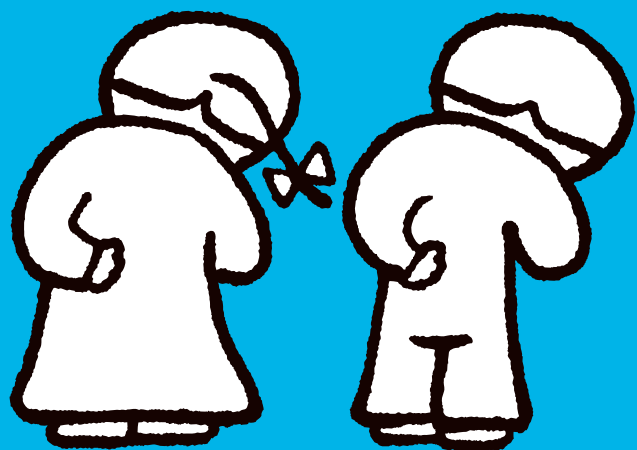
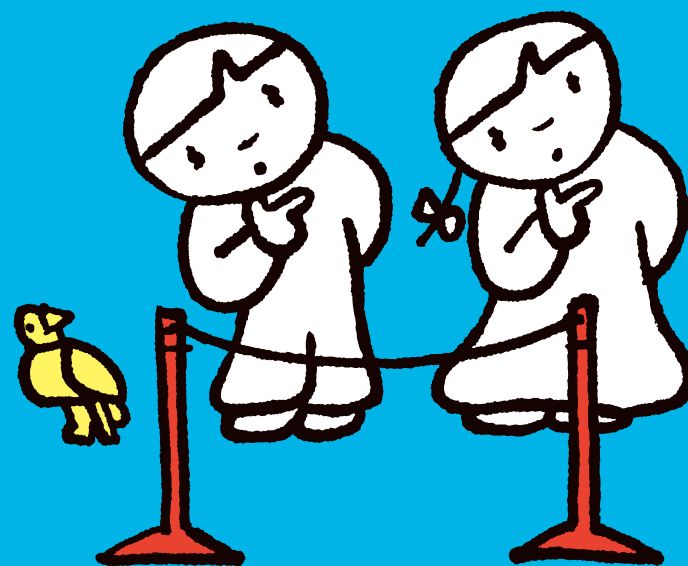


What is Art? What is human?



What is Art?



Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art: "What is Art?"

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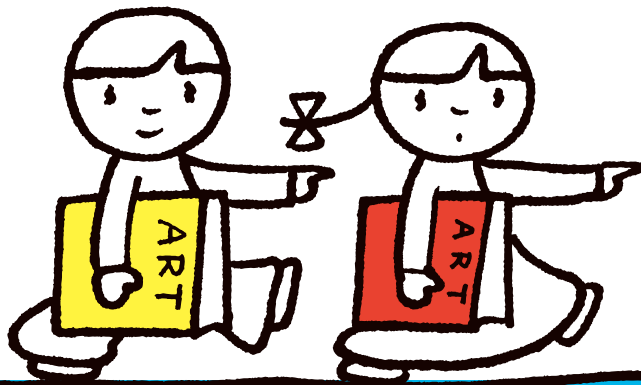
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Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art

What is Art? What is human?

Chiba Prefectural
Museum of Art



Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art

marked its 50th anniversary in October 2024.

Long ago, there was ocean, and then land was created.

People lived there, towns spread, and a museum was built.

Ages before, there were no humans on the earth.

When they appeared, art emerged.

Art may seem difficult,

but when we think about art,

can we learn about humans, too?

If people and society keep changing,

how will art change as well?

What is art?



What is the art at Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art?



Is art difficult?
We can think about it together
going through the museum.



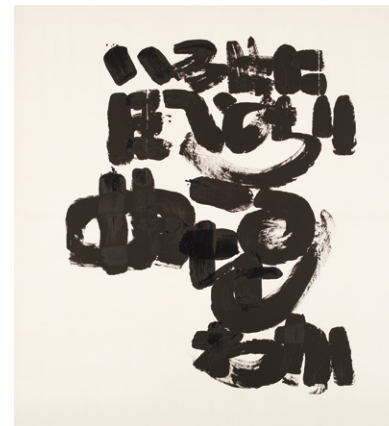
A big head, with big round eyes and a swirling pattern on the wings?
The legs are kind of weird, too...
The more we look at it, the stranger it seems.
Is this art too?

point The neck opens, so you can insert incense and use it as an incense burner. The design on the wings is like an ancient Chinese pattern.



The view seems a bit nostalgic.
Perhaps it was made by someone from a long time ago.
Is that the ocean in the background? What are the people doing?

point This shows women at work on the shore of *Minami-boso*. It was painted by Asai Chū, a Western-style painter who was born in the Sakura Domain. He was one of the first Japanese artists who learned Western painting.



A pattern? Letters?
Or the side of a face?
Ask people what they can see!

point The opening of an *iroha* poem is expressed boldly. The artist held a brush as tall as him, and created many large-scale pieces.



Photo: Ueno Norihiro

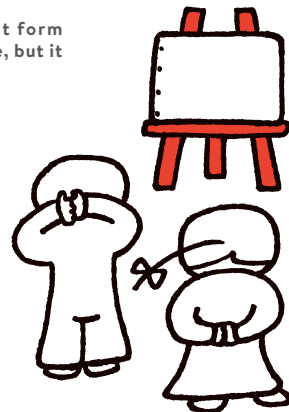
**Lots of sheep, grazing and sleeping...
but can you see someone hiding in it?**

point This is by Millet, a French painter of the Barbizon school.
While shepherds stand in the far back, a calm light falls on the sheep.



**A giant statue with indents.
What do we imagine from the figure?**

point This work has an abstract form
made of solid, heavy stone, but it
also feels warm.



©Ayako Rokkaku

Is there a girl? How was this colorful world painted?

point It was painted with fingertips, in quick movements.



**What colors are used in
this world?
The air feels cold,
but comfortable...**

point Higashiyama Kaii lived in Ichikawa
City. He visited Kyoto in early
spring to paint fantastical views
of snow.



Top: 2023-24 Season, Theo Jansen Exhibition
Bottom: 2024-25 Season, PROJECT UMINOUE "Igarashi Yasuaki: Sea Breeze"

ARCHITECTURE

The architecture of Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art, surrounding its art

Designed by Otaka Masato, an architect of the Metabolism movement.

This metabolism is related to "organic regeneration."

Parts can be added to the building to develop in line with changes in time, purpose, and users.

Does it seem like playing with blocks?





Outside

Explore Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art

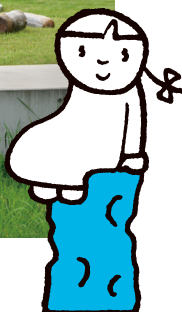
Inside

There are many outdoor sculptures.
Walking here, encounters with unexpected artworks are waiting for you.



Behind the museum spreads "a veiled trail, an unknown garden Michinoniwa."
Enjoy your time here your own way.

point A path called *Michinoniwa* connects the museum and the community.



Let's discover



There is a secret room.
Can you find it?



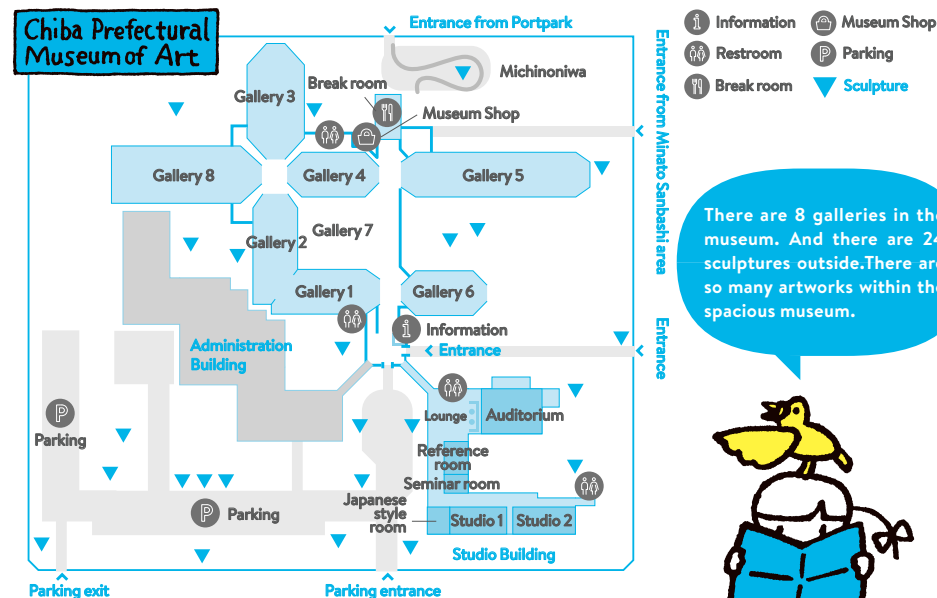
Does it look like a human?
What is it showing?



Two creatures with cute shapes.
Is it pointing at something?

Top & bottom center: Nakaoka Shintaro, *FANTASY*, 1993
Bottom left: Suzuki Keiko, *FEELING-LOVE: White Poesy*, 1973
Bottom right: Tanaka Tsuyoshi, *Journey of the Three-Cornered World*, 1993

The museum is full of amazing things!
It's interesting to go around not just looking at the art,
but also at the building itself.

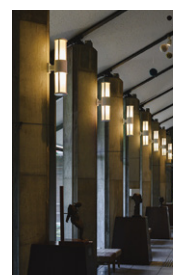


There are 8 galleries in the museum. And there are 24 sculptures outside. There are so many artworks within the spacious museum.

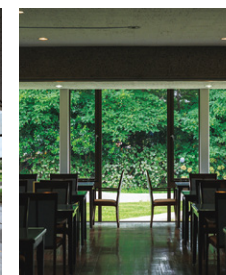


point Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art is a one-floor building. There are no steps in the barrier-free architecture, so everyone can enjoy the art.

Let's search

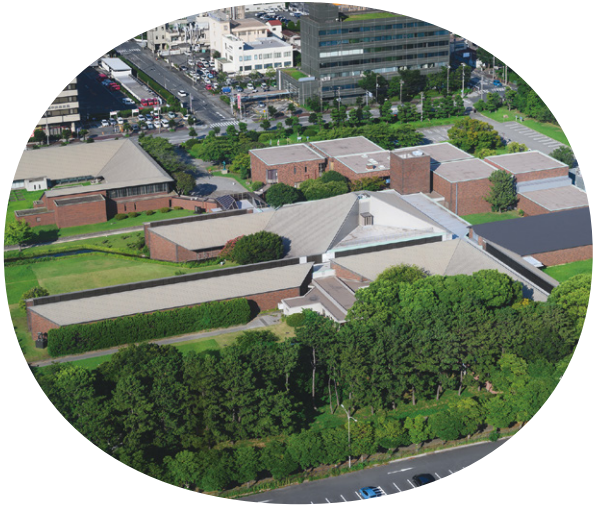


There are diagonal shapes everywhere.
It's like we are inside toy blocks.



There are lots of spaces in the museum.
And lots of art books, too.





From its 50th anniversary, Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art has embraced a philosophy of “questioning art.”

We think about the ultimate, unsolvable question along with all of you.

Exploring who and what we

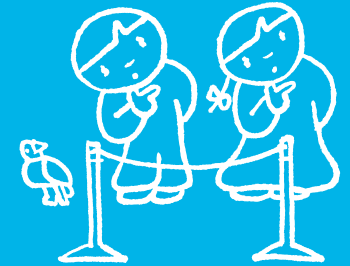
Foundational Vision for Revitalizing the Chiba Prefectural Museum of Art: Key Concepts

The museum has established management guidelines to be reborn as an attractive museum that stands alongside the people of the prefecture, responding to the various transformations in the environment surrounding art museums, and in social and economic conditions. (Released March 29, 2024)

Philosophy “Questioning Art”

The question, “What is art?” is something we will always continue asking together with everyone.

Art was born with humans. Questioning what art is also questions what humans are. Art changes along with shifts in human activity and social transformation. In a time of changes and growing diversity, we will continue asking this ultimate, unsolvable question.



Aim To be a place for people to exchange and converse, threading a new culture from Chiba into the future.

In the museum space, where people come and view art, we will release the latest achievements in art and research. We will nurture art that is based upon the characteristics of the prefecture, and work with all people to keep creating new perceptions of the world.

Activity Guideline I To be a place of new encounters and discoveries

We will use various methods to introduce arts that have been carefully handed down, together with other diverse approaches, and create an art scene in Chiba, establishing the museum as a place to discover new perceptions.



Activity Guideline II To be a regional art project hub

Taking advantage of the location of the prefecture, with its rich natural environment as well as ports and an airport within metropolitan areas where a diverse range of people cross, we aim to be a hub for regional art projects that will enrich the culture of Chiba and contribute to the vitality of society.



Activity Guideline III To be a space for nurturing the sensitivity of coming generations

By communicating the joy of experiencing art as a means to nurture the sensitivity of children, and through supporting young artists from inside and outside the prefecture to gather in Chiba to exchange ideas and work, we will develop the creative talent of the future.



Activity Guideline IV To be a place of new encounters and discoveries

We aim to occupy a position in everyone's hearts, from the perspective of art, and to be a sustainable museum that connects to the future in the constantly changing and diversifying society, contributing to well-being.

