



KIWA TOPICS

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KIWA TRAVELING EXHIBITION IN TAKANABE



From September 13 to October 1, 2008 the KIWA Traveling Exhibition was on display in the Takanabe Town Museum, Miyazaki Prefecture. 150 works, including all the prizewinners' pieces, were displayed in this new and excellent museum.

A Kyushu Tour was also put together, to see the exhibition, then to go to an ancient and holy site for Japanese, in nearby Takachiho. It is where the sun goddess was enticed to come out of the cave she was hiding in, to bring light to the world again. 12 people joined the three-day tour, from October 12 to 14.

The exhibition was composed of works from the 5th KIWA Show held in Kyoto in March, 2007. Special prizes were made just for this traveling exhibition. The Mayor's Prize went to Walter Padgett's *Yatsude*; the Board of Education Prize went to Hasan Kiran's *Wind and Dance*; and the Museum Director Prize went to Alberto Ramos' *Maternity*, (he had also won the KIWA Prize in Kyoto). The three winners are from America, Turkey and Peru respectively. We asked visitors to chose the works they liked best. Results are on the next page, in the gray sidebar. Three artists were equally the most popular: three others received one and two fewer votes.

In the afternoon of the first day after the installation, KIWA staff and friends rested in a spa near the museum. In the evening, we were hosted to a grand feast after a walking tour of the town. Next day we attended the opening ceremony with speeches and tape cutting, then welcomed the first guests and the press. In the afternoon, after a visit to the famed beach, we boarded the train for Takachiho.

In sum, the Takanabe Exhibition and the Takachiho Tour were immense successes. The weather held despite an approaching typhoon. Miyazaki Prefecture is one of the most beautiful and productive areas in Japan, and Takanabe Town, renown for its oysters, green tea, barley-based wine, and now its beautiful museum, is a must visit. KIWA is proud and honored to have its 5th Exhibition displayed in this lovely and historic corner of Japan.

Plans are now being made for the KIWA Traveling Exhibition to Austria for the fall of 2009. More information on this as it develops.

Richard Steiner

PRIZE WINNERS*

Mayor's Prize

Padgett
Yatsude
America



Museum Director Prize

Alberto Ramo
Maternity
Peru



Board of Education Prize

Hasan Kiran
Wind and Dance
Turkey



KIWA in Takanabe

Atsuko Omae

Walking towards the Takanabe Museum from our hotel, this very quiet, old castle town made me wonder how beautiful the Takanabe castle, also called Maizuru Castle, must have once been. (Until the Meiji era when it was torn down, it caused people who looked at it to get the impression of watching cranes flying overhead; this impression is called *maizuru* in Japanese). The museum is near the forest which still stands around the castle grounds, both inside the original moat, blending perfectly into the surrounding ancient atmosphere.

Stepping into the museum, KIWA's exhibit welcomed us with a unique Takanabe taste. It was interesting to enjoy the same works of art we've seen in Kyoto, but in a different aspect with a pinch of Takanabe spice. There, we received a warm and unforgettable welcome by everyone, including the mayor, the head of the board of education, intellectuals connected to the museum, and the museum staff.

I must mention about some townspeople we met during our little exploration in the neighborhood who were exceptionally kind. Especially the staff at the old sake brewer, Kuroki, and earlier Mr. and Mrs. Stationery. The only regret I had during this trip was that we couldn't visit inside of the brewery itself due to its renovation. However, the staff was very kind and generous, and warmed our hearts. At the friendly stationery we were made so happy just by talking to them, as if we were regular customers. There is nothing to stop us from loving this town of Takanabe. I'm already looking forward to returning there again.

Do the gods exist?

Shigemi Yamagishi

During our recent KIWA trip to Miyazaki (see Mr. Steiner's article), we first enjoyed the exhibition in the Takanabe Town Museum, and then visited ancient Takachiho. There we stood and prayed before the Ama-no-Iwato, the heavenly cave where the sun goddess was said to have hid, and walked along the Ama-no-Yasugawara, the river where all the other gods gathered and struggled to find a way to bring the sun goddess out of the cave. It is true that countless academic theories have been presented concerning this event, but that was not my interest.

The truth is, our body feels deeply the ancient mystic aura when we go there. Takachiho is one of several places purporting to be the origin of Japan. Before I stepped into the land of Takachiho, all those legends were just tales for tourists to me. However, after I went there, saw and felt the sacredness of the area, I now know that this is the genuine Japanese mythology.

KIWA TAKANABE EXHIBITION Popularity vote results

1. V. Sritrakulkitjakarn, Thailand
Mutant V
2. Eakkasith Wongpinta, Thailand
Abundant I
3. Aria Komianou, Greece
Composition 555
4. Natachai Prommoon, Thailand
Memory in nature, 6
5. Victor Lipkin, Israel
Caravan
6. Alberto Ramos, Peru
Alegoria

Please see these homepages.

■ KIWA EXHIBITION :
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kiwapphoto/sets/>

■ TAKANABE MUSEUM:
<http://www.town.takanabe.miyazaki.jp/museum/>

★ We are going to make a tour to accompany the 2009 Austria KIWA Traveling Exhibition. We will inform you of the details in this newsletter when plans are finally made. We hope you will join us.

VIVA!
MIYAZAKI



● Fund Raising Campaign ●

From 2009, for five years, KIWA is going to raise funds to acquire office and storage space, and to pay one employee to do office work. A true print-storage facility is absolutely necessary, especially in high moisture Japan. And with the Traveling Exhibitions increasing in number, plus the new GAT (Good Art Tours) department, we need someone to answer the phone and write letters. We are aiming at raising about three million yen per year. This is minimum, but when supplanted with members' fees and sales, it may be sufficient.

There are two ways to contribute money: International Postal Money Order (made out to RICHARD STEINER) or a personal check, also made out to RICHARD STEINER.

Every contributor's name will be listed on our homepage (www.kiwa.net) but not the amount. Only the growing total will be written. Looking forward to hearing from members and non-members alike. Thank you in advance.

Editorial

This is the inaugural issue of KIWA TOPICS. The purpose of this newsletter is to deliver news of our activities quickly to you, KIWA members and friends. We are going to publish two or three times a year with only a few pages. Please let us know how you like this. (Fuki Haritani)

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