

**February
2013**

CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE



JAPAN CREATIVE CENTRE



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2013

FEBRUARY EVENTS IN JCC

23 February 2013 JCC Cinema 18: My Darling is a Foreigner

SNEAK PEEK AT THE EVENTS IN MARCH!

13 – 16 March 2013 Ohara 29th Anniversary Exhibition

TBD NHK *TOMORROW* Beyond 3.11 Documentary

TBD JCC Cinema 19

SUPPORTED EVENTS

19 January – 21 April 2013 [“Omnilogue: Your Voice of Mine” Exhibition @ NUS Museum](#)

22 February – 10 March 2013 [Hello, Shibuya Tokyo @Plaza Singapura](#)

JAPANESE RELATED EVENTS

22 January - 23 February 2013 [Tokyo Street](#)

22 January - 9 February 2013 [M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 13'](#)

18 January - 24 February 2013 [Tomoko Nagai: Dramatic Moments](#)

18 January - 10 March 2013 [Nobuaki Takekawa: "We Are Pirates of Uncharted History"](#)

18 January - 10 March 2013 [Nikei Fine Arts](#)

NOTICE

[40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation](#)

[The Japan Foundation Program Guidelines for Fiscal 2013-2014](#)



40th YEAR OF ASEAN-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

Further information and updates about JCC events can be found on the [JCC website](#) and [Facebook](#).

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1 OVERVIEW

As a new beginning into the Year 2013, which marks the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Japan Creative Centre (JCC) presented a range of events and exhibitions at both JCC and other venues for all to enjoy. Amongst this list, JCC worked with Master Potter Iskandar Jalil and his disciples to bring the masses an exhibition of the artist's and his disciples' latest works. In conjunction with Pottery which is much prevalent in the Gifu Prefecture of Japan, JCC also brought in rising Japanese painter Tomoyuki Kambe to present a talk on Tradition and Creativity (which we will cover in the next issue). Whilst JCC provided a rich art platform during this month, it also touched on other aspects of its priority areas like Architecture where Kumamoto Artpolis Exhibition of Architecture was held at NUS as well as movie screenings on recovery efforts towards Tohoku's rebuilding. We shall look at these events closely in the following pages.

1.1 KUMAMOTO ARTPOLIS: Architecture through Communication

Jointly organized by JCC and the Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore (NUS) as well as the Japan Foundation, the traveling overseas exhibition of architecture entitled "**Kumamoto Artpolis: Architecture through Communication**" was conducted in Singapore this January 2013. The Opening Ceremony of this unique event was held on 9 January 2013 at NUS where we had a large audience who joined in to launch the opening of the travelling exhibition. The opening remarks were presented by the Director of JCC, DCM Toshihide Ando and the Dean of School of Design & Environment, Professor Heng Chye Kiang of the National University of Singapore.



Kuma High School of Industry, Traditional Architecture Workshop - Atelier Zo
(Photo: Masatsugu Miyai, K.A.P.)



Kumamoto Artpolis featured award-winning architectural designs and projects from the Kumamoto Prefecture of Japan with aims in presenting contemporary Japanese architecture. This exhibition was held from 10th January 2013 (Thur) - 31st January 2013 (Thur) at National University of Singapore's (NUS) Mezzanine, School Exhibition Hall.

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1.2 “OMNILOGUE: YOUR VOICE IS MINE”

The Japan Foundation and NUS Museum, National University of Singapore presents “Omnilogue: Your Voice is Mine” Art Exhibition in Singapore. After being hosted in Perth and New Delhi, this exhibition aimed to create cultural exchanges in the 21st century, has finally been brought to Singapore in its final presentation.

Curated by 2 Japanese and 2 Singaporean curators from notable Museums in both Japan and Singapore, this Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition features works by 6 young and promising Japanese artists (Below are some of the works by the artists).



Motohiro Tomii
Another Piece
2013
NUS Museum gallery guides,
brochures and staples

Fuyuki Yamakawa
Platform for sharing her stories
2013
Sound installation
(with a live stream from MacRitchie
Reservoir)



In its final presentation at Singapore, this exhibition is now on at the NUS Museum National University of Singapore from January 19 – April 21, 2013. Admission is free to all. Do visit this link for further details on the exhibition and information of the works and artists: <http://www.jpfg.go.jp/e/culture/new/1301/01-01.html>

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1.3 NHK DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING (JAN 2013)

In a bid to share Tohoku's recovery moments and rebuilding efforts after the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred in March 2011, Japan Creative Centre (JCC) together with NHK Enterprises, Inc. presented a series of TV documentaries reporting on the Japanese efforts to better tomorrow. As was done in previous months like 11th July, 11th September and 12th December 2012, our latest screening was held on 11th January 2013. During this session, 2 episodes of the NHK Tohoku Recovery Documentary Film series namely "Titi Freak - Graffiti Bonding" & "Woong San - Sing for Tomorrow" were screened. The series which is presented in a documentary format brings heartwarming and tear-jerking moments of the Japanese as they rebuild the country.

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1.4 JCC CINEMA 17: "PATISSERIE COIN DE RUE"

As the first JCC Movie Screening of 2013, JCC was all geared up to present the screening of 2011 released Japanese hit film "Patisserie Coin de rue". Held on the 26th of January 2013, we had a booming audience gathered for the event. Joining them was His Excellency Ambassador of Japan, Mr Yoichi Suzuki and his wife Mrs Takako Suzuki. We had a full house during this very popular event!



JCC Film Screening of "Patisserie Coin de rue" was followed up with a sharing session by Singapore based Japanese Patisserie, Chef Tomoko Hisashiguchi. During this light-hearted talk, Chef Tomoko shared her knowledge and expertise on pastry making. Questions flowed from the audience and many laughs were shared during this special session. Chef

Tomoko addressed questions from our audience who were brimming with curiosity on the workings of a pâtissier! JCC Cinema is held every last Saturday of the month where Japanese anime and movies are filmed along with a sharing session after by a special speaker from a similar industry.

In the month of February 2013, JCC will be screening “**Mr Darling is a Foreigner**” on **23rd February 2013** from 2pm-5pm in view of Valentine’s Day.

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1.5 ISKANDAR JALIL OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony of Iskandar Jalil’s Pottery Exhibition entitled “A Lifelong Passion for his Craft and his teaching” was held at Japan Creative Centre on 18th January 2013.



His Excellency Mr Yoichi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, welcomed the guests with his special opening remarks. Following this, we had His Excellency Ambassador Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Singapore) as the Guest of Honour for the event. Professor Koh presented a heart-warming speech on his close acquaintance with Mr Jalil, having participated and opened 4 others of Mr Iskandar’s exhibitions before this. This was Ambassador Koh’s 5th participation in the opening of the famed potter’s exhibition.

Having retired and firmly stated that this is his last exhibition, Mr Iskandar put together this display exclusively for Japan Creative Centre as homage to Japan where he learnt his craft from. This exhibition showcased the latest of Mr Iskandar’s works of approximately 20 pieces. Along with this exquisite display, his students from both Temasek Potters and the well known Jalan Bahar Studio had their works also exhibited. The exhibition ran from 19 January 2013 through to 8 February 2013 at Japan Creative Centre.



© Iskandar Jalil

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1.6 ISKANDAR JALIL ARTIST TALK



On the 19th of February 2013, an Artist Talk by Iskandar Jalil was held at Japan Creative Centre (JCC). During this afternoon session, Mr Iskandar spoke about his life works from his point of inspiration from his visit to Japan on a Columbian Scholarship in 1972. He shared on the importance of tradition and the importance of skill over other factors in maturing in any art form. He also spoke of his journey through the Scandinavian nations and their similarities to Japanese pottery.

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2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH

2.1 SETSUBUN

Setsubun and Bean-Throwing Japan have four distinct seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The term setsubun originally referred to the days marking the change from one season to the next, so that there were four of them, but today only the day before risshun (the beginning of spring in the traditional Japanese calendar) is called by that name. Setsubun comes on either February 3 or 4, depending on the year.

On the night of Setsubun, many households do *mame-maki* - a bean-throwing ceremony. They fill a *masu* (a wooden measuring cup) with roasted soybeans and throw the beans all about the room, shouting "*Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!*" meaning "Out with the goblins and in with fortune!" They also open the windows and throw the beans outside.

Men dressed in goblin costumes chase the children around, while the kids throw beans from their masu. (Above: In courtesy of Kids Web Japan¹)

Mame-maki began as a New Year ceremony (in the traditional Japanese calendar) to drive out evil spirits and the seeds of misfortune, as well as to pray for the family's well-being and good business.

After the *mame-maki* is over, everyone eats the same number of beans as their own age. It is believed that by doing so, people will be free of sickness during that year.



Families with little children especially look forward to this day because *mame-maki* can be a lot of fun. One person acts as the goblin and runs around, while the others throw beans at the person. At some schools, the students make goblin masks and enjoy *mame-maki*.

Thanks to the great fun of *mame-maki*, Setsubun is still a popular traditional event.

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¹ <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/calendar/february/setsbun.html>