

Exhibitions of Original Murals at Nijo-jo Painting Gallery in 2019-2020

	Period	Title and Summary	Works
Spring Exhibition	April 18 (Thu.) through June 16 (Sun.)	<p>Murals of Plum and Peony Blossoms: Flowers Adding Color to Corridor The original murals of the east corridor room in the Kuroshoin, whose repairs have been completed, will be exhibited in this term. Also known as the Botan-no-ma, this room has two sets of murals of peony blossoms (“botan” in Japan), one on the west face and the other on the north face. In addition, on the east walls of the room, there are murals of red and white plum blossoms. These murals were originally set up at other places in the Ninomaru-goten Palace and later moved to their present location. These murals of <i>Ume-zu</i> (Plum Blossoms) will be exhibited in the Gallery for the first time. Plum blossoms bloom in a dignified and powerful way in early spring, and peony flowers bloom lavishly in late spring, both of which give viewers a feeling of vitality. We hope you enjoy the flowers in radiant bloom in the murals.</p>	<i>Kuroshoin Murals of Botan-no-ma: Botan-zu (Tree Peonies), Ume-zu (Plums)</i>
Summer Exhibition	July 11 (Thu.) through September 8 (Sun.)	<p>Matsutaka: A Legacy from the Momoyama Period <i>Matsutaka-zu</i> (Pines and Hawks) of the Yon-no-ma (Fourth Room) in the Ohiroma (the Great Hall) is one of the best-known sets of the murals of Nijo-jo Castle’s Ninomaru-goten Palace. In this period, murals on the west, south, and east faces of the room will be exhibited for the first time in nine years, which are arranged in the same layout as they were in the Palace. Pine trees covering the murals of the Fourth Room are more powerful and luxuriant than those painted in the murals of any other rooms in the Ohiroma. An eagle and two hawks, both appearing larger than life, are also painted in <i>Matsutaka-zu</i>. This picture inherited the painting style of the Momoyama period (late 16th century to early 17th century) founded by Kano Eitoku, a prominent painter favored by the rulers of the country at that time. Have a close look of the powerful murals, which convey the spirit of heroes of the time.</p>	<i>Ohiroma Murals of the Fourth Room: Matsutaka-zu (Pines and Hawks)</i>
Fall Exhibition	October 3 (Thu.) Through December 1 (Sun.)	<p>Meisho-e Coming from the Imperial Palace: Murals of Chodai-no-ma The murals of two Chodai-no-ma, one in the Ohiroma and the other in the Kuroshoin of the Ninomaru-goten Palace, will be exhibited during this period (the two rooms are not usually open to the public). Most of the murals originated in the <i>meisho-e</i> (painting of famous places) created for the Nyogo Palace in the Imperial Palace in 1715, some of which were used to decorate the rooms when Nijo-jo Castle became an imperial villa in the Meiji period (1868-1912). These murals still keep the original colors and lines well although their current shapes are greatly different from those of the original paintings, and they are valuable works as some of the best examples of the Kano School style of paintings which flourished in Kyoto at that time. In addition to sceneries of famous places in Japan, such as Sumiyoshi, Wakanoura, and Miho no Matsubara (Miho Pine Grove) commanding a view of Mt. Fuji, these murals vividly depict the life of common people living near these places, as well as the enjoyment of travelers to these places ablaze with fall colors in the autumn and filled with full bloomed cherry blossoms in the spring.</p>	<i>Ohiroma Murals of Chodai-no-ma: Tatsutafuzoku-zu (Life and Customs of the Tatsuta Area), Musashino-zu (Painting of Musashino) Kuroshoin Murals of Chodai-no-ma: Meishofuzoku-zu (Life and Customs of Famous Places), Akikusa-zu (Fall Flowers), Matsuyanagi Shirasagi-zu (Pine, Willow, and White Herons)</i>
Winter Exhibition	December 16 (Mon.) Through February 16, 2020 (Sun.) [Closed from Dec. 29 through 31]	<p>The Change of the Seasons: Kacho-zu of Roju-no-ma The murals of the three rooms of the Roju-no-ma in the Shikidai will be open to the public in this period. Roju (senior councilors of the Tokugawa shogunate) are said to have attended to their business in the rooms. The three rooms of the Ichi-no-ma (First Room), the Ni-no-ma (Second Room), and the San-no-ma (Third Room) have murals depicting seasonal flowers and birds from spring to summer, in fall, and in winter, respectively. These paintings were reportedly painted by a painter group led by Kano Koi, who is said to have instructed the famous Kano Tan’yu. We hope you enjoy the seasonal tastes expressed in the murals of the respective rooms of the Roju-no-ma: geese gathering on water’s edge covered with green lush reeds in the First Room, geese pecking ears of rice in a stubble field in the Second Room, and herons perching on a willow covered with snow in the Third Room.</p>	<i>Shikidai Murals of Roju-no-ma First Room: Rogan-zu (Geese among Reeds), Roju-no-ma Second Room: Rogan-zu (Geese among Reeds), Roju-no-ma Third Room: Setchu Ryuro-zu (Willows and Herons in Snow)</i>