

SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

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***Tradition and Modernity* exhibition explores early 20th century Japanese art**

Jan. 22—May 22, 2005

Asian Gallery

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Lawrence, KS— During the early decades of the twentieth century, Japan underwent many dramatic shifts in the realms of politics, industrialization, and education. Complex tensions emerged between the urge to retain traditional cultural values and the desire to progress as a modern society. These tensions are reflected in the nation's art, which selectively incorporates both traditional and the more modern modes of creation in a variety of formats, mediums, themes, and styles.

On view in the Spencer's Asian Gallery from Jan. 22 through May 22, this exhibition, organized by Hillary Pedersen, Carpenter Foundation Intern in Asian art, illustrates the way in which early twentieth-century Japanese art embodies the complexity of the country's changing society.

Pedersen selected the exhibition from the museum's collection and the collection of KU's Kenneth Spencer Research Library. She has included paintings executed in traditional Japanese formats, such as folding screens and hanging scrolls that incorporate Western artistic techniques such as linear perspective and shading. The print artists represented, such as Kawase Hasui and Yoshida Hiroshi, retained traditional woodblock printing methods and themes while depicting

their subjects with sensitive realism. Selections from the Spencer's collection of early twentieth-century decorative arts reveal a response to a flourishing Western art market and the desire for Japan's traditional arts and technical mastery to be recognized on an international level. In cooperation with the Spencer Research Library, this exhibition also includes a collection of items that belonged to Ms. Kate Ingeborg Hansen, a native Kansan who procured examples of early twentieth-century mass media made specifically for a foreign audience.

Incorporation of Western art techniques, a flourishing export market, and a search for a new national identity that combined both tradition and modernity all helped to shape Japanese art of these early decades. This selection of works broadly illustrates Japan's changing social climate of the early twentieth century and is intended to reveal the dynamic character of this period.

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- E-mail: spencerart@ku.edu

Gallery hours

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Thurs. 10a.m.–9 p.m.

Sun. Noon–5 p.m.

Closed Monday

- Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.
- Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).