

**March  
2013**

JAPAN  
CREATIVE  
CENTRE

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

**CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE**



© Tomoyuki Kambe

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 2013**

## MARCH EVENTS IN JCC

13 – 16 March 2013	Ohara 29 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition
23 March 2013	JCC Cinema 19

## SNEAK PEEK AT THE EVENTS IN APRIL!

06 – 20 April 2013	‘ Cha No Yu Shikki’ Urasenke Exhibition
27 April 2013	JCC Cinema 20

## SUPPORTED EVENTS

19 January – 21 April 2013	<a href="#">“Omnilogue: Your Voice of Mine” Exhibition @ NUS Museum</a>
22 February – 10 March 2013	<a href="#">Hello, Shibuya Tokyo @Plaza Singapura</a>
04 – 05 March 2013	<a href="#">ShinosukeRakugo in Singapore 2013</a>

## JAPANESE RELATED EVENTS

18 January - 10 March 2013	<a href="#">Nobuaki Takekawa:"We Are Pirates of Uncharted History"</a>
18 January - 10 March 2013	<a href="#">Nikei Fine Arts</a>
15 February - 3 March 2013	<a href="#">Discover Doll Delights at Liang Court</a>

## NOTICE

<a href="#">40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation</a>
<a href="#">The Japan Foundation Program Guidelines for Fiscal 2013-2014</a>



## 40<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF ASEAN-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

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

# CONTENTS

## **1 OVERVIEW OF JCC'S PAST EVENTS IN FEB 2013**

- 1.1 ARTIST TALK BY TOMOYUKI KAMBE ..... Page 3**
- 1.2 ISKANDAR JALIL POTTERY EXHIBITION ..... Page 4**
- 1.3 KIZUNA PARTICIPANT SHARING SESSION ..... Page 5**
- 1.4 JCC CINEMA 18: "MY DARLING IS A FOREIGNER" ..... Page 6**

## **2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH**

- 2.1 HINA MATSURI ..... Page 7**

# 1 OVERVIEW

*With a fresh start into the New Year, JCC assembled some enjoyable events for our guests this February 2013 starting with an artist talk by emerging painter from the Gifu Prefecture of Japan, Tomoyuki Kambe. Even as this month drew a close to the Pottery Exhibition by Iskandar Jalil, JCC geared up to present some inspiring events such as the Kizuna sharing session and a unique Japanese movie screening for the exciting month of February.*

## 1.1 ARTIST TALK BY TOMOYUKI KAMBE

Before the commencement of the talk by the artist, a short presentation was given by the Gifu Prefecture of Japan. Following this, Japanese painter Tomoyuki Kambe presented a talk and demonstration of his painting styles and techniques. Having come from Gifu Prefecture himself, Mr Kambe values nature and applies it to his art form.

During this demonstration, Mr Kambe was generous in having his material collections and handmade Japanese paper handed around to provide our guests with the valuable opportunity to get a closer look and feel to the items.



After the main part of this event, Mr Kambe invited the audience to crowd round the table to watch his demonstration of painting techniques. Some very courageous attendees were even able to try out these techniques!

▲ TOP

## 1.2 ISKANDAR JALIL POTTERY EXHIBITION

Through the month of January and first week of February 2013, famed Master Potter Iskandar Jalil held an exhibition at JCC, as a tribute to Japan where he had acquired his knowledge and skills as a Potter. Though he had expressed that after his retirement he would not put together exhibitions, he made an exception to convey his gratitude to Japan where he embarked on his pottery journey from. The exhibition featured more than 20 new works by the artist himself as well 25 more by his students.

The Exhibition was indeed a popular one which attracted many visitors from all walks of life. During the exhibition Mr. Iskandar himself gave an artist talk on the importance of skills and the similarity of Scandinavian crafts to Japanese pottery.

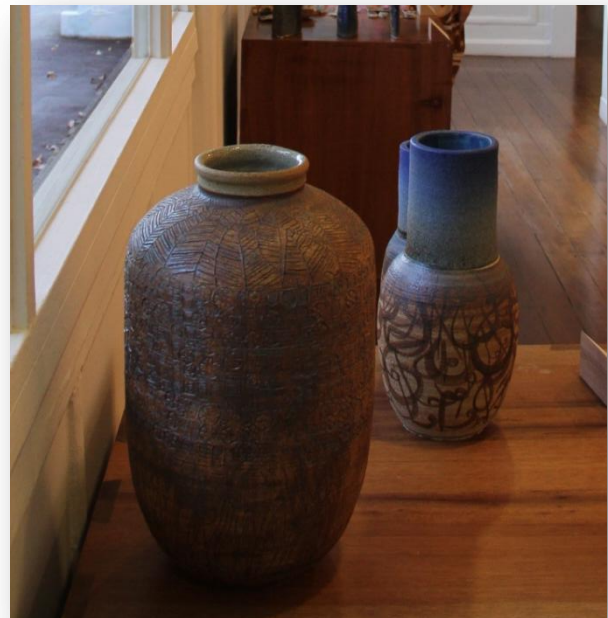


© Iskandar Jalil



© Iskandar Jalil

*A piece by one of Iskandar's students*



© Iskandar Jalil

*New piece by Iskandar Jalil*

▲ TOP



### 1.3 KIZUNA PARTICIPANT SHARING SESSION

*Kizuna* which means “Bonds” in English is a Youth-Exchange Project where youths from 41 countries are given the opportunity to travel and engage in various activities in Japan. Initiated in April 2012, *Kizuna* is a project put forth to promote international understanding of Japan’s recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of the Great East Japan Earthquake.



Group Presentation by participants from  
Woodgrove Secondary

This year, the Embassy of Japan in Singapore provided this opportunity to various education institutions in Singapore where many interested students participated. To make known their



Group Presentation by participants from  
Hwa Chong Junior College

experiences from this program, the participants from Victoria Junior College, Hwa Chong Institution, NUS High School of Mathematics and Science as well as Woodgrove Secondary School presented their thoughts from the trip at Japan Creative Centre on 16 February 2013. This was a particularly enriching experience for participants who visited disaster-stricken areas of Japan and even had exchanges with the Japanese people who lived there.

We had a full house with more than 90 guests in a closed door event. Many laughs and heart-warming thoughts were shared during this session.

## 1.4 JCC CINEMA 18: “MY DARLING IS A FOREIGNER”

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2013, JCC Cinema screened “My Darling is a Foreigner” in light of Valentine’s Day!



The film screening of the popular hit movie, “My Darling is a Foreigner” was followed up with a sharing session by two Japanese individuals living and working in Singapore, and married to Singaporeans. They shared their experiences in how they met their partner, their funny moments and quirks as well as their precious memories. Many laughs were shared during this light-hearted session where the audience too was bursting with questions for the speakers.

During JCC Cinema, we screen exciting Japanese anime and movies along with a sharing session by a special speaker from a similar industry. Look out for your favourite movies or anime to be screened in our JCC Cinema events!

In memory of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, JCC will be screening a related documentary film on **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013** from 2pm-5pm. During this special and commemorative session, students who visited Japan during an Embassy of Japan sponsored trip called “*Kizuna*”, will share their experience and impressions from visiting the quake affected areas. There will also be a display of Tohoku Recovery photo panels during this event.

▲ TOP

## 2 JAPANESE CULTURE FACT OF THE MONTH

### 2.1 HINA MATSURI

March 3rd is HinaMatsuri<sup>1</sup> (Doll Festival or Girls' Festival), when people pray for the happiness and healthy growth of girls. Families with young daughters mark this day by setting up a display of dolls inside the house. They offer rice crackers and other food to the dolls.

The dolls wear costumes of the imperial court during the Heian period (794-1192) and are placed on a tiered platform covered with red felt. The size of the dolls and number of steps vary, but usually the displays are of five or seven layers; single-tiered decorations with one male and one female doll are also common.



*Dolls of the emperor, right, and empress sit on the top tier (Asahi Shogakusei Shimbun)*



*Hina-arare rice crackers*

The top tier is reserved for the emperor and the empress. A miniature gilded folding screen is placed behind them, just like the real Imperial throne of the ancient court.

On the second tier are three ladies-in-waiting, and on the third are five male court musicians. Ministers sit on either side of trays of food on the fourth step, and the fifth row features guards flanked by an orange tree to the left and a cherry tree to the right.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/calendar/march/hinamatsuri.html>



The practice of displaying these dolls on the third day of the third month on the traditional Japanese calendar began during the Edo period (1603-1868). It started as a way of warding off evil spirits, with the dolls acting as a charm. Even today, people in some parts of the country release paper dolls into rivers after the festival, praying that the dolls take people's place in carrying away sickness and bad fortune.

Most families take their beautiful collection of dolls out of the closet around mid-February and put it away again as soon as Hina Matsuri is over. This is because of an old superstition that families that are slow in putting back the dolls have trouble marrying off their daughters.



*These children enjoy Hina Matsuri dressed up like dolls themselves. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)*

***Interested to experience this tradition for yourself? Singapore is holding its very own [Dolls Festival](#) in light of Hinamatsuri at Liang Court from 15 February – 3 March 2013 where many exciting booths and activities have been lined up!***

**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](mailto:jcc@sn.mofa.go.jp).**