners of this ancient artform. In these two works, Mr. Isa expresses the interrelation of young pines at the edge of the sea, and of great, green pines in their maturity.

He says of the former:

“The young pine trees take root on the misty rock cliff, and look to the sky. They brace themselves against the big waves and strong wind, and by absorbing energy from the ground, grow fresh and green into the world.”

And of the latter he says:

“Beautiful old pine trees which have grown and ripened with age seem to dance. And their rich green color reminds us of dancing jade fans, wishing luck and long life.”

In addition to the pine trees located at the **Convention Entrance**, Mr. Isa has created two large works for the **Grand Stair** representing plum trees and blossoms—another happy sign.

On each guest floor are works by Jiro Inagaki created with acrylic paints and colored metal powders on rice paper. For the **Lobby Stair** he created a large scale work titled *Breeze* (1990) using this unusual technique. His approach was to express his thoughts of Atlanta (a place he had never visited) in a subject interpreted through the ages by Japanese artists: the wind.

The illustration in this brochure is taken from the commissioned work by Shuhei Tateyama entitled *A Sea of Trees* (1990). Mr. Tateyama visited Atlanta while the hotel was under construction. In his travels through Atlanta and its environs, he was inspired by the sight of majestic trees standing shoulder to shoulder. The richness of Japanese Style aesthetics served as a source of forms and colors for his handsome mural at **Hotel Registration**.

The Hotel Nikko Atlanta's Fine Arts Collection was formed through the cooperative efforts of Mr. Hisashi Ito, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Nikko Hotels International, and Dr. Glenn A. Long, Fine Arts Advisor to the Hotel Nikko Atlanta Joint Venture Partnership and President of Glenn A. Long Fine Arts.

List of Artists

The following Japanese and Japanese-American artists are represented in the Hotel Nikko Atlanta Art Collection:

- Tsunenobu Fujiwara** (1939-) Born: Fukuchiyama, Japan
- Nobu Fukui** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Katsunori Hamanishi** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Okie Hashimoto** (1899-) Born: Tottori-ken, Tokyo, Japan
- Kiyoshu Hara** (1936-) Born: Shimane Prefecture, Japan
- Tsugio Hattori** (1951-) Born: Kagoshima, Japan
- Jiro Inagaki** (1933-) Born: Yokohama, Japan
- Kozo Inoue** (1937-) Born: Osaka, Japan
- Kunio Isa** (20th Century) Born: Kyoto, Japan
- Brian Yoshimi Isobe** (1954-) Born: Honolulu, Hawaii
- Matsuki Jimyosai** (1930-) Born: Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan
- Matsumi Kanemitsu** (1922-) Born: Ogden, Utah
- Tsunenobu Kano** (1636-1713) Born: Japan
- Senkyu Kataoka** (1943-) Born: Japan
- Mitsuueemon Kato** (20th Century) Born: Aichi-ken, Japan
- Tadashi Kawamoto** (1922-) Born: Japan
- Hasui Kawase** (1883-1957) Born: Japan
- Kouami** (18th Century) Born: Japan
- Fumio Kitaoka** (1918-) Born: Tokyo, Japan
- Katsuhiro Muromachi** (1949-) Born: Tokyo, Japan
- Kano Naganobu** (1577-1654) Born: Kyoto, Japan
- Takayo Noda** (20th Century) Born: Tokyo (?), Japan
- Kenzo Okada** (1948-) Born: Tokyo, Japan
- Sumie Okoshi** (20th Century) Born: Seattle, Washington
- Noboru Senza** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Yasutaka Shimizu** (1947-) Born: Gojozaka, Kyoto, Japan
- Akira Shino** (1938-) Kyoto, Japan
- Toko Shinoda** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Akiko Shirai** (20th Century) Darien, Manchuria
- Hosho Sugizaki** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Hiroyuki Suzuki** (1950-) Born: Japan
- Hino Taizan** (19th Century) Born: Japan
- Shu Takahashi** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Ryohei Tanaka** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Shuhei Tateyama** (1944-) Born: Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan
- Tosai** (20th Century) Born: Kyoto (?), Japan
- Carole Kikuye Uehara** (1941-) Born: Los Angeles, California
- Hankyu Yamada** (20th Century) Born: Japan
- Hiroshi Yoshida** (1876-1950) Born: Kurume, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan
- Shinsui Yoshikawa** (1947-) Born: Odawara, Japan

The names of the artists who created the 18th century six-panel screens in the **Convention Preassembly** and the 19th century four-panel screen in the **Presidential Suite** remain unknown.