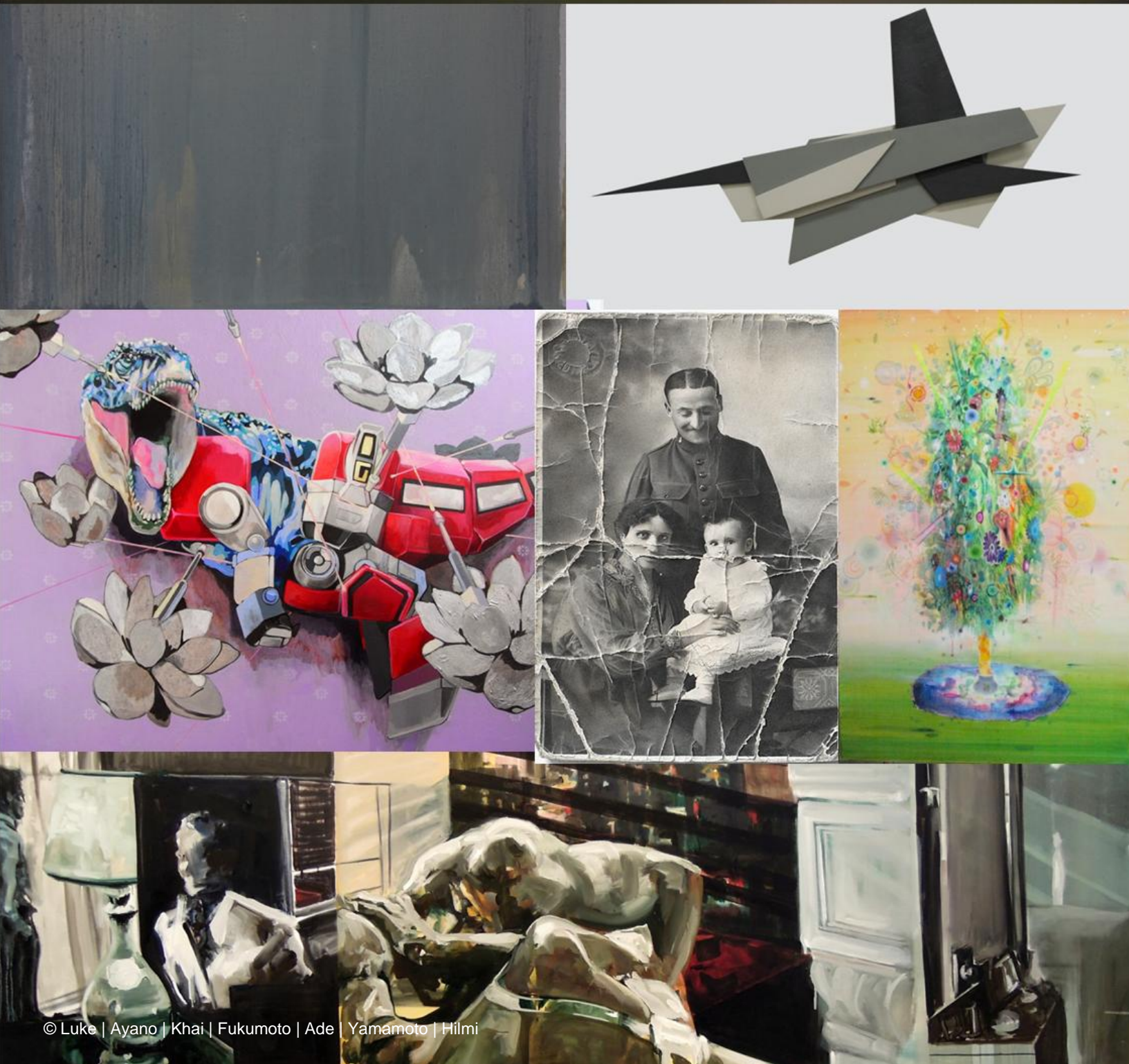


**JULY
2013**

**JAPAN
CREATIVE
CENTRE**

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2013

JULY EVENTS IN JCC

26 June – 8 July 2013	Japanese Film Festival
20 July – 3 August 2013	“Innocent World” Exhibition by Tomoyuki Kambe
20 July 2013	“Innocent World” Workshop for Children

SUPPORTED EVENTS

7 July 2013	Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
21 July 2013	Japanese Speech Contest 2013

RELATED EVENTS

17 May – 17 Nov 2013	Kindred Spirits: Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Singapore and Japan
7 June – 14 July 2013	MYTHOPOEIA by Yoshitaka Amano
8 June – 27 July 2013	"AMBIGUOUS PORTRAIT OF A CUNNING LINGUIST" Verbal Imagery in Art

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 [JCC website](#) and [Facebook](#).

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1 OVERVIEW

In the month of June, an art exhibition combining the efforts of 7 young artists from Japan and Singapore was assembled to showcase their extraordinary and distinct works. The month kicked off with an inspirational presentation by participants of the National University of Singapore (NUS) on their findings gathered during their study trip to Kyushu Japan. Simultaneously, JCC also prepared for the annual Japanese Film Festival, purported to screen selected latest films at Alliance Francais and classic films by veteran film director Kaneto Shindo at the National Museum Singapore.

1.1 “ART THERAPY FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND CHILDREN FOR OUR FUTURE”

On the 31st of May, a public talk on “Art Therapy” was held at Japan Creative Centre. During this talk, we had presentations and introductions on the “YANDAORA PROJECT” targeting to helping young children cope in the trauma of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima



Presentation by Laurence Vandendorre

Nuclear disaster. They explained that children are 10 times more susceptible to being affected by the radiation than adults. Due to this danger, children are kept indoors mostly and are unable to express their inner feelings on the disaster. The project aims to use Art Therapy to help the children voice out these discomforts by drawing to release their pent up emotions so as to enable them to cope with the disaster.

The “YANDAORA PROJECT” was assembled by the collaboration of two organizations “Today is the Day Foundation” and “Red Pencil Humanitarian Foundation Singapore”. Originator of “Today is the Day Foundation”, Mr Noritoshi Hirakawa, along with the Founder of the “Red Pencil Humanitarian Foundation”, Ms Laurence Vandendorre, presented a talk on this project

as well as the topic of Art Therapy being used in recent years to provide therapy especially for children as coping strategies in the face of overwhelming situations.

Ms Vandendorre also enlightened the audience with an understanding of Art Therapy, which does not require any prior artistic learning or skills of the individual undergoing this therapy. She mentioned that there are many Art Therapists coming up recently and that this is a branch under the huge umbrella of Psychology.

For those who were interested in the works of psychology, volunteer work in times of disaster and children had a real treat from this free public talk!

We had a full house that day with guests even expressing their appreciation for talk held and approaching the guest speakers afterward.



Presentation by Noritoshi Hirakawa

The Red Pencil Humanitarian Foundation having a branch in Singapore also welcomes any interested people who would like to volunteer in such projects to help children using art therapy to approach the organization.

1.2 “CREATIVE REVITALIZATION” NUS JAPAN STUDY TRIP PRESENTATION

On the 4th of June, the NUS Japanese Studies department presented a talk by its students who participated in a Japan Field Study Trip to Kyushu. 5 groups presented the various aspects and knowledge generated from their trip to Kyushu Japan. The event started off with a brief introduction and summary of the study trip by Dr Chris McMorran who is a lecturer of the Japanese Studies Department of NUS, following which the students presented topics such as Furusato, the population effect and reasons for revitalization efforts, farmstays, and craft-making amongst others.



Dr Chris McMorran giving a summary of the trip

The event itself was well-received by many attendees, leading to a full house at JCC despite being held in the late afternoon of the weekday.

Many questions were raised by the audience and the students made much effort in addressing them professionally and with the knowledge acquired from their study at Kyushu.

1.3 “CROSS ENCOUNTER” COLLABORATIVE ART EXHIBITION

Japan Creative Centre targets Art as one of the priority areas in propagating the Japanese culture to the Singaporean masses. The centre also strives to create networking opportunities between Japan and Singapore to create a bridge between the two nations. The Cross Encounter Exhibition indeed serves this purpose by connecting young artists from both Singapore and Japan in an exchange and collaborative showcase of artworks. This exhibition was held from 15 June 2013 – 29 June 2013 at Japan Creative Centre, drawing crowds from all walks of life.

During this exhibition, works by 3 Japanese artists and 4 Singaporean artists were put up at JCC. Amongst these works, we had a range of painting mediums such as acrylic, watercolor as well as oil on canvas. While some works boasted intricacy, others brought vibrancy and simplicity into play. Guests who visited the exhibitions indeed received a feast for the eyes in a fresh showcase of art expressed by these young artists.



7 young artists with the Director of JCC



Visitors were amazed by the pieces on display

The opening ceremony was held as a public event on 14 June at Japan Creative Centre with a staggering number of around 100 visitors who ranged from art students to gallery owners. During this official opening, Mr. Toshihide Ando, Director of JCC, presented the opening remarks, addressing the fine works of all 7 artists. As special guest to the event, Dr Ian Woo - established artist and Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of

Fine Arts at LASALLE College of the Arts -

shared a few words and ended with inspiring quotes to congratulate and further motivate our young artists to pursue their passion in the arts. A token of appreciation each was given to both the Director of JCC and Dr Ian Woo by the artists in expression of their gratitude. Lastly, Mr Ade Putra Safar shared a few words in representation of the 7 artists to express their appreciation for the assembling of the exhibition.

1.4 JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONY

The Japanese Film Festival (JFF), an annually organized event in collaboration with the Singapore Film Society was held from 26 June till 8 July. From 26 – 29 June, the titles in the 80s were screened at Alliance Francaise while other classic films by Kaneto Shindo were played at the National Museum of Singapore from 29 June – 8 July.

Opening Ceremony of the Japanese Film Festival held on 29 June at National Museum Singapore. The event kicked off with a welcome speech by the Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, His Excellency Yoichi Suzuki followed by an address by Mr. Gavin Liu from the Singapore Film Society. The event was well-received with a large crowd that was present to watch one of Shindo's last films, "A Last Note". As Shindo's son, Jiro Shindo, was



At the National Museum Gallery Theatre



Mr Jiro Shindo addressing questions from the audience

the executive producer for this same film, the latter was in attendance to provide insights and answers as a special guest with the facilitation of moderator Mr Leong from the Singapore Film Society itself.

The audience also engaged themselves with many questions on the successful film, which Mr Shindo appeared much delighted to answer.

The Japanese Film Festival has been running successfully since 1983 and has gradually grown in prominence in recent years. This year was no exception as the festival saw many participants who enjoyed the films and even watched them a few times over!

For more information on the Japanese Film Festival 2013 and that from recent years, please visit the following website: - <http://jpfilmfestival.com/>

2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH

2.1 TANABATA

Tanabata¹, or the Star Festival, is held on the evening of July 7. The festival traces its origins to a legend that the Cowherd Star (Altair) and Weaver Star (Vega), lovers separated by the Milky Way, are allowed to meet just once a year - on the seventh day of the seventh month.

Children and adults write their wishes on narrow strips of colored paper and hang them, along with other paper ornaments, on bamboo branches placed in the backyards or entrances of their homes. They then pray hard that their wishes will come true.

The Tanabata festival is thought to have started in China. It was transmitted to Japan during the feudal period and combined with traditional local customs to become an official event at the Imperial court. Commoners soon began observing this festival, with different localities developed their own distinctive ways of celebrating.



Tanabata decorations spring up in early July

In Tokyo, most people now decorate bamboo branches with just the narrow strips of paper that carry their wishes. At some elementary schools, pupils attach their wishes to a huge bamboo branch, and others put on skits about the legend of the Cowherd and Weaver Stars.

Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture) and Hiratsuka (Kanagawa Prefecture) are particularly famous for their elaborate Tanabata displays. Shopping arcades in these two cities feature huge decorations that are sponsored by local shops, which try to outdo one another in the size of their displays.

Some areas of Japan celebrate Tanabata a month later, on August 7, since this is closer to the seventh day of the seventh month on the traditional lunar calendar. Such communities frequently perform the services for Bon, a period in mid-August when deceased relatives are thought to return, together with the ceremonies for Tanabata.

¹ <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/calendar/july/tanabata.html>

**Have any comments for JCC
e-magazine?**

We would love to hear them!

**So please do send in your suggestions and thoughts to
jcc@sn.mofa.go.jp.**