JAPAN IN NORWICH

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE SAINSBURY INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE ARTS AND CULTURES

2024

64 THE CLOSE

Norwich, NR1 4DH

www.sainsbury-institute.org

SAINSBURY INSTITUTE
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

2024 IN REVIEW

25TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME

The Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures was founded in 1999 through the generosity of our benefactors Lord Robert and Lady Lisa Sainsbury. Established to promote the study and research of Japanese arts and cultures at a local, national and international level, the Institute this year celebrated its 25th anniversary with an ambitious programme of events and activities.

Beginning with the *Circles of Stone: Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan* exhibition at the iconic prehistoric site of Stonehenge and culminating with a week-long series of receptions, meetings and events in Japan, the *Japan in Norwich* programme has aimed to both review and celebrate the first quarter-century of the Institute, but also look forward to what the next 25 years might hold for this field of study.

Through conferences, exhibitions, workshops, performances and projects, we have been delighted to engage with our supporters who have done so much to enable us to undertake the work that we do, but also to connect with new audiences engaging with Japanese arts and cultures for the first time.

We have been honoured to receive several prestigious awards this year in recognition of our contributions to the field in the last 25 years. In July, we were awarded the Japan Foundation Award, presented to individuals and organisations that have made significant contributions to promoting international mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and other countries through academic, artistic, and other cultural pursuits. This was followed by the awarding of two Foreign Minister's Commendations, one for the Institute as a whole and one for Professor Simon Kaner, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in recognition of our work within the field of Japanese arts and cultures. These top-level endorsements, coinciding with our 25th year, are a testament to and recognition of the hard work and commitment of all who have been involved with the Institute since its inception in 1999.

We are grateful to all those who have supported us, attended our events and engaged in our activities both over the *Japan in Norwich* programme, and the last 25 years of the Sainsbury Institute. We hope you will continue to join us as we move forward into the next 25 years.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

THROUGH OUR EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, AND ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN AND GROW OUR AUDIENCE AND NETWORKS OF SUPPORTERS

- ENGAGEMENT WITH OVER **25,000** VISITORS AND ATTENDEES ACROSS THE PROGRAMME
- **THREE** PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS INCLUDING **TWO** FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATIONS AND THE JAPAN FOUNDATION AWARD
- **SEVEN** EXHIBITIONS AT SITES ACROSS NORWICH, NORFOLK AND THE UK
- MAJOR EVENTS IN **NORWICH**, **LONDON** AND **JAPAN**
- **TWO** NEW PUBLICATIONS
- A GROWING NETWORK OF OVER **7,000** SUBSCRIBERS AND FOLLOWERS ACROSS OUR MAILING LIST AND SOCIAL MEDIA

OUR PROGRAMME

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE SAINSBURY INSTITUTE

2023

September 2023	Closing ceremony of the exhibition *Circles of Stone: Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan* at Stonehenge with the London Taiko Drummers

2024

March 2024	Reception at Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Seattle for our international network of colleagues and former fellows.
May 2024	Exhibition *Nara to Norwich* in The Forum including the 12m replica scroll of the Kannon Bosatsu from Hasedera, Japan, and a series of performances by the Karyōbinga Shōmyō Kenkyūkai.
July 2024	Exhibition *Hokusai: A Vision Above* at Wells Maltings in Wells-next-the-Sea in partnership with the Hokusai-kan Museum in Obuse. International symposium 'Re:Imaging Production シン・複製'. Exhibition *Hokusai: Art Beyond Boundaries* at the Shoe Factory in Norwich in partnership with the Hokusai-kan Museum in Obuse. Exhibition *Tanzaku* in partnership with MORIS, Kobe, at the Shoe Factory in Norwich and associated events programme.
November 2024	Reception at the Embassy of Japan in the UK and Foreign Minister's Commendations Award Ceremony. Conference *Looking Forward in Japanese Arts and Cultures* at the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Visit to Japan by the Vice Chancellor of UEA and Chair of the Sainsbury Institute Management Board. Anniversary reception in Tokyo.
December 2024	Anniversary reception at Hasedera and alumni dinner in Kyoto.

CIRCLES OF STONE

Click here to watch the closing performance

The exhibition *Circles of Stone: Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan* took place between September 2022-September 2023 at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, the most famous prehistoric site in the UK. Celebrating the rich culture of prehistoric Japan, the exhibition told the story of Japanese settlements and stone circles of the middle and late Jomon periods to visitors at the site, many of whom had not encountered Japanese prehistory before.

Following a conference held in August 2023 which explored the themes of the exhibition, the closing ceremony of the exhibition brought the London Taiko Drummers to perform at the site.

AAS SEATTLE 2024

The prestigious Association for Asian Studies (AAS) conference this year took place in Seattle, and annually brings together scholars from around the world with specialisms across Asian studies. On Friday 15th March, the first full day of the conference, we invited our network of past Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellows, friends and colleagues to a lunch close to the venue.

The Institute was represented by Dr Ryoko Matsuba and Dr Eugenia Bogdanova-Kummer, both of whom gave papers at the conference, and Professor Toshio Watanabe. We were also joined by Centre for Japanese Studies members Dr Sherzod Muminov and Dr Eriko Tomizawa-Kay. This was an important opportunity to bring together part of the academic network of the Institute, one of our unique strengths, with many of our former Fellows occupying positions at prestigious institutions across the world.

NARA TO NORWICH

20-25 MAY 2024 THE FORUM, NORWICH

On 19 May 2024 at 11pm, several members of the team for the *Nara to Norwich: Arts and beliefs at the ends of the Silk Roads* project arrived at the central public library of Norwich to unfurl a 12m replica of the giant scroll of Kannon Bosatsu from Hasedera in Nara. Thus began a momentous week of exhibitions, performances, workshops and receptions that also formed part of the historic Norfolk and Norwich Festival programme. Alongside the scroll were displays of high resolution maps which explored the Silk Roads and themes of the *Nara to Norwich* project, as well as the *Later Prehistoric Norfolk Project*, which has undertaken two seasons of fieldwork in Norfolk.

We were privileged to welcome the Karyōbinga Shōmyō Kenkyūkai from Japan for a series of performances of *shōmyō* (ritual chanting) across the week alongside the scroll and at important cultural locations across the city of Norwich and beyond. One particularly memorable performance took place in the historic surroundings of St Peter Mancroft, a medieval church in the centre of Norwich, where the *shōmyō* group and plain song choir of St Peter Mancroft exchanged musical traditions at a workshop in the day before a performance to over 180 people in the church that evening (you can view a recording of the *shōmyō* performance in the church here). The week was rounded off by a symposium exploring the Silk Roads and an anniversary reception from our headquarters at 64 The Close.

A concurrent exhibition was also held in Norwich Cathedral during this week displaying detailed replicas of some of the National Treasures unearthed on the sacred island of Okinoshima. Known as the Shōsōin of the Sea, large numbers of important objects from East Asia and the Silk Roads were deposited at the site by diplomatic envoys, traders and pilgrims seeking safe passage across the straits between Japan and Korea in ancient times.

Right: The Kannon Bosatsu suspended in full from the ceiling of the Atrium accompanied by the Karyōbinga Shōmyō Kenkyūkai.

The Karyōbinga Shōmyō Kenkyūkai and St Peter Mancroft choir following their performance.

The Forum is one of the largest public spaces in Norwich with a footfall of around 5,000 people per day for a range of activities. We were delighted to host the displays at a venue which allowed so many people to enjoy the performances and engage with Japanese arts and cultures when they may not have had the opportunity to do so before. Many visitors also commented on the sense of cultural exchange, appreciation and unity that the Kannon Bosatsu brought to the centre of Norwich – a memorable and moving experience for all involved.

READ A FULL REPORT OF THE EVENTS FROM THE WEEK HERE

We are delighted to announce that a version of this exhibition is also now on display at the Embassy of Japan in the UK until February 2025 - further details can be found here.

'Nara to Norwich' symposium at the Forum.

Anniversary reception at 64 The Close.

HOKUSAI

HOKUSAI: A VISION ABOVE 05-13 JULY 2024, WELLS MALTINGS
HOKUSAI: ART BEYOND BOUNDARIES 17-25 JULY 2024, THE SHOE FACTORY

READ THE FULL REPORT BY PROJECT LEAD DR RYOKO MATSUBA HERE

Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) is perhaps Japan's most renowned artist, particularly famous for his work *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*. He spent the final years of his life in Obuse, Nagano, where he produced masterpieces such as the paintings for the two festival carts and monumental image of the 'Phoenix Glaring in All Directions' on the ceiling of the Gansho-in temple.

This project brought high resolution replicas of Hokusai's works from the Hokusai-kan Museum in Obuse to the UK for the first time. The exhibition in North Norfolk, *Hokusai: A Vision Above* took a focused exploration of the four paintings from the festival carts – Masculine and Feminine Wave, and the Phoenix and the Dragon. Building on this display, the *Hokusai: Art Beyond Boundaries* exhibition moved to Norwich city centre and included a large-scale replica of the phoenix painting from Gansho-in, as well as a selection of Hokusai's works and drawings.

The displays were accompanied by an international symposium, Re:Imaging Production シン・複製, which explored the advancing field of reproductions and replicas through the works in the exhibitions and assessed the applications, advantages, nuances, and limitations of this developing area of digital production.

"I have never been so moved by art knowing it was not 'original'. The attention to detail and exquisite brush strokes, paper quality and displays brought the work to life"

Many visitors from the local community noted in their feedback how much they valued being able to get up close and explore important works that would normally only be available in Japan, and how the exhibition reframed their understanding of the roles of originals and replicas. The exhibitions attracted an audience of those interested in Japanese arts, but also a diverse group of holiday makers, students, and members of the local community who were grateful to have the opportunity to learn more about Hokusai and the many impressive techniques relating to his craft.

"[This exhibition] has changed the way I think about how Japanese arts can be appreciated"

This exhibition and project was held in partnership with the Hokusai-kan Museum, Obuse.

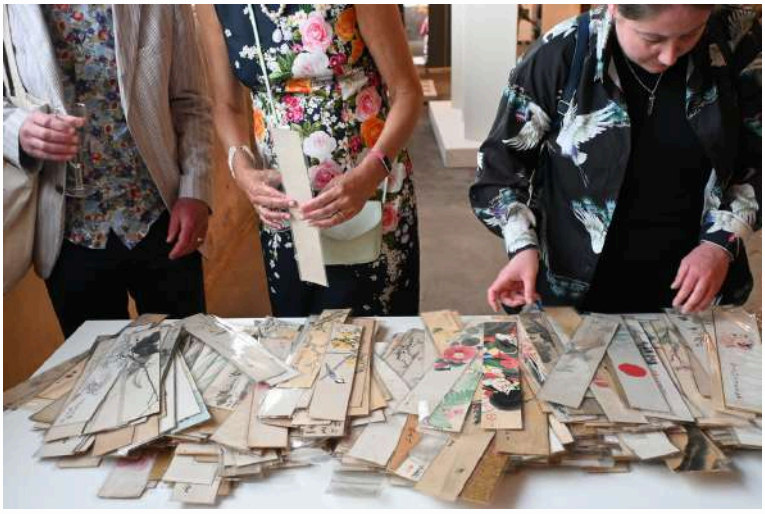
Visitors examine the original artwork 'Quiet Conversation' created for the exhibition by artist Yumiko Kojo.

Professor Simon Kaner addressed attendees to the exhibition's opening reception.

TANZAKU

17-25 JULY 2024 THE SHOE FACTORY, NORWICH

Alongside the exhibition *Hokusai: Art Beyond Boundaries*, we were delighted to bring a display of original artworks to Norwich city centre in partnership with MORIS, Kobe. *Tanzaku* are strips of paper upon which *haiku* or *tanka* were written, often illustrated with paintings depicting the beauty of nature across the four seasons, flora and fauna, scenes from classical literature, and landscapes or customary practices. These artworks decorated the entrance halls of ordinary homes from the end of the Edo period (1603–1868) through to the Shōwa period (1926–1989). This display brought a selection of these works to Norwich, displayed to allow visitors to pick up and engage in a tactile way with the artworks.



A series of events was also hosted in the exhibition space to further explore the themes of the displays. In collaboration with the National Centre for Writing, we were delighted to feature a poetry reading by poet Erica Hesketh within the exhibition to recreate the creative surroundings of the 19th century tea salons in which the works were created. We also welcomed *hyōugushi* (mounting specialist) Oda Tamao for a series of demonstrations exploring the mounting process for hanging scrolls, as well as tea master Watanabe Nozuki who specialises in East Asian-style tea ceremonies and provided a series of events in the exhibition space. This rich programme of events designed to bring the environment of Japanese tea salons to Norwich was complimented by a lecture from Dr Akiko Yano about the current British Museum display "City life and salon culture in Kyoto and Osaka, 1770-1900". The result was a holistic and multifaceted experience that gave visitors to the exhibition a deeper understanding of the environments of cultural and artistic exchange created by the culture of tea salons of Japan.

This exhibition and project was held in partnership with MORIS, Kobe.

Top left and bottom right: Oda-san provided a demonstration to show the techniques for mounting a hanging scroll in the exhibition space.

Top right and bottom left: Watanabe-sensei gave an East Asian tea ceremony to visitors in the upstairs area of the gallery.

LONDON EVENTS

07 - 09 NOVEMBER 2024

Our anniversary celebrations continued in November with a reception, dinner and conference at prestigious locations across London.

RECEPTION AND CONFERMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATIONS

Thursday 07 November at the Embassy of Japan in the UK, Piccadilly

To begin our series of London events, a reception was held at the Embassy of Japan in the UK to celebrate 25 years of the Sainsbury Institute and for the award ceremony of the Foreign Minister's Commendations. The event was attended by many of the staff, supporters, students and friends of the Institute both past and present and culminated in the conferment of the awards by His Excellency Ambassador Suzuki Hiroshi, who had arrived into his post earlier that week. Toasts and remarks were provided by Professor Rebecca Salter PRA, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, and Professor Kawai Masatomo, member of the Sainsbury Institute Management Board and Professor Emeritus of Keio University. A version of our *Nara to Norwich* exhibition from the Forum in May was also installed at the Embassy and is on show until February 2025 - more information can be found here.

The report on the awards ceremony from the Embassy of Japan in the UK is available here.

Professor Simon Kaner receives his award from Ambassador Suzuki.

Sainsbury Institute staff gathered to receive the Foreign Minister's Commendation.

CONFERENCE DINNER

Friday 08 November at the Royal Asiatic Society, London

The following day, after a trip to the Silk Roads exhibitions at both the British Museum and British Library, we were delighted to host a dinner with our speakers for the upcoming conference at the Royal Asiatic Society. Professor Susan Whitfield, Professor of Silk Road Studies at the Institute and board member of the Royal Asiatic Society, introduced attendees to the society and its history. The convivial occasion gave an opportunity to discuss the themes of the following day's conference, and was also attended by His Excellency Ambassador Suzuki and Mr Nishijima Taiji of the Ishibashi Foundation, who generously supported the conference and associated events.

Staff and speakers at the Royal Asiatic Society.

CONFERENCE: LOOKING FORWARD IN JAPANESE ARTS AND CULTURES

Saturday 09 November at the Royal Academy of Arts, London

The full programme including abstracts is available here.

On Saturday 09 November, we welcomed a host of experts from across the world to speak on a range of themes examining future directions in the study of Japanese arts and cultures. Covering art as a cultural resource, art and archaeology, visual culture, and digital Japan, the conference welcomed contributions from professors, advanced scholars, and the next generation of researchers for the audience – made up of students, scholars and the public. The prestigious venue at the Royal Academy of Arts provided the ideal backdrop to a full day of discussions and exchanges. We were honoured to have welcoming remarks from Ambassador Suzuki, Rebecca Salter PRA, and Mr Nishijima before moving on to the four panels for the day. Each session also began with a video from four distinguished Japanese art historians – Professor Kawai Masatomo, Professor Kobayashi Tadashi, Professor Kono Motoaki and Professor Tsuji Nobuo – who gave their comments on the study of Japanese arts and cultures today, the Sainsbury Institute, and future directions of the field. The sessions captured how dynamic the field continues to be, and set the scene for the next 25 years of the Sainsbury Institute's activities.

RA
ISHIBASHI FOUNDATION
SAINSBURY INSTITUTE
UEA
Looking Forward in Japanese Arts and Cultures
Celebrating 25 years of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
Saturday 09 November 2024
Benjamin West Lecture Theatre, Royal Academy
10:00-17:00

RA

RA
Communicating the Appeal of Japanese Art through Digital Technology at Tokyo National Museum
Yumi TAKAGI
Tokyo National Museum

JAPAN EVENTS

28 NOVEMBER - 02 DECEMBER 2024

The year culminated in an important visit to Japan by the Vice Chancellor of UEA and a delegation from Norwich.

In November and December of 2024, a delegation from Norwich made the trip to Japan with UEA's Vice Chancellor and President, and the Chair of the Sainsbury Institute Management Board, Professor David Maguire. Along with the Vice Chancellor's wife Heather, the group was formed of Professor Simon Kaner (Executive Director, Sainsbury Institute), Heidi Potter (Senior Advisor, Japan Society of London), Alan Waters (former Leader of Norwich City Council), Professor Jago Cooper (Director, Sainsbury Centre), Baroness Freddie Van Till (Chapter Steward, Norwich Cathedral), Professor Toshio Watanabe (Professor for Japanese Arts and Cultural Heritage, Sainsbury Institute), Dr Ryoko Matsuba (Lecturer in Japanese Digital Arts and Humanities, Sainsbury Institute), Kaoru Sakurai (Research and Finance Officer, Sainsbury Institute) and Olivia Butler (Event and Project Co-ordinator, Sainsbury Institute). The visit was the first by the Institute since 2018 and the attendees formed a group made up of many of the key cultural representatives of Norwich.

Prior to the Vice Chancellor's arrival on Wednesday 27 November, the Sainsbury Institute team and wider delegation made a number of visits to partners and friends including the Hokusai-kan Museum, Hoshikuso Obsidian Museum, Professor Kobayashi Tatsuo and the Nagaoka Municipal Science Museum, and Kanazawa Local Governments. Following his arrival, the Vice Chancellor was delighted to meet with important partners including the Ishibashi Foundation, Keio University, University of Tokyo, Toshiba International Foundation, and the Japan Foundation amongst others. The Institute then hosted a series of events to bring together and thank our friends and supporters in Japan, and discuss the future vision for the Institute.

TOKYO RECEPTION

Thursday 28 November at Fabbit Marunouchi, Tokyo

For our first official event of the visit, we welcomed over 120 guests to a reception, held in one of the impressive skyscrapers that surround Tokyo station. Colleagues, supporters and friends from throughout the Institute's 25 year history came to the event and represented the impressive networks that form one of the cornerstones of the Institute's success. We were also delighted to welcome many UEA alumni and partners to the event as an opportunity to thank them for their support and work in enhancing UEA's connection with Japan over the years. Professor Simon Kaner addressed attendees with some opening remarks before handing over to Professor David Maguire who introduced himself to the reception and added his thanks to the many supporters in the room. After some introductions by the delegation, Professor Kono Motoaki and Professor Kawai Masatomo – two pre-eminent scholars of Japanese art history – led a *kampai* for the occasion.

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Friday 29 November at the British Embassy of Japan

The following evening after another day of visits around Tokyo, we were honoured to hold a dinner at the British Embassy in Tokyo hosted by Her Excellency Ambassador Julia Longbottom. The illustrious surroundings of the Ambassador's residence provided the ideal setting to bring together supporters of the Institute and discuss our future plans and directions in the context of the 25th anniversary. 26 attendees were provided with a taste of Norfolk in Japan, with a menu inspired by the region's best produce. Many fruitful discussions were held over the course of the evening and we look forward to sharing more details of the result of these with our supporters in due course.

TRANSFER TO KANSAI

Saturday 30 November

The delegation then took an early *shinkansen* (bullet train) from Tokyo to the Kansai region. After a quick sighting of Mount Fuji from the train, the group arrived in Nara to meet with more contacts and supporters in this area. The group also had the opportunity to visit the eighth century site of Tōdai-ji in Nara which forms part of the Institute's *Nara to Norwich* project. It was a particular privilege for the group to see so many sites during the trip that have informed much of the research undertaken by the Sainsbury Institute across its various projects.

Our full online exhibition of *Nara to Norwich* is now available here.

Tōdai-ji in Nara.

The delegation also had the opportunity to visit the famous deer of Nara park during their time at Tōdai-ji.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND KANSAI RECEPTION

Sunday 01 December at Hasedera, Nara

The next morning, the delegation had an early start from Nara where we set off to Kitora kofun which also features in the *Nara to Norwich* project. This important ancient burial site has spectacular paintings of the four cardinal points of the compass represented by the Black Tortoise (North), Azure Dragon (East), Red Phoenix (South) and White Tiger (West), as well as an astronomical chart.

From here, the group travelled to Hasedera – an important visit for the Sainsbury Institute following our exhibition in Norwich in May which featured the 12m replica scroll of the Kannon Bosatsu from the temple. The temple is positioned amongst the mountains with its autumn colours, which were at their fullest during the visit. The group were honoured to be greeted by Head Priest Kawamata-san and representatives from the temple for introductions and some tea before a quick photo opportunity.

As our supporters will know, the Sainsbury Institute was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dame Elizabeth Esteve-Coll in September, who was instrumental in the creation of the Sainsbury Institute and served as a member of the Management Board from the outset. During our time at Hasedera, memorial prayers were held in her honour with an accompanying performance of *shōmyō* by the temple representatives. Dame Elizabeth was a great advocate of the study of Japanese arts and cultures and did much to encourage and facilitate the activities of the Institute. Prayers were also given for Professor John Last, former Vice Chancellor of Norwich University of the Arts, who passed away in August last year. It was a moving service for all involved and one that we hope Dame Elizabeth and Professor Last would have been proud of.

The autumn colours were in full bloom at Hasedera during the visit.

Following the service, the Institute welcomed friends and supporters from the Kansai region to a reception in the Hasedera complex. Accompanied by tea and mochi, remarks were given by Professor Simon Kaner and the Vice Chancellor before attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. The convivial atmosphere and conversations served to highlight the range of Institute's networks – from university representatives, to museum specialists, alumni, and a high school student from Japan who had recently spent time on an exchange in Norfolk. We were delighted to also be joined by Kobayashi-san, who was instrumental in bringing the Kannon Bosatsu scroll to Norwich. After the momentous events and exhibition in May, Hasedera provided the perfect setting to bring a bit of Norwich to our friends in Japan.

Reception for friends and colleagues of the Institute and UEA in the Kansai region at Hasedera.

Welcome and introduction by Kawamata-san and the team at Hasedera.

KYOTO ALUMNI DINNER

Monday 02 December

For the final day of what had been a very successful and fruitful trip, the delegation moved to Kyoto and were able to enjoy a kabuki performance at the famous Minami-za, complete with bento lunch. Following this, the group headed to Murin-an for tea and an introduction to the gardens where the autumn colours provided a spectacular and serene backdrop. The last event of the trip was a dinner for the alumni of UEA based in the Kansai region, arranged by UEA alumnus Mr Ando Mikio and where the group enjoyed a meal of *shabu-shabu* and gave an opportunity for the Vice Chancellor to thank the UEA alumni network for all they do in furthering UEA's activities in Japan.

Top: Murin-an gardens, Kyoto. Bottom: Attendees of the Kyoto UEA Alumni dinner.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to reconnect with so many of our partners, colleagues and friends in Japan as part of our 25th anniversary celebrations and eagerly look forward to updating you more with the results of meetings and discussions had during our time.

THE JAPAN FOUNDATION AWARDS 2024

TOKYO THE JAPAN FOUNDATION TOKYO, OCTOBER 2024
LONDON JAPAN HOUSE LONDON, JANUARY 2025

Following the news of the Sainsbury Institute being one of three recipients of the Japan Foundation Award in 2024, Professor Simon Kaner gave two talks on behalf of the Institute as part of the lecture series associated with this prestigious award. Both talks explored 'How Japanese arts and cultures can make us happier', bringing the importance of the study and engagement in this field into a wider context and demonstrating the important and measurable impact that culture can have on our lives.

We are grateful to the Japan Foundation for this recognition and to all who helped to bring together these two memorable events in Japan and the UK.

TOWARDS 2025

As we enter the new year, we are delighted to announce some of our upcoming projects for 2025.

To begin 2025, Vice Chancellor and President of UEA, and Chair of the Sainsbury Institute Management Board Professor David Maguire was welcomed to the Embassy of Japan in the UK by His Excellency Ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki along with Professor Simon Kaner.

The group discussed the future plans of both the Institute and UEA relating to Japanese studies and increasing cooperation through education between the UK and Japan.

Ishibashi Foundation Network Leader Fellowship Programme in Japanese Arts

Thanks to the generous support of the Ishibashi Foundation, the Sainsbury Institute launches a major new initiative this year intended to foster a new network of next-generation specialists in the field. This will include a year-long programme of online mentoring leading to an intensive residential programme in Norwich in summer 2026. Full details will be released and applications will open on 31 March 2025 with a deadline of 30 May 2025.

Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Conference

Run by the Centre for Japanese Studies (UEA) and generously supported by the Toshiba International Foundation, this week-long conference will provide an opportunity for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students to hear from a range of researchers and lecturers in Japanese studies at UEA while also sharing and presenting their own research. Based in Norwich, the conference will run 03 - 07 March 2025 and offers full bursaries to successful applicants.

THIRD THURSDAY LECTURES

ALONGSIDE OUR AMBITIOUS ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO BRING OUR USUAL ACTIVITIES AND LECTURES TO AUDIENCES ACROSS THE GLOBE WITH OVER 1000 ATTENDEES THIS YEAR.

January 2024	*Kabuki's Nineteenth Century: Stage and Print in Early Modern Edo* Dr Jonathan Zwicker (UC Berkeley)
February 2024	*A cry from Wajima: the impact of the Noto Peninsula New Year's Day Earthquake on the lacquer industry* Murose Kazumi (Living National Treasure), Murose Tomoya, Yamada Masami (V&A)
March 2024	*'Ehon Don Kihōte': The precursor of the Serizawa books* Dr Rosanna Rios Perez (Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow 2023-2024)
April 2024	*Kuwabara Shisei: Documenting the US Military Base in Cold War Korea* Dr Ji Hye Han (Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow 2023-2024)
May 2024	*Building for the Sovereign and the Buddha: Artisans and Labourers in Eighth-Century Japan* Dr Ellen Van Goethem (Kyushu University)
June 2024	*Ways of Learning: An Apprentice Boatbuilder in Japan* Douglas Brooks (Boatbuilder, writer, and researcher)
July 2024	*City life and salon culture in Kyoto and Osaka, 1770-1900* Dr Akiko Yano (British Museum)
September 2024	*The Japanese Lacquer Collection at Chiddingstone Castle* Naomi Collick (Chiddingstone Castle)
October 2024	*A Joint Reflection: an evening of Art, Storytelling and Performance with George Nuku* Joint Robert Sainsbury Lecture with Sainsbury Research Unit
November 2024	*Reflections on Yoshida: Three Generations of Japanese Printmaking* Dr Monika Hinkel (SOAS)
December 2024	*Journey of the British Museum exhibition 'Silk Roads': A spotlight on East Asia* Dr Yu-ping Luk (British Museum)

OUR ACTIVITIES

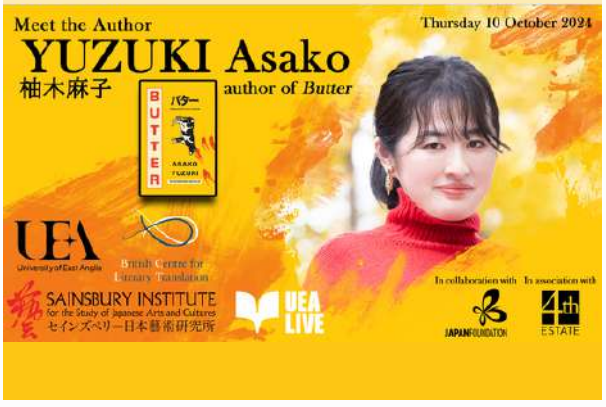
WE HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK ACROSS A RANGE OF EVENTS, PROJECTS AND RESEARCH THIS YEAR

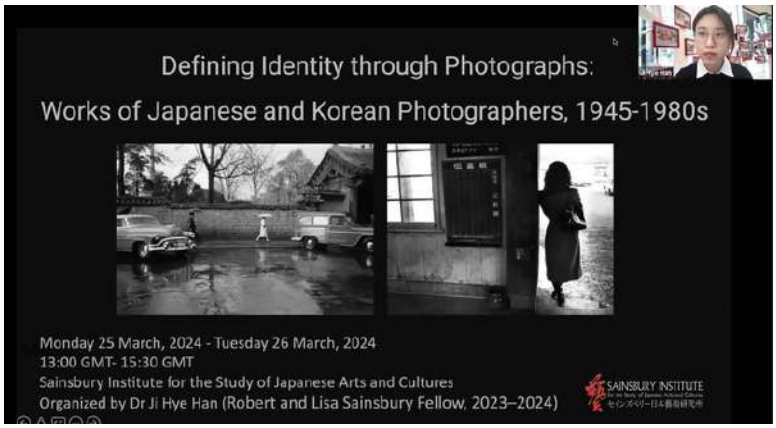
Nagawa-Thetford Exchange Project

Fellows Workshop - Rosanna Rios

Royal Norfolk Show

In Conversation with author Yuzuki Asako

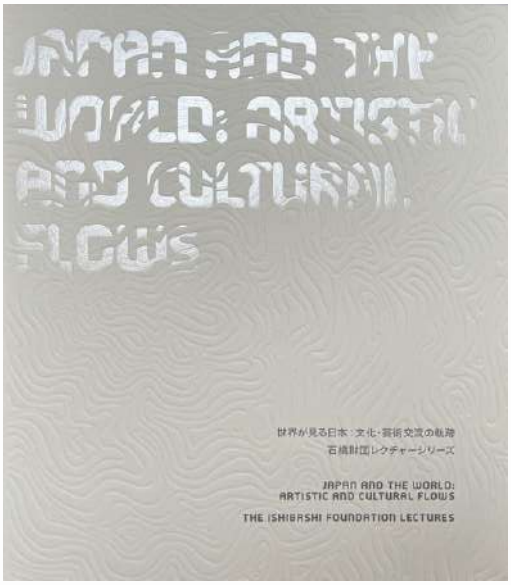




Fellows Workshop - Ji Hye Han

PUBLICATIONS

This year, we were also delighted to produce two new publications.



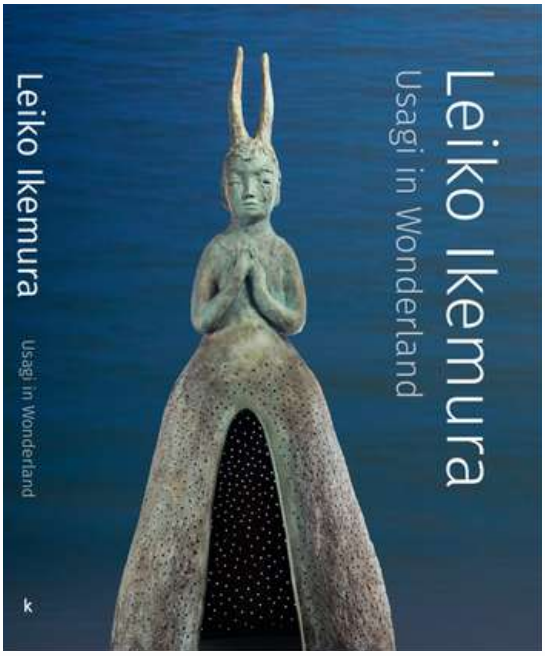
JAPAN AND THE WORLD: ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL FLOWS 世界が見る日本：文化・芸術交流の軌跡 石橋財団レクチャーシリーズ

Japanese Translation

This year, the Ishibashi Foundation generously supported the translation into Japanese of ***Japan and the World: Artistic and Cultural Flows***. The book is based on the Ishibashi Foundation Lecture Series which the Institute organised in Japan between 2014 and 2018 and covering a range of topics relating to Japanese arts and cultures. The English version of the book was published in 2021 and the recordings of some of the lectures are available on our YouTube channel here.

LEIKO IKEMURA USAGI IN WONDERLAND

Resulting from the exhibition which took place at the Sainsbury Centre in 2021, ***Leiko Ikemura: Usagi in Wonderland*** explores the works of Ikemura through a series of essays from experts in the field. The book is also the catalogue of the show, the first major exhibition of Ikemura's work in the UK. The Sainsbury Centre has also installed a bronze version of the monumental *Usagi Kannon* sculpture from the cover of the book which now stands in the museum's popular Sculpture Park.



OUR STAFF

ALONGSIDE THE ANNIVERSARY EVENTS, OUR STAFF HAVE CONTINUED TO PRODUCE AN IMPRESSIVE RESEARCH OUTPUT.

PROFESSOR SIMON KANER

Executive Director and Head of Centre for Archaeology and Heritage

Continuing work on the *Archaeology of the Japan Sea* project. Gave keynote at the Okinoshima World Heritage Research Conference. Led study visit to Korea and Japan as part of the *Nara to Norwich* project. Led *Circles of Stone: Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan* project in partnership with English Heritage and Ishibashi Foundation. Published articles on the Tomio Maruyama tomb (longest sword in from ancient Japan) and Kofun period archaeology in *Current Archaeology*, and *Leiko Ikemura: Usagi in Wonderland*.

PROFESSOR NICOLE COOLIDGE ROUSMANIERE

Research Director

Curating a major exhibition on manga, scheduled to open at the de Young Museum in San Francisco in Autumn 2025.

Continuing important research on Edward Sylvester Morse and materials in the Peabody Essex Museum.

PROFESSOR TOSHIO WATANABE

Emeritus Professor for Japanese Arts and Cultural Heritage

Gave an important keynote at the 40th Anniversary conference for the Association for the Study of Modern Japanese Art History.

Recently appointed as Senior Advisor to the Sainsbury Institute.

Continued research into a number of projects including *Ilse Watanabe and the Post-war Knitwear Design in Japan*.

DR EUGENIA BOGDANOVA-KUMMER

Associate Professor in Japanese Arts, Cultures, and Heritage

Currently teaching on a Japanese art history module at SOAS.

Leading on a new project for young network leaders and scholars in Japanese arts.

Co-organised a major international conference at Heidelberg University on *Narrating Japanese Art Histories: Past, Present, Future* and recently a published chapter on 'A View of the Avant-Garde from Postwar Japanese Calligraphy'.

DR RYOKO MATSUBA

Lecturer in Japanese Digital Arts and Humanities

Led on July exhibition projects as well as conducting own research into traditional papermaking in Japan.

Continues to undertake pioneering digitisation of Japanese objects and books in important collections across the UK.

Published several papers and books including *Hokusai's Method* and *Mad about Painting*, voted as one of the New York Times best art books of 2023.

PROFESSOR SUSAN WHITFIELD

Professor in Silk Road Studies

Gave keynote at the British Museum's recent Silk Roads conference relating to their current major exhibition.

Gave many talks and workshops on the subject of the Silk Roads in the UK and abroad, as well as publishing several papers.

Led on arrangements for the *Nara to Norwich* exhibitions, both at the Forum in Norwich and online.

DR ANDY HUTCHESON

Research Fellow, Centre for Archaeology and Heritage

Continuing important research into the role of heritage, archaeology and wellbeing through the National Lottery Heritage Funded project, the *Later Prehistoric Norfolk Project*. Also working on projects relating to *Japan during the Axial Age,* and *Nara to Norwich* including a recent article for a special Silk Roads edition of *The Historian*.

Upcoming co-authored article in Nature Portfolio Journal (NPJ): Climate Action, as well as multiple other papers relating to research projects.

OUR ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH SUPPORT TEAM ALSO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE IMPORTANT SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS ACROSS THE INSTITUTE

AKIRA HIRANO

Librarian, Lisa Sainsbury Library

The Lisa Sainsbury Library continued to develop and grow its collections, acquiring a collection of over 300 illustrated *tanzaku*.

Hosted the Japan Library Group meeting in 2024.

Continuation of the Keio Librarian exchange scheme and visit by Chair of the Sainsbury Institute Management Board to Keio University Media Centre in recognition of this important and long-standing relationship.

ADMINSITRATIVE STAFF

DENISA EDWARDS
Institute Administrator

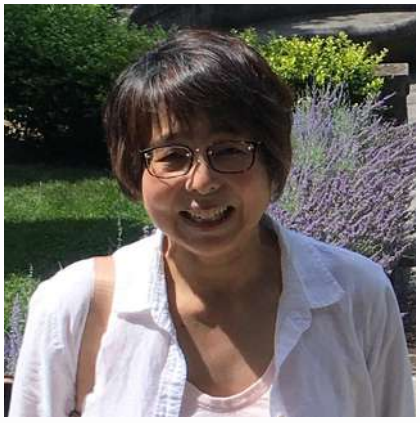
KAORU SAKURAI
Research and Finance Officer

OLIVIA BUTLER
Event and Project Coordinator

LAURA HOLLINGHURST
Office Assistant

ROBERT AND LISA SAINSBURY FELLOWS

OUR NETWORK OF OVER 80 FELLOWS SPECIALISE IN A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS RELATING TO THE FIELD AT INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE WORLD



DR PAULINE OTA

Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow 2024-2025

Pauline is an art historian whose research examines late eighteenth and early nineteenth century cityscapes/views of Kyoto, early modern Japanese maps, and the supernatural in Japanese art.

Pauline is currently completing a journal article on the famed print triptych by Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1798-1861), *Takiyasha the Witch and the Skeleton Spectre of 1843-47*.

DR ROSANNA RIOS PEREZ

Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow 2023-2024

Rosanna is an artist who specialises in Japanese traditional dyeing techniques *katazome* and *yūzen* and whose research focuses on textile artist Yunoki Samiro.

During her fellowship, she has worked on articles relating to the 'Serizawa books,' taking particular interest in the *Ehon Don Kihōte* and *Shinpan Don Kihōte*. She focuses on the visual devices used and technical aspects related to *katazome* dyeing on paper.

DR JI HYE HAN

Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow 2023-2024

Ji Hye is an art historian whose work examines photographic representations of the US military in Japan and Korea, two major host countries of US military overseas bases during the Cold War era.

During her fellowship, she worked on the publication of two of her major dissertation chapters - one related to the first photobook of Ishiuchi Miyako (1947–), and the other investigating the photographic representation of the US military presence in 1960s–80s Korea by Kuwabara Shisei (1936–).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE INSTITUTE IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR ACTIVITIES, RESEARCH AND PROJECTS.

We would like to thank the below people and organisations for their help with our events this year, and extend our gratitude to the many other friends and supporters who continue to make our activities and research possible.

Mr Ando Mikio

Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University

Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Daiwa Anglo Japanese Foundation

Embassy of Japan in the UK

Embassy of UK in Japan

English Heritage

The Forum Trust

Fukuoka Prefectural World Heritage Promotion Office

Gatsby Charitable Foundation

Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation

Hasedera, Nara

Hokusai-kan Museum

Hoshikuso Obsidian Museum

Ishibashi Foundation

The Japan Foundation

The Japan Society

Ambassador Julia Longbottom

Paul Madden CMG

MORIS

Nara Visitors Bureau

National Centre for Writing

National Lottery Heritage Fund

Norfolk and Norwich Festival

Norwich Cathedral

Norwich City Council

NTT Art Technology/Ars Techne

The Restoration Trust

Royal Academy of Arts

Royal Asiatic Society

Sainsbury Centre

Mr Seli Yuki

The South Asia Collection

St Peter Mancroft

Mr Takanashi Hisashi

Thetford Ancient House Museum

Toshiba International Foundation

Yakult UK Ltd

Yoshino Gypsum Art Foundation

Photography and image credits:

Olivia Butler

Kyoko Moriwaki

Andi Sapey

SAINSBURY INSTITUTE
for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所

@sisjac_uea

@sisjac.org

@sisjac_uk

@sisjac.bsky.social

SIGN UP TO OUR MAILING LIST HERE