

Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News

September 28 - October 04, 2020 (Reiwa 2)

Keep Japanese Culture Alive in Southern California

U.S. premiere of new film about Hiroshima atomic-bombing experience “8:15” at virtual Nashville Film Festival, Oct. 1-7

San Diego-based clinical psychologist, Dr. Akiko Mikamo, grew up in Hiroshima listening to her father, Shinji Mikamo, tell stories of his and his father, Fukuichi's post atomic-bombing journey like bedtime stories.

It was her mission to tell their story, not as victims, but their day to day human experience to survive and what can be gained from these unfortunate circumstances.

Dr. Mikamo published “8:15 – A True Story of Survival and Forgiveness from Hiroshima” (2019), formerly as “Rising from the Ashes” (2013), to spread the message of resiliency and forgiveness for betterment of humanity. Very few detailed accounts of Hiroshima survivor have been presented in this format in English before.

Weaving audio and video recordings from interviews Akiko Mikamo conducted with her father Shinji Mikamo, archival images of the aftermath of the first use of atomic weapons against humanity, as well as reenactments spoken in Hiroshima dialect, new film “8:15” is woven together in an innovative documentary



format of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Directed by J.R. Heffelfinger, scripted by Akiko Mikamo, Nini Le Huynh, and J.R. Heffelfinger, film “8:15” (2020) runs for 50 minutes.

“8:15” is a remarkable true story about the resiliency of the human spirit, compassion and forgiveness.

After the successful special screenings at famed Hatchoza Cinema in Hiroshima for the 75th anniversary of the bombing, “8:15” has been invited to participate in the Academy Award qualifying Nashville Film Festival in October 2020.

This year's virtual screening of Nashville Film Festival happening from Oct. 1 through 7: [View the trailer](#), and [purchase tickets](#) of “8:15.”

The Story of “8:15” August 6, 1945, begins like any other day in Hiroshima during World War II. As Shinji Mikamo, a Japanese teen, helps his

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Weekly Cultural News is a substitute publication for Monthly Cultural News
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father, Fukuichi, prepare their home from its roof for the government ordered demolition, there is a blinding flash. As Shinji turns back toward “the sun exploding,” a fireball sends him into darkness. The first atomic bomb has just shattered Hiroshima, killing over 70,000 civilians instantaneously.

Covered with severe burns and wounds, each waking moment was unbearable as the two search for safety under the sweltering summer sun. Everywhere they turn, death surrounds them with no hopes of help in sight. Shinji even wished for death to escape from his excruciating pain, but Fukuichi’s powerful words and will pushed Shinji to fight for his life. When their paths diverge, Shinji longs for his father’s presence.

Once healed enough, Shinji went back to what used to be his home in desperation to find his father. He finds his father’s heat-fused pocket watch out of the ashes, the only keepsake that showed his connections to his family and ancestry. In 1985, the pocket watch is donated to



Reenactment scene: Father Fukuichi is searching his son Shinji on Aug. 6, 1945 in Hiroshima after the atomic bombing.

the United Nations Headquarters in New York for permanent display. A few years later, when his daughter Akiko, discovers the timepiece is stolen, it shocks the nation but eventually leads to the blessing to his open eyes.

It is narrated in English by Japanese actor, Sotaro Tanaka, intertwined with Shinji Makamo’s audio and real life interviews, layered with live action reenactments using visual effects, archival footage and photos to tell his moving true story of survival, resilience and forgiveness.

“8:15” shares a survivor’s message of love and power of forgiveness, reminding the world that

Cultural News to feature Dr. Akiko Mikamo at virtual meeting on Oct. 1 at 4:00PM & 7:00PM

Cultural News Editor Shige Higashi will interview Dr. Akiko Mikamo at virtual meeting via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4:00pm in Japanese, and at 7:00pm in English.

To participate in virtual meetings with Dr. Mikamo, register your name at <https://www.culturalnews.com/meetings>



Dr. Akiko Mikamo

“Mike” Kawamura, former Kyocera executive, Dr. Mikamo started the San Diego – Worldwide Initiative to Safeguard Humanity or San Diego-WISH to host the 65th anniversary memorial service for victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Every year since then, San Diego-WISH is hosting International Peace and Humanity Day, at 4:00pm PDT, Aug. 5, at the Yokohama Friendship Bell on Shelter Island in San Diego, and a ceremonial floating of paper lanterns in a silent prayer for world peace at the Coronado City Council Chambers and Community Pool to coincide with Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days.

Dr. Akiko Mikamo is a clinical, forensic, and sport psychologist as well as an executive coach and educator in San Diego. In August 2010, with Dr. Mike Inoue, then Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego, Mr. Ikunosuke

In 2014, Dr. Mikamo received the Award for Exceptional Services for World Peace and Humanity from the World Peace and Prosperity Foundation at the House of Lords in London.

UCLA Library to host online programs about “Japanese Studies and Rare Materials” on Oct. 20, 23, 27

The UCLA Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library invites the public to the Japanese Studies and Rare Materials webinar series. Leading scholars in Japanese Studies will introduce rare materials belonging to two exciting genres in the field. Please register and join this online program via zoom. Free and open to public. <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/japanese/webinar-series>

The World of Kohitsu Tekagami (Part 1)

古筆手鑑の世界

Tuesday, Oct 20, 2020, 5:00PM – 6:30PM (PDT)

Speaker: Takahiro Sasaki, Director of Institute of Oriental Classics (Shido Bunko) and Professor and of Keio University

Title: 古筆手鑑の世界

(The World of Kohitsu Tekagami)

The talk will be given in Japanese with an option for simultaneous English transcription.

For information and registration, please visit <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/japanese/webinar-series>

The World of Kohitsu Tekagami (Part 2)

古筆手鑑の世界

Friday, Oct. 23, 2020, 5:00PM – 6:00PM (PDT)

Speaker: Akiko Walley, Maude I. Kerns Associate Professor of Japanese Art, University of Oregon
Title: Do All the Pieces Matter?: Calligraphy Fragments in the University of Oregon Tekagami

Speaker: Edward Kamens, Sumitomo Professor



of Japanese Studies, Yale University
Title: The Yale Tekagamijō and the Digital Future of Tekagami Research

For information and registration, please visit <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/japanese/webinar-series>

The World of Saga-bon Ise Monogatari (Part 1)

圓福寺蔵本を通して見る「嵯峨本伊勢物語」の世界

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, 5:00PM – 6:45PM (PDT)

Speaker: Akiko Walley, Maude I. Kerns Associate Professor of Japanese Art, University of Oregon
Title: The More the Merrier: Japanese Premodern Prints

Speaker: Takahiro Sasaki, Director of Institute of Oriental Classics (Shido Bunko) and Professor and of Keio University

Title: Title: 圓福寺蔵本を通して見る「嵯峨本伊勢物語」の世界
The World of Saga-bon Ise Monogatari as seen through the Enfukuji Collection)

The talk will be given in Japanese with an option to listen to the simultaneous English transcription.

For information and registration, please visit <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/japanese/webinar-series>

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Virtual Program to Follow Japanese Immigrant Artist's Journey from Kagoshima to Los Angeles, World War II Incarceration Camps to Pasadena's Westridge School

On Saturday, October 10, from 2 PM, Frank Sata and Naomi Hirahara, Los Angeles – based cowriters of the recently published book, *Kagoshima 9066 Westridge*, will present a virtual program at the Japanese American National Museum in partnership with the Arcadia Public Library.

Both writers and Bryan Takeda of the Nikkei Federation, the fiscal sponsor for the project, will discuss the life of Sata's father, J.T. Sata, who left a record of the Japanese immigrant experience through his photographs, sketches, paintings and sculptures.

A man committed to a life of art—not necessarily as a profession, J.T. emigrated to America from Kagoshima in 1918. In Los Angeles, he was active with the Issei photo community while working odd jobs.

During World War II, J.T., his wife, Yoshie, and Frank were incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center and the concentration camps in Jerome, Arkansas, and Gila River, Arizona.

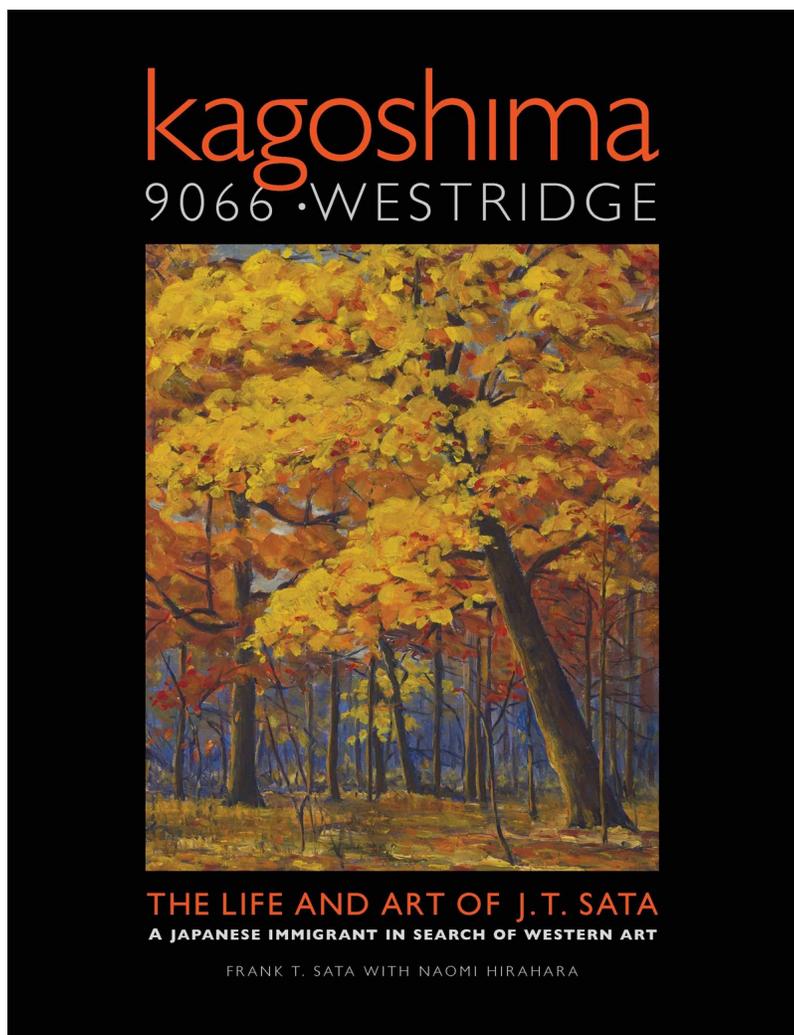
Kagoshima 9066 Westridge includes artwork completed in all three detention centers as well as candid snapshots J.T. took after World War II on the campus of Westridge, an exclusive girls' school in Pasadena, where he worked as a janitor until his retirement.

Frank Sata will discuss the impact of his father's art and why he felt compelled to publish this book in this moment with Bryan Takeda.

Hirahara will also be presenting selections from the book and discussing the process of creating this visual history.

Yvonne Ng, librarian at the Arcadia Public Library, and Shawn Iwaoka, Collections Assistant at JANM, will highlight the history of Santa Anita Park Racetrack, where Sata was incarcerated, and how their respective institutions preserve that history.

No payment is required to attend this event, but preregistration is required and donations to the hosting organizations are encouraged. To register, go to <http://www.janm.org/events/2020/10/>.



This program, "J.T. Sata: A Japanese Immigrant in Search of Western Art," was made possible through support from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Grant, a program of the California State Library.

A limited number of *Kagoshima 9066 Westridge* books will be available for sale through JANM's Museum Store.

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Art documentary film depicting lives of “Yamato-e” painters in 18-19th centuries to be screened at virtual film festival

An art documentary film “The Untold Story of a Samurai Painter in Kyoto” will be featured at the Japan Film Festival Los Angeles 2020.

Virtual screening will be available from Oct. 1, 00:00AM through Oct. 4, 11:59PM. Tickets are \$6. Acceptable devices are PC and tablet computers. Smart phones are not able to view films of the JFFLA. To purchase tickets and view films, visit <https://www.jffla.org>

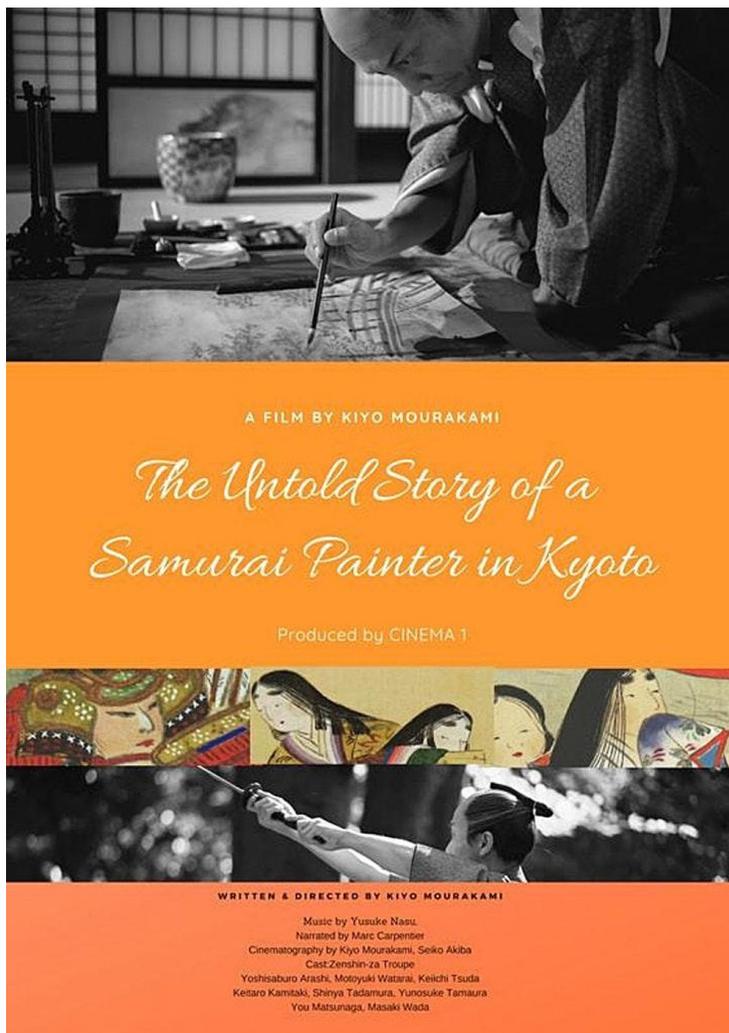
The history of Yamato-e painting dates back to more than a thousand years, in the Heian Period. Although painters in Japan were greatly influenced by Chinese painting from the Tang Dynasty, they strived to create a new genre based on their own culture, giving rise to Yamato-e.

Through the strokes of brushes, the Yamato-e artists have strived to instill ardent motives into painting. Above all, regardless of consequence to reputation or life, they struggled simply to make their paintings look beautiful forever.

Their passionate tales have never been chronicled and their names have been lost to history. But their works have not been in vain. Japanese painting today is imbued with their spirit.

The film depicts the splendor and richness of the Yamato-e painting style during the final years of the Shogun in the Edo Period and at the beginning of the Meiji Period.

This film is dedicated to the artists who struggled and strived for the beauty of life: Tani Buncho (1763-1840); Reizei Tamechika (1823-1854); and Sakakibara Bunsui (1824-1903).



京都「やまと絵師」物語

The Untold Story of a Samurai Painter in Kyoto
2018, 85 mins
English narration by Marc Carpentier

Written & Directed by Kiyoji Murakami
Cinematography by Kiyoji Murakami and Seiko Akiba
Music by Yusuke Nasu
Executive Producers: Kiyoji Murakami & Fumiko Murakami
Produced by Cinema 1
<https://www.samuraipainter-cinema1.com/>

Ohayashi Juku (Japanese percussion lecture) Kabuki Series #15 talks about “Jo no Mai”

By Mariko Watabe

There are dance videos and shamisen videos. But KABUKI HAYASHI (Japanese percussion) videos are rarely found or discussed especially in English or with English subtitles.

I have decided to make them as I believe this art is too precious to be hidden or lost. With the guidance of Master Katada Shinjuro, I am trying to uncover the world of HAYASHI by producing YouTube videos in Japanese language with English subtitles.

[Oyahashi Juku - Kabuki Series #01 - #05: See Weekly Cultural News Aug 31-Sept 6 issue](#)

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #06: Spooky Sounds <https://youtu.be/qFiyvB8hjtM>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #07 Part I: Festival Music <https://youtu.be/3hJpLyAz0dw>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series # 07 Part II: Festival Music <https://youtu.be/LBcE6l1Zdw4>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #08: Debayashi and Kagebayashi <https://youtu.be/w7tEuS0U63k>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #09: Why is Hayashi So Special? <https://youtu.be/SYxojFOy9LQ>

Ohayashi Juku—Kabuki Series #10: Battle Sounds <https://youtu.be/0M7Ua8SIHic>

Ohayashi Juku—Kabuki Series #11: Fighting Sounds <https://youtu.be/aWJqDubYRiw>

Ohayashi Juku—Kabuki Series #12: Toki Daiko <https://youtu.be/VblxgwGIQq8>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #13: Daimyo Gyoretsu <https://youtu.be/H39ZUosGhqY>



Ohayashi Juku Kabuki Series #14 Aragoto <https://youtu.be/-XPJeqFBpJk>

Ohayashi Juku #15 <https://youtu.be/IW2GDxEoQR4> is the last video which introduces the Hayashi patterns used for Historical Plays. Noh hayashi patterns are often used for Kabuki for their historical plays and music.

We will discover the unique quality of Noh music and it's special eight-beat phrase system (The phrase system is a group of patterns written in letters). As well as work on the terms, and then, look into the first two phrases of “Mitsuji” and “Tsuzeke Hikae” out of a larger phrase called “Jo no Mai”.

Lastly, we will experience the “Jo no Mai” pattern through Nagauta music piece called “Tsunayakata.” The same story of, “Ibaraki”, which has been introduced in my previous video of “Aragoto” sound, is also incorporated to this piece.

Mariko Watabe has been introducing Kabuki dance and music to American audiences nationwide for over 40 years. She goes by her stage names such as; Kimisen Katada for Hayashi, Kyosho Yamato for Yamatogaku, Kichitoji Kineya for Nagauta; and Marifuji Bando for dance.

She is currently living in Los Angeles area. Her activities and performances are found at <http://fujijapanesemusic.org>