

National Treasure: The *Hatsune* Furnishings

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.
- *All the artworks on display are National Treasures.
- *Any work without a period or century noted was completed in 1639 (Kan'ei 16).

Foreword



National Treasure “*Hatsune no Chōōdo*” or *Hatsune* Furnishings.

They are the pride of the world and shine brightly amongst many other treasures housed in this museum among the more than ten thousand items in the Tokugawa Art Museum collection. The Furnishings were made in 1639 as the wedding trousseau for Chiyohime, the eldest daughter of the third Tokugawa Shogun Iemitsu. Chiyohime married the second head of the Owari Tokugawa clan, Mitsutomo. Despite the possibility of being entirely lost, a total of seventy pieces have been handed down as a single set and showcase the level of excellence of Edo period lacquer work, *maki-e*.

The National Treasure *Hatsune* Furnishings, the intricate and luxurious wedding trousseau of a feudal lord's bride, will be exhibited in its entirety

Introduction



In 1639, Chiyohime, the daughter of the shogunal family, married the head of the three main branches of the Tokugawa family, Mitsutomo, who would later become the second load of the Owari Tokugawa clan. At a time when the birth of the future Shogun was eagerly anticipated, the National Treasure *Hatsune no Chōdo*, the *Hatsune* Furnishings, were made for Chiyohime on this once-in-a-lifetime stage. The production of the *Hatsune* Furnishings was truly a national project, using the most magnificent materials and bringing together the finest craftsmen. The lavish use of gold and silver makes for a breathtakingly beautiful design, and these furnishings clearly show the Edo Shogunate's unparalleled prestige. Furthermore, despite the nearly 400 years that have passed since their completion, there is almost no sign of damage or distortion in any of these items, which is likely due to the extremely high quality of the wood used inside each piece of *maki-e*, or lacquer.

The *Hatsune* Furnishings feature a unified design inspired mainly by two of the fifty-four chapters of *the Tale of Genji*, the “Warbler's First Song Chapter” (*Hatsune*) and “The Butterflies Chapter” (*Kochō*). We hope that you will be able to appreciate not only the high level of perfection of each piece, but also the *shūgō no bi*, the aesthetic splendor of an assembled collection of items, that can only be felt when the furnishings are exhibited in their entirety in one hall. Please enjoy viewing the Hatsune Furnishings to your heart's content, as you will lose track of time as you gaze upon them.

What are the *Hatsune Maki-e* Furnishings?



The majority of the *Hatsune* Furnishings design incorporates the story of “The Warbler's First Song” (*Hatsune*), the twenty-third chapter of *The Tale of Genji*.

At present, forty-seven pieces remain.

The furnishings depict the scene on New Year's Day in the Spring Quarter of the Rokujō-in Palace when Hikaru Genji visits his daughter, the Akashi Princess (*Akashi no Himegimi*), to celebrate the New Year. A bush warbler figurine perched on a pine branch decorated with tied letters, as well as fringed baskets, had been sent from the Akashi Princess' birth mother, the Akashi Lady (*Akashi no Kimi*). In the letter, the waka poem “One who through the years has clung to a single hope, O let her today pine no more and hear at least the little warbler's first song!”* had been written. The annual *komatsuhiki* event, in which pine tree saplings are uprooted on the first day of the rat in the new year, and Hikaru Genji's visit to his daughter both coincided with New Year's Day and the first day of the rat, making it an especially auspicious day.

Each piece of the *Hatsune* Furnishings is inscribed with words from the Akashi Lady's *waka* poem “One who through the years...” that appears in The Warbler's First Song chapter. Though the words “pine tree” and “bush warbler” in the poem are represented by pictures of pine trees and little birds, the other words in the poem are written in *ashi-de* style, calligraphic words hidden within the pictorial design.

*English translation by Royall Tyler, *The Tale of Genji*, New York, Penguin Publishing Group, 2001, p. 432

5	<i>Kyōdai</i> : mirror stand with accessories
6	<i>Mayutsukuribako</i> : covered box with cosmetic tools for eyebrow makeup
7	<i>Kaioke</i> : pair of containers for storing shells for kai-awase shell-matching game
8	<i>Tabi-mayutsukuribako</i> : portable covered box with cosmetic tools for eyebrow makeup
9	<i>Tabi-kushibako</i> : portable box for hairdressing with combs
10	<i>Yōjibako</i> : covered box for toothbrushes
11	<i>Midarebako</i> : lidless box for hairdressing and cosmetic tools
12	<i>Midarebako</i> : lidless box for cosmetic tools
13	<i>Iwai-no-makura</i> : pair of headrests depicted baku on each back side
14	<i>Kombubako</i> : covered box for <i>kombu</i> (dried seaweed) for good luck
15	<i>Kombubako</i> : covered box for <i>kombu</i> (dried seaweed) for good luck
16	<i>Ōsumiakatebako</i> : large covered casket with red corners for daily necessities
17	<i>Yutō</i> and <i>Tarai</i> : ewer and wash basin for facial cleansing and makeup
18	<i>Mimidarai</i> and <i>Wadai</i> : waterbasin and stand for tooth blackening
19	<i>Mimidarai</i> and <i>Wadai</i> : waterbasin and stand for tooth blackening
20	<i>Jōzu</i> : silver cups for teeth blackening
21	<i>Kushibako</i> : covered box for combs (40 combs are stored)
22	<i>Kurodana</i> : shelf-cabinet for toiletry articles
23	<i>Kushibako</i> : covered box for combs and accessories
24	<i>Kosumiakatebako</i> : smaller covered casket with red corners
25	<i>Ko-kushibako</i> : smaller covered box for combs and accessories
26	<i>Hagurobako</i> : covered box for teeth dyeing utensils
27	<i>Watashiganebako</i> : covered box for teeth dyeing utensils
28	<i>Zushidana</i> : shelf-cabinet for incense utensils
29	<i>Jūni-tebako</i> : covered box with accessories
30	<i>Hitōri-Kōro</i> : incense burner
31	<i>Jinbako</i> : incense box
32	<i>Takimonotsubo</i> and <i>Dai</i> : jar for incense wood and stand
33	<i>Naga-fubako</i> : longer covered box for documents
34	<i>Tanzakubako</i> : covered box for tanzaku strips of paper
35	<i>Suzuribako</i> : covered box for inkstone and writing accessories
36	<i>Shodana</i> : shelf-cabinet for writing utensils
37	<i>Shikishibako</i> : covered box for shikishi square paper
38	<i>Tsukue</i> : desk
39	<i>Tsukue</i> : desk with drawers
41	<i>Ryōshibako</i> : covered box for writing paper
42	<i>Fubako</i> : covered box for carrying letters
43	<i>Makura-kōro</i> : headrest with incense burner
51	<i>Ikō</i> : garment rack
53	<i>Yorikakari</i> : armrest
54	<i>Obibako</i> : covered box for <i>obi</i> sash
56	<i>Shodana</i> : shelf-cabinet for books, scrolls and writing utensils
58	<i>Kendai</i> : bookrest
59	<i>Kendai</i> : bookrest
60	<i>Bundai</i> and <i>Suzuribako</i> : writing table and ink-stone box with writing accessories
61	<i>Bundai</i> and <i>Suzuribako</i> : writing table and ink-stone box with writing accessories
62	<i>Katanakake</i> : sword stand
63	<i>Jūnitebako</i> : 12 boxes for cosmetics to put in a <i>Jūni-tebako</i> big covered box
64	<i>Tsubokushi-barai</i> and <i>Kushi</i> : Brush for cleaning combs and combs with tray to put in a <i>kogushibako</i> covered box
65	<i>Kushi</i> : 40 combs to put in a <i>kushibako</i> covered box
66	<i>Suzuri</i> and <i>Suiteki</i> : writing utensils to put in a <i>tanzakubako</i> covered box
67	<i>Suzuri</i> and <i>Suiteki</i> : writing utensils to put in a <i>suzuribako</i> covered box
68	<i>Jinbako</i> : 6 small boxes for incense woods to put in a <i>jinbako</i> big covered box
85	<i>Tabi-kōgubako</i> : portable covered box for incense utensils
86	<i>Kōbon</i> : tray for incense utensils

What are the *Kochō Maki-e* Furnishings?



Within the collection of *Hatsune* Furnishings is a small group of ten items called the *Kochō Maki-e* Furnishings. These items incorporate motifs that represent the “Butterflies” (*Kochō*) chapter of *The Tale of Genji*. Against a backdrop of cherry blossoms in full bloom, willows, and large taiko drums, the design depicts musical instruments on Chinese-style boats featuring dragon and bird figureheads on the prow, called *ryōtō gekishu*, floating on the pond of the Spring Quarter of the Rokujō-in Palace, where Hikaru Genji's primary consort the Lady Murasaki (*Murasaki no Ue*) and the Akashi Princess live.

Like the *Hatsune Maki-e* Furnishings, the *Kochō Maki-e* Furnishings do not depict any people from the story, the designs are only landscapes. The world of the story is expressed using a technique called *rusumiyō*, which requires the viewer to imagine the people in the landscape.

40	<i>Tsukue</i> : desk with drawers
44	<i>Makura-kōro</i> : headrest with incense burner
45	<i>Goban</i> and <i>Goke</i> : go board game set
46	<i>Shōgiban</i> and <i>Komabako</i> : <i>Shōgi</i> board game set
47	<i>Naga-fubako</i> : covered box for carrying letters, long type
48	<i>Tebako</i> : covered box for daily necessities
49	<i>Kake-suzuribako</i> : portable box for ink-stone and calligraphy utensils
50	<i>Hasamibako</i> : pair of chests for carrying clothes
55	<i>Obibako</i> : covered box for <i>obi</i> sash
57	<i>Shodana</i> : shelf-cabinet for books, scrolls and writing utensils

Other Wedding Furnishings



The *Inventory of the Possessions of Reisen-in Chiyohime*, which lists almost the entirety of the extant *Hatsune* Furnishings, also includes pieces that are neither *Hatsune Maki-e* Furnishings nor *Kochō Maki-e* Furnishings. The catalogue lists swords and weapons, as well as writing boxes and pouches made from Chinese-style woven textiles, but the majority of the items listed are *maki-e* implements for the traditional incense-smelling ceremony. Some of the works are also based on *The Tale of Genji*, including two incense boxes that depict the “Suma” and “Akashi” chapters, and the Uji incense box that depicts the “Ten Chapters of Uji,” the final ten chapters of *The Tale of Genji*.

1	Inventory of the Possessions of Reisen-in Chiyohime Edo period, 1701
2	List of the Possessions of Reisen-in Chiyohime in the Inventory of Kenchū-ji Temple Edo period, 18th c.
3	<i>Nagamochi</i> : a large oblong chest for storing and transporting valuables, clothing and so on
4	<i>Yutan</i> : cover for nagamochi large oblong chest
52	<i>Hi-no-hakama</i> : pleated skirts made of scarlet silk Edo period, 17th c.
69	<i>Tachi</i> : signed “Kuniyuki” Kamakura period, 13th c.
70	<i>Tachi-goshirae</i> : decorative mounting for long sword
71	<i>Tachi-bukuro</i> : porch for Tachi long sword
72	<i>Wakizashi-goshirae</i> : decorative mounting for short sword Edo period, 17th c.
73	<i>Naginata</i> : halberd, unsigned Edo period, 17th c.
74	<i>Naginata-goshirae</i> : shaft for halberd
75	<i>Naginata</i> : halberd signed “Shimosaka Izumo-no-kami Sadashige” Edo period, 17th c.
76	<i>Naginata-goshirae</i> : shaft for halberd
77	<i>Fubako-bukuro</i> : pouches for letter box
78	<i>Tsumemono</i> : cushioning material for packing
79	<i>Kyarawari-dōgu</i> : tools for cutting incense wood
80	<i>Meisho-kōbako</i> : covered box with accessories for the incense competition
81	<i>Uji-kōbako</i> : covered box with accessories for the incense competition
82	<i>Kokin-kōbako</i> : covered box with accessories for the incense competition
83	<i>Jisshu-kōbako</i> : covered box with accessories for the incense competition
84	<i>Kagetsu-kōbako</i> : covered box with accessories for the incense competition



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