

Alors que la culture du kimono prospérait pendant la période Edo (1603-1868), les netsuke, de petites sculptures, ont été créés comme des bascules pour maintenir les sachets et les étuis contenant du tabac et des médicaments en place sur la ceinture obi portée avec le kimono. Ce qui a commencé comme des pièces fonctionnelles pour empêcher ces petits conteneurs suspendus de tomber au sol s'est transformé en petites sculptures très créatives. Aujourd'hui, les netsuke classiques ont acquis une renommée internationale en tant que sculptures remarquablement détaillées. Les netsuke contemporains incorporant de nouveaux sujets et approches ont également attiré l'attention. Cette exposition itinérante présente des netsuke contemporains sculptés dans du bois par des artisans de netsuke vivants au Japon, ainsi que des netsuke créés par des artistes contemporains tels qu'Izumi Kato. Il comprend également un netsuke en bois que les visiteurs peuvent toucher. À travers cette exposition, les visiteurs apprécieront les compétences sophistiquées et les esprits ludiques derrière le netsuke contemporain ainsi que sa beauté formelle et sa contemporanéité.

Exhibition title : Contemporary Wood-Carved Netsuke

Year of production : 2017

【Exhibition Summary】

As *kimono* culture flourished during the Edo period (1603-1868), *netsuke*, small carvings, were created as toggles to hold pouches and cases containing tobacco and medicine in place on the obi sash worn with the kimono. What began as functional pieces to prevent those little suspended containers from falling to the ground evolved into small but highly creative carvings. Today, classic *netsuke* have gained international acclaim as remarkably detailed carvings. Contemporary netsuke incorporating new subject matter and approaches have also been attracting attention. This traveling exhibition showcases contemporary netsuke carved of wood by living netsuke craftsmen in Japan, plus netsuke created by contemporary artists such as Izumi Kato. It also includes wooden netsuke that visitors may touch. Through this exhibition, visitors will appreciate the sophisticated skills and playful minds behind contemporary netsuke as well as its formal beauty and contemporaneity.

Organizer:

The Japan Foundation

Exhibition Adviser:

Taishu Komatsu (Director of Eisei Bunko Museum)

Committee member:

Bishu Saito (First Chairperson of International Netsuke Carvers' Association)

Yuushi Tanida (Chief Curator of the Tobacco and Salt Museum)

Masanori Watanabe (Former President of Japan Netsuke Society)

Masanobu Ito (Former Managing Director, Arts and Culture Department, The Japan Foundation)

Number of participating netsuke craftsmen: 42

Number of participating contemporary artists: 4

Number of works: 65

Floor space required: 45–150 square meters

(7 acrylic cases & 1 hands on stand are included; each case displays 8-10 netsuke)

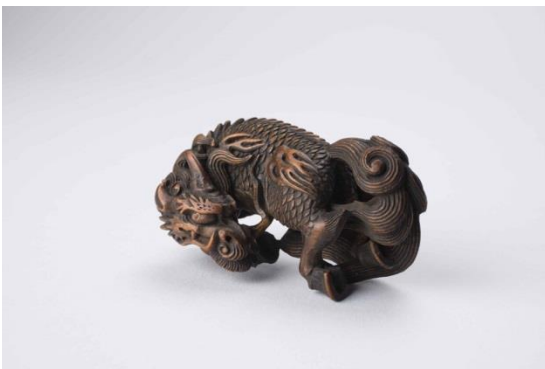
Equipment required: Display platforms or tables to exhibit the 7 acrylic cases and 1 hands on stand for the exhibition



Bishu Saito *Falcon* 1975



Ryushi Komada *Woman Entertainer* 2017



Motomasa Kurita *Auspicious Sign* 2017



Zanmai Onosato *A Tengu's Nose* 2017



Bokusen Takagi *Skull* 2014



Hiroaki Nakanishi *Mindscape* 2007



Shinya Nagashima *DRAGON x QUEEN* 2017



Izumi Kato *Untitled* 2017