

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

The Joy of Sake
by Justin Tedaldi

Returning to New York in June for its 15th annual celebration, The Joy of Sake hosts the world's largest sake tasting outside Japan, with a record of 513 competition-level sakes and 19 top restaurants serving the best in traditional and contemporary Asian cuisine.



While statistics show that sake is losing ground to beer in Japan, it continues to make inroads in the U.S., especially among drink-savvy New Yorkers.

"The best showcase of this in the U.S. is The Joy of Sake," said Joy of Sake board member Chris Johnson, an experienced sommelier and restaurateur whose time in Japan began in the early '90s, as a participant of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. Also known as the Sake Ninja, Johnson adds, "As a JET alum, having the opportunity to work with the national beverage of Japan is an honor and truly important."

A beverage that can be paired with foods as diverse as sushi, chocolate and even pizza, sake lovers will also be able to sample exclusive appetizers at the event from some of New York's most distinguished eateries, including Morimoto, Sakagura and Momofuku Ssäm Bar, enhancing the appreciation of the luster that fine sakes add to a meal.

A brewer's technique and commitment help determine a great sake, and over 200 sakes not available in the U.S. are featured in this year's lineup, including more than 100 gold award winners from the 2019 U.S. National Sake Appraisal.

"It's safe to say," said Joy of Sake founder Chris Pearce, "that New York has never seen a sake event like this."

Experience The Joy of Sake on Friday, June 21 at Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.joyofsake.com.

(Justin Tedaldi has written about Japanese arts and entertainment since 2005. For more of his stories, visit <http://jetaany.org/magazine>.)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO HONOR Glenn David Lowry
Introduction of Japanese Modern Art at MoMA

On May 21, The Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Spring 2019 Decorations, which includes one distinguished U.S. citizen from the area under the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in New York. This year's Decoration was awarded to Mr. Glenn David Lowry, The David Rockefeller Director, The Museum of Modern Art, for his outstanding contributions to promoting Japanese modern art in the United States.

Since having been appointed Director of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1995, Mr. Lowry has presented many Japan-related exhibitions and Japanese film screenings at the MoMA, and has continuously offered opportunities to appreciate Japanese modern art forms to not only New Yorkers, but also to visitors from all over the world. These exhibitions have included internationally-known artists, such as "Love Forever: Yayoi Kusama, 1958-1968" and "Yoko Ono: One Woman Show, 1960-1971," as well as works by emerging artists in exhibitions such as "First Steps: Emerging Artists from Japan." In these, and numerous other ways, Mr. Lowry has contributed greatly to the broadening of appreciation of Japanese culture worldwide.

In 2008, the MoMA, led by Mr.

Lowry, and the Japan Foundation co-organized the Japan-Americas Art Curator Exchange Program, which increased exchanges, established relationships and fostered mutual understanding between art curators in Japan and the U.S.. This program also led to the publication of "From Postwar to Postmodern: Art in Japan, 1945-1989" by the MoMA in 2014. This book gathered texts that are critical to the advancement of knowledge of postwar Japanese art—the majority of which having been translated into English for the first time—and added much to the global understanding of Japanese modern art.

The development of Japan's art scene owes much to Mr. Lowry's proactive contributions, such as the loans of the MoMA's world-famous collections. The exhibition, "Modern Means: Continuity and Change in Art, 1880 to the Present, Highlights from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York" at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo in 2004 attracted over 200,000 attendees, and created a historic chance for Japanese people to view masterful artworks and to understand the artistic values they represented. A member of the Mori Art Museum International Advisory Committee, Mr. Lowry has shared his knowledge of museum management with the people of Japan. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Aki Tanaka)

The Five Horses had been brought over to Japan during the chaotic times at around the end of the Qing dynasty. Some time after its first unveiling to the public in 1928, the painting disappeared, and its whereabouts had remained unknown for about 80 years.

The art book's production team comprises distinguished professionals

in the fields of photography, design, printing and bookbinding. The publication includes a full translation of the text in Chinese and a summary in English. Also provided are close-up images of the masterpiece with compelling visual impact. The book is priced at 28,000 yen. (Written by Yabuki Yuko, Hatori Press / Translated by Shoko Ichihashi Fujita)



Lost Masterpiece Reproduced at Full Scale
Li Gonglin's "Five Horses"

Text and Edits by Itakura Masaaki

Published by Hatori Press
<http://www.hatorishoten.co.jp/>

The legendary Five Horses scroll painting, long believed to be lost, has been made into an art book. The painting is by Li Gonglin (1049-1106), an exemplary painter of China's Northern Song dynasty. Reproduced for the first time in color, and at full scale, the masterpiece has now been published in an A3 size hardcover art book with detailed commentary by the editor, Professor Itakura Masaaki of

BOOKS

"Unrivaled Calligraphy: Yan Zhenqing and His Legacy", held at the Tokyo National Museum. The event had an impressive turnout, with many people visiting from both within Japan and overseas, including China. The Five Horses drew much public acclaim as a special hallmark of the exhibition.

The scroll painting, rendered in beautiful colors and flowing lines of ink, uses the highly valued Chengxintang paper from the Northern Song dynasty. It was hailed as a masterpiece ever since it was made, successively prized and treasured through a long line of dynasties.



The Institute for Advanced Studies in Asia, the University of Tokyo.

Earlier this year, the Five Horses was included in an exhibition entitled

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● Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:

Across the still lake
through upcurls of morning mist
The cry of a loon

- O. Mabson Southard

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7 Japanese, 7 English and 7 "Under 18 Div." haiku will be selected each month.

For more detail, go to <http://www.artofhaiku.org>

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