The Resplendent Life of Chiyohime, Princess of the Third Tokugawa Shogun From: Saturday, 12 April 2025 To: Sunday, 8 June 2025 Organizer: Tokugawa Art Museum, Hōsa Bunko Library,
The Chūnichi Shimbun, Nikkei Inc., and NHK Nagoya Station Remarks: *The exhibits may be changed due to various reasons without notice. *The order of exhibits in this list do not necessarily correspond to the order of exhibition. *The following marks indicate: Important Cultural Property
Important Art Object *Some works will be exhibited only during periods A or B: <a>: 12 April - 13 May, 2025 : 14 May - 8 June, 2025 Foreword
Born the long-awaited child of the third shogun Tokugawa lemitsu at Edo Castle, Lady Chiyohime (1637-1698) was a shogunal princess by birth. At the age of just 2 years 6 months, she was betrothed to Tokugawa Mitsutomo, the second Lord of Owari, in order to ensure that her father would have a successor, as he was initially not blessed with any sons of his own. But when two younger brothers followed, she instead became the elder sister to two successive shoguns, letsuna and Tsunayoshi, and acted as a bridge between her husband's family and the shogunal household, laying the foundation for the future prosperity of the Owari Tokugawa clan. Together with the concurrent special exhibition, "National Treasure: The Hatsune Furnishings," this exhibition sheds further light on the resplendent life of Princess Chiyohime, for whom these furnishings were made.
Chiyohime: Shogunal Princess by Birth Chiyohime, the owner of the National Treasure "Hatsune Furnishings," was born the long-awaited child of the third shogun, Tokugawa lemitsu, on the fifth day of the Intercalary Third Month of 1637 (April 29, 1637), at Edo Castle. Just as lemitsu was a born Shogun, Chiyohime was a born Shogunal Princess. However, lemitsu was of weak constitution from birth and had produced no male heir, so Chiyohime was married into the Owari Tokugawa family at the age of 2 years, 6 months. Her husband, Mitsutomo, was the most promising candidate for shogun among the various Tokugawa lineages at the time. It is believed that by marrying Chiyohime to Mitsutomo, lemitsu was seeking to protect his own bloodline, strengthen ties with one of the three cadet branches of the Tokugawa family, and consolidate the power of the shogunate. 1 <a> Waka Poem written on Shikishi Paper. By the 3rd Tokugawa Shogun lemitsu. Edo period, 17th c. The Tokugawa Art Museum
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Chronological Record of the 1st lord of Owari, Tokugawa Yoshinao, the article of February 20th, 15th year of Kan'ei (1638). Edo period, 19th c. The Tokugawa Institute for the History of Forestry Reference Letter of Hosokawa Tadaoki to Hosokawa Tadatoshi. Dated June 25th,14th year of Kan'ei (1637). Edo period, 17th c. Eisei-Bunko Museum
A Resplendent Marriage On the 21st day of the Ninth Month of 1639 (October 17, 1639), Chiyohime married into the Owari Tokugawa family. To demonstrate the great prestige of her shogunal family, a gorgeous trousseau set known as the "Hatsune Furnishings" was prepared for the young princess. (The full set is currently on display in the Original Wing Galleries). It is believed that the original number of items in the trousseau prepared for Princess Chiyohime was even larger than what currently survives. In addition to the "Hatsune Furnishings," it is believed that the gold and silver furnishings (exhibits no. 11–23) that were stored at Nagoya Castle during the Edo period were also part of the princess's trousseau. The gold and silver furnishings still shine brilliantly today, offering a glimpse into the magnificence of the wedding ceremony. 7 Biography of the 1st lord of Owari, Tokugawa Yoshinao, the article of September 21st, 9th year of Kan'ei (1639). Edo period, 17th c. Hösa Library, City of Nagoya 8 Chronological Record of the 1st lord of Owari, Tokugawa Yoshinao, the article of September 21st, 16th year of Kan'ei (1639). Edo period, 1763. The Tokugawa Institute for the History of Forestry 9 Kinjō-Onkoroku, Record and Illustration of Nagoya Castle. By Okumura Katsuyoshi. Edo-Meiji period, 19th c. Hösa Library, City of Nagoya
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Part of Chiyohime's trousseau. The Tokugawa Art Museum 23 © Towel Stand, aoi crests and scroll design, silver. Edo period, 1639. Part of Chiyohime's trousseau. The Tokugawa Art Museum Foundations of Prosperity:
Life as Official Wife in the Owari Tokugawa Family Two years after Chiyohime's marriage to Mitsutomo, the birth of her younger brother, letsuna, into the shogunal family ended any possibility for Mitsutomo's appointment as shogun. However, the Owari family forged a strong link with the shogunal family through Chiyohime's position as Mitsutomo's official wife. Chiyohime, who had two sons and two daughters with Mitsutomo, often accompanied her children to Edo Castle, where she lobbied for their promotion, marriage, and receipt of residences in Edo, for the benefit of the Owari family. She also adopted the children of her husband's concubines and supported their advancement as well. The Takasu, Yanagawa, and Kawatakubo branches of the Matsudaira family and branch families of the Owari Tokugawa were all descended from Princess Chiyohime's own children and adopted children. In many ways, she is credited with laying the foundation for the future prosperity of the Owari Tokugawa family. 24 Ceremonial Order of Fukasogi Hair Trimming. Edo period, 17th c. The Tokugawa Art Museum
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Her personality has been described as "strong" and "noble," and the elegance of her calligraphy reflects her dignity and cultivation. According to some stories, she had her hair tied as usual up until the morning of her death and passed away quietly as if into sleep, showing that she held herself up to the highest standards of womanly virtue as a model princess of the Tokugawa shogunal family. Indeed, she lived out her life as a shogunal princess most spectacularly, both in name and in reality. 54 <a> Waka Poem Written on Shikishi Paper, known as "Ogura-shikishi."
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