



Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 79-10

AUTUMN ART SHOW

88 feet 2 min. 27 sec.

1. (PARK) Autumn in Japan is a time when people traditionally stop to admire the beauty of nature. Numerous fine arts exhibitions are also held throughout the country at this time, and perhaps the most prestigious of these is the NIKKA Association's annual September art show...held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum in Ueno.
2. (PAINTING OF WOMEN IN KIMONO) In this year's three week long exhibit. the 64th in NIKKA's long and illustrious history...967 oil paintings and 81 sculptures went on display. They were chosen by NIKKA's selection committee from nearly 4,500 paintings and more than 150 sculptures submitted from around the nation. They represent the work of some of Japan's most creative and talented artists.
3. (BUDDHA PAINTING) This year's entries dealt with a wide variety of subjects...such as this striking depiction of Buddha...
4. (PAINTING : PROFILE OF A WOMEN) First prize went to Shu Aoki for this intriguing work which he entitled "Hair."
5. (MAN IN BLUE SWEATER) This captivating painting called "Breeze Under a Tree" was a special favorite of the many art lovers who attended the show.

6. (CU OF STONE SCULPTORS) Among the sculptures displayed were those made from wood, stone...and blue copper...such as this provocative creation entitled "Nighttime."

7. (WHITE SCULPTURE) A highlight of the exhibition was a humorous wood sculpture by Takuo Imai. He calls it, simply, "Falling Down."

8. (BROWN WOODEN SCULPTURE) The eventual first prize winner in the sculpture category was this innovative work named "Umi" or "Sea"...sculpted by Hideaki Terajima.

Winning such a prize in the NIKA exhibition is one of the highest awards a Japanese artist can achieve. For many, merely being chosen to participate in the exhibit is the honor of a lifetime.

SUNDAY CARPENTERS

89 feet 2 min. 28 sec.

1. (SIGN) In this automated age of mass-produced goods and ready-made products, people have not yet forgotten the simple joy of making something by hand. If the response to the recent "Do It Yourself And Hobby Fair" at Tokyo's spacious Harumi Trade Center is any indication, a "Do-it-yourself" boom is in the making. Literally thousands of would-be "Sunday carpenters"...as they are called in Japan...flocked to this three-day affair, sponsored by the Japan Hobby Association...

2. (PAN ACROSS HALL INTERIOR) ...They came to find out from a wide variety of craftsmen just exactly how to take things into their own hands.

3. (WOOD CARVING) They learned how to saw, to cut, to carve, to nail and to paint.

4. (MAN AT BENCH) Wood craftsmen, for example, showed them what a chisel, some wood, a little paint and a patient pair of hands could really accomplish:...an elegant, three-dimensional wood carving like this, of a traditional Japanese living room... complete with hat and coat...a cat...and a pot hanger.

5. (WEAVING) All visitors to the fair were encouraged to participate. Here, these ladies learned how to weave their own purses out of wool. Spending their time this way precludes an expensive shopping trip to department store...and virtually guarantees they will have something left over to put in the finished product.

6. (PAINT ROLLER) In another section of the auditorium, people learned the simple art of painting a living room wall...

7. (WOODEN CHAIR) ...While some of the more youthful enthusiasts were taught first hand how a chair is made...Like many of the adults who attended the fair, they discovered that "Doing it yourself" is not only more economical, but is also an enjoyable way of passing the time. They have made the first step toward learning valuable skills that will serve them well in the future.

TOTAL ECLIPSE

55 feet 1 min. 32 sec.

1. (ECLIPSE) A total eclipse of the moon took place in the skies over Tokyo on the evening of September 6th. At the Ueno National Museum of Science, officials invited over 100 primary school children to the rooftop observatory to witness this unusual phenomenon through the Museum's powerful telescopes.

2. (ECLIPSE, SECOND SHOT) Astronomers were on hand to explain to the children just exactly what it is that causes an eclipse. To further their understanding, they had each child draw pictures depicting the various stages of a total moon eclipse.

3. (CHILDREN AT TELESCOPE) Aside from the eclipse itself, the big attraction was this powerful 200 millimeter reflecting telescope. For these children, it was their first close-up look at the heavens.

4. (ECLIPSE) Although clouds appeared midway and obscured the view for the rest of the evening...these fortunate youngsters went home with a view of the moon and the stars that few people of any age have had.

DAY OF THE HORSE

125 feet 3 min. 28 sec

1. (HORSE STATUE) For the past 21 years, September 20th has marked the start of national Animal Week in Japan. And since 1968, Hippophil -- or Love of Horses Day -- sponsored by the Japan Racing Association, has been an important part of the week's activities.

2. (CHILDREN ON HORSES) This year, more than 5000 people crowded in to Tokyo's Equestrian Park...once a venue for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics... to take part in a day of festivities...dedicated to appreciation of the horse and the perpetuation of traditional Japanese equestrian arts. In the morning, over 600 children were invited to come and make friends with the horses and go for a ride on a real thoroughbred.

3. (BLOWING SHELLS) In the afternoon, the traditional events got under way. Leading off was a special race in which riders, clad in samurai garb and full armor, dashed around a 1100 meter track at breakneck speed. It was a rousing demonstration of centuries-old Japanese horsemanship.

4. (HORSEBACK ARCHERY) Next came a stirring display of mounted archery. Expert bowmen on horseback raced full speed down a narrow track...shooting at three separate targets. This was a reenactment of a ritual ceremony originating in the 6th century. It was designed as a prayer offering in memory of Empress Jingu and Emperor Ojin... The three targets signified prayers for peace, a good harvest, and the happiness of the people.

5. (HORSE DANCE) Other events included ancient Japanese polo, a performance by acrobatic ponies...and this...the "dance of the horse."

6. (YELLOW FLAG) This gala affair was capped off by the "Battle for the Sacred Flag ...For most of the spectators, it was the most exciting event of the day. As a small rocket fired the "sacred flag" into the air...mounted samurai swung into action. Armed with pointed sticks, they jostled furiously with each other to retrieve the flag. This zesty battle marked a fitting end to another "Day of the Horse." It was a day that children, adults...and especially the horses... would not soon forget.

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