



JAPAN FOUNDATION

国際交流基金

PRESS RELEASE

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“Yokai: Iconography of the Fantastical. The Night Parade of One Hundred Demons as the Source of Supernatural Imagery in Japan”

An exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain to be held in Madrid

The Japan Foundation is proud to commemorate the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain with the holding of the exhibition “Yokai: Iconography of the Fantastical. The Night Parade of One Hundred Demons as the Source of Supernatural Imagery in Japan” at the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando.



Courtesy of Miyoshi City: Night Parade of One Hundred Demons Picture Scroll (detail) / Kimono with Night Parade of One Hundred Demons Pattern (right)

This exhibition focuses on works that offer viewers the chance to appreciate the power of imagination of the Japanese people and the different ways in which that power is expressed. Among the items on display are kimono and netsuke, sword guards (*tsuba*) and knife handles, plates, bottles and children’s toys. *Yokai* culture was disseminated to the masses during Japan’s Edo Period (seventeenth-nineteenth century). It is believed yokai emerged in the Japanese psyche out of fears of the uncontrollability of nature—natural disasters, changing weather, plagues—and anxieties of the soul. The spirits, demons and monsters are depicted from as far back as the Muromachi Period (fourteenth-sixteenth century), when the *Night Parade of One Hundred Demons* picture scroll was painted. The many forms of these strange-looking creatures—including those depicted generation after generation based on the *Night Parade of One Hundred Demons* and those newly created—were shared widely with the general public in the Edo Period with the proliferation of woodblock printing and editorial culture. People gradually became familiar with yokai and began to find them entertaining. They have since been turned into cute, loveable characters frequently featured in manga, animation and gaming.

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Outline

- 【Exhibition title】** The 150th Anniversary of Japan-Spain Diplomatic Relations
Yokai: Iconography of the Fantastical. The Night Parade of One Hundred Demons as the Source of Supernatural Imagery in Japan
- 【Dates】** Tuesday, July 17 – Sunday, September 23, 2018
- 【Opening hours】** Tuesday–Saturday: 10:00 – 14:00, 18:00 – 21:00
Sundays and National Holidays: 10:00 – 14:00
Monday: Closed
Admission Free
*For the preservation of the works, a portion of the items on display will be rotated on August 21
- 【Venue】** Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando
- 【Organizers】** The Japan Foundation, Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando
- 【Curators】** Koichi Yumoto, Daniel Sastre de la Vega (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
- 【In cooperation with】** Miyoshi City (Hiroshima Prefecture)
- 【Supported by】** Toshiba International Foundation