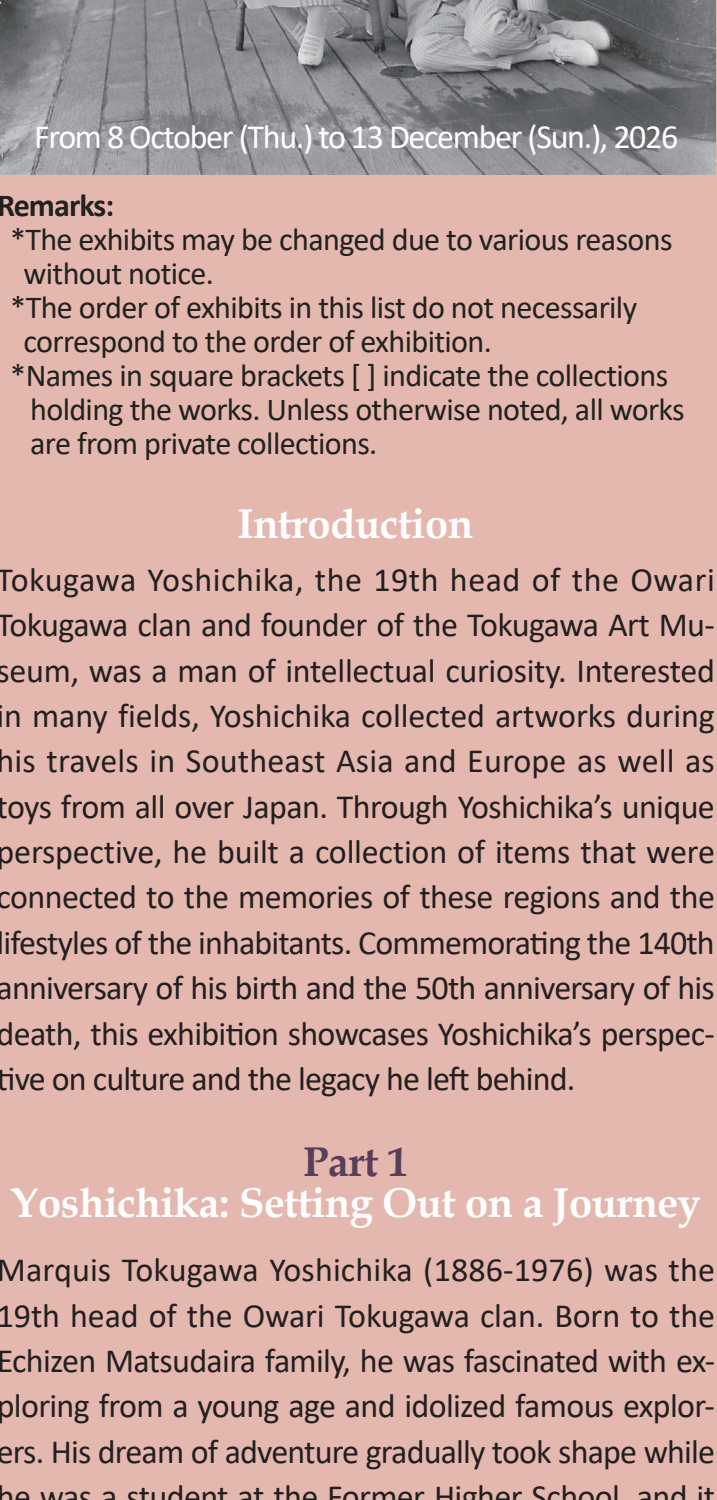


Tokugawa Yoshichika: Journeys of a Marquis



From 8 October (Thu.) to 13 December (Sun.), 2026

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.

*Names in square brackets [] indicate the collections holding the works. Unless otherwise noted, all works are from private collections.

Introduction

Tokugawa Yoshichika, the 19th head of the Owari Tokugawa clan and founder of the Tokugawa Art Museum, was a man of intellectual curiosity. Interested in many fields, Yoshichika collected artworks during his travels in Southeast Asia and Europe as well as toys from all over Japan. Through Yoshichika's unique perspective, he built a collection of items that were connected to the memories of these regions and the lifestyles of the inhabitants. Commemorating the 140th anniversary of his birth and the 50th anniversary of his death, this exhibition showcases Yoshichika's perspective on culture and the legacy he left behind.

Part 1

Yoshichika: Setting Out on a Journey

Marquis Tokugawa Yoshichika (1886-1976) was the 19th head of the Owari Tokugawa clan. Born to the Echizen Matsudaira family, he was fascinated with exploring from a young age and idolized famous explorers. His dream of adventure gradually took shape while he was a student at the Former Higher School, and it became a reality when he was adopted by the Owari Tokugawa Clan in Meiji 41 (1908) and gained the ability to explore even wider afield than before. Throughout his life, Yoshichika traveled extensively both domestically and internationally, collecting many works of art, arts and crafts, and folk toys during his travels. He incorporated these items into the interior design of the western-style wing of his Mejiro Residence, constructed in Shōwa 5 (1930).

- Portrait of Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Attributed to Hasegawa Roka.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Formal Ceremonial Uniform.
Worn by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Order of the Sultanate of Johor.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1935.
- Stained Glass “Autumn,” one of a set depicting the four seasons.
Made by Ogawa Mitsuki, designed by Hasegawa Roka.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Japanese Folk Toys.
- *Inu-hariko*, Papier-mâché Dog. (Tokyo)
- *Mayudama*, New Year's Decoration. (Kameido, Tokyo)
- *Kakeshi-bōko*, Wooden Doll. (Yamagata)
- *Hachinohe-koma*, Wooden Horse. (Mutsu, Aomori)
- Toy Pigeon of the Miyake Hachiman Shrine. (Kyoto)
- Miniature Whale-shaped Boat. (Tosa / Kōchi)
- Miniature Whale-shaped Boat. (Tosa / Kōchi)
- Pheasant-shaped Toy Carriage.
(Hitoyoshi, Chikugo / Fukuoka).
- *Konoha-zaru* (Leaf Monkey), clay doll. (Kumamoto)
From Tokugawa Yoshichika Collection.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō-Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Mother-and-Child Figure of New Guinea.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
New Guinea, 20th c.
- Carved Wooden Bear Carrying a Salmon.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Cannon (50-me), copper alloy.
Edo period, 18th c.
[The Tokugawa Art Museum]
- Taxidermied Deer Antlers.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō-Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Masks of Human Beast Face, wood carving and paint on wood.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Carpet with Ainu Patterns.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Dwarf Umbrella Stand.
Made in Switzerland.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Switzerland, 20th c.
- Side Table.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō-Shōwa period, 20th c.
- “Journey to the North” from “Gakushūin Hojinkai Zasshi”.
By Matsudaira Kinnojō (later Tokugawa Yoshichika).
Meiji period, 1905.
- “Yoshichika looking at Otōtojima from Mt. Mikazuki on Chichijima, Ogasawara” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Meiji period, 1907.
- “Yoshichika standing at Kōen Cape of Nemuro” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family
“Northern Kuril Island in 1919”.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1919.
- Shoulder Bag.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō-Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Compassess (2).
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō-Shōwa period, 20th c.

Part 2

Falling in Love with Southeast Asia

In Taishō 10 (1921), Yoshichika traveled to Southeast Asia to recuperate from a chronic case of hives, passing through Singapore, Malaysia, and Java. As a botanist with a special interest in tropical plants, he used this time to survey plants while surveying the Borobudur ruins and visiting the royal family of Johor in Malay. When he killed a tiger on a hunt in Johor, the news was immediately relayed to Japan where he gained renown as the “Tiger-Hunting Marquis.” The artworks and historical materials he collected on his travels reveal Yoshichika's wide ranging interests relating to Southeast Asian culture, nature, and industry.

- Travel Guide to East Asia, published by Japan's Ministry of Railways.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 20th c.
- Book presenting research finding on the Borobudur temple complex.
By Miura Hidenosuke.
Taishō period, 1924.
[The Tokugawa Art Museum]
- Rifle.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 20th c.
[The Tokugawa Art Museum]
- “Yoshichika visiting Heritage of Borobudur” from negative photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1929.
- “Yoshichika taking photos of Heritage of Borobudur” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1921.
- “Wayang-wong performed by Royalty at the Wedding Reception of the House of Susuhunan of Surakarta” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family. Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1929.
- “Kokugo Dokuhon”, Japanese language textbook, new edition, vol.2.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1933.
- “Yōnen Club”, children's magazine, May 1935 issue.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1935.
- Javanese Batik.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Javanese Batik.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Javanese Batik.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Javanese Batik Hat.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Javanese Firearm.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Kris, Javanese Swords (7).
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Ceremonial Clothes and Kris.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Silver Filigree House Model from Sumatra.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Spoon of the Sultanate of Johor.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Cigarette Case.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Netherlands, 20th c.
- Tiger Skull Smoking Set with Silver Implements.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Wayang Kulit.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Wayang Golek.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Wayang Topeng.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Figurines of Gamelan Orchestra.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Coconut-shaped Container.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Perforated Leather Fan.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- Samples Showing the Process of Producing Javanese Batik.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Southeast Asia, 20th c.
- “Southeast Asia”,
16mm Film taken by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1929.

Part 3

Traveling Around Europe

In November Taishō 10 (1921), Yoshichika and his wife Yoneko departed for Europe on what they jokingly referred to as their “delayed honeymoon.” Prince Kitashirakawa Naruhisa of the Imperial family had requested that Yoshichika teach him about social etiquette and so Yoshichika set off for Europe. Yoshichika and Yoneko, who had not had a “honeymoon” when they were first married, spent nearly a year traveling through seventeen countries. During this trip they inspected botanical research laboratories, visited the farms and hunting grounds of other noble families, and toured museums as well as historical and cultural sites. They interacted with many cultural figures during their travels, and these experiences clearly significantly impacted Yoshichika's later cultural activities.

- Collection of European Tiles.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Europe, 20th c.
- Shachi* (Grampus)-shaped Ornament, glass.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Italy, 20th c.
- Wani* (Alligator)-shaped Ornament, glass.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Italy, 20th c.
- Water Buffalo-shaped Ornament, glass.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Italy, 20th c.
- German-made Stained Glass.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Germany, 20th c.
- Marble statue of a Nude Woman.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Europe, 20th c.
- Storage Basket.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Switzerland, 20th c.
- Confectionary Dish.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Switzerland, 20th c.
- Yakumo Town Designated Cultural Property**
Carved Wooden Bear.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Switzerland, 20th c.
- Yakumo Town Designated Cultural Property**
Carved Wooden Bear.
Made by Itō Masao.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, ca. 1924.
- “Yoshichika Standing on the Deck of the Kamomaru on his way to Southeast Asia” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1921.
- “In Front of the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx of Egypt” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1922.
- “Yoshichika and His Wife Aboard Ship on Their Return from Europe” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1922.
- “Albert Einstein and Yoshichika aboard the Kitanomaru” from old photograph album of the Owari Tokugawa family.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1922.
- Photograph of Yoshichika, “Yakumo no Boku”.
Owned by Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1939.
[The Tokugawa Institute for the History of Forestry]
- Scrapbook of Article “Travels to the West”.
By Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1921.
- Essay “Hunting in the Malay Wilderness”.
By Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Taishō period, 1926.
- Book “Journey to Java”.
By Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1931.
- “Four Weeks of Learning Malay”.
By Tokugawa Yoshichika, and Asakura Sumitaka.
Shōwa period, 1937.
- “Yesterday's Dream”.
By Tokugawa Yoshichika.
Shōwa period, 1942.
- “The Marquis: A tale of Syonan-to”.
By E. J. H. Corner.
Published by Heinemann Asia in 1981.
Donated by Mr. Nobumasa Nishizawa.
[The Tokugawa Art Museum]
- Japanese Translation of “The Marquis: A tale of Syonan-to”.
Original by E. J. H. Corner.
Translated by Ishiik Mikiko.
Shōwa period, 1982.
[The Tokugawa Art Museum]

To coincide with this exhibition, the Tokugawa Art Museum published a exhibition catalogue.

We hope you will also find it of interest.



徳川美術館

THE TOKUGAWA ART MUSEUM

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