

2020-2021 Nijo-jo Castle Painting Gallery Original Mural Exhibitions

	Period	Title and Summary	Works
Spring Exhibition	Thursday, April 23 to Sunday, June 21, 2020	Meeting Rooms in Bloom: Spring in the Kuroshoin Murals The Ichi-no-ma (First Room) and Ni-no-ma (Second Room) of the Kuroshoin are thought to have been rooms for the shogun to meet high-ranking court nobles and people close to the Tokugawa family. The murals in the two rooms depict two motifs: Chinese landscapes in ink mainly above the <i>nageshi</i> (ornamental horizontal beams of wood); and Japanese spring landscapes in colorful paint on the gilt ground below the <i>nageshi</i> , where <i>ume</i> plum blossoms as an early spring staple, cherry trees in full bloom, and azalea flowers in late spring represent the passage of seasons. You can enjoy a beautiful combination of tranquil landscapes and brilliant spring flowers at once.	<i>Matsushibagaki Kincho-zu</i> (Pine Tree, Brushwood Fences, and Birds) in the Kuroshoin First Room, and <i>Okakiji-zu</i> (Cherry Blossoms and Pheasants) and <i>Rokaku Sansui-zu</i> (Pavilions and Landscape) in the Kuroshoin First and Second Rooms
Summer Exhibition	First period: Thursday, July 16 to Monday, August 24, 2020 Second period: Friday, September 4 to Sunday, September 27, 2020	Meeting Room of the Ohiroma as the Scene of Historical Events First period: Ni-no-ma from the Shogun's Perspective Second period: Ichi-no-ma Surrounding the Shogun Located in the center of Ninomaru-goten Palace, the Ohiroma has murals of a number of huge pine trees on the gilt ground, demonstrating the power of the Tokugawa shogunate. The meeting room of Ohiroma was the most formal place for rituals and witnessed the glory and end of the Tokugawa shogunate. The Ni-no-ma (Second Room) of the Ohiroma was used not only as a waiting room for <i>daimyo</i> (feudal lords under the shogun) and foreign diplomatic missions who came to meet the shogun but also as an auditorium for Emperor Gomizunoo to appreciate a <i>sarugaku</i> performance when he visited the castle in 1626. The Ichi-no-ma (First Room) of the Ohiroma was a room for the shogun to sit and meet various visitors. The 15th shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu, with his determination to return the shogunate's political power to the Emperor in mind, met senior retainers of various clans here. Over the first and second periods, the exhibitions feature the Ohiroma meeting room as the scene of important historical events.	First period: <i>Matsukujaku-zu</i> (Pine Trees and Peafowls) in the Ohiroma Second Room Second period: <i>Shochiku Kinkei-zu</i> (Pine Trees, Bamboos, and Golden Pheasants), <i>Kaki-zu</i> (Flowers), and <i>Suisen-zu</i> (Narcissuses) in the Ohiroma First Room
Fall Exhibition	Thursday, October 8 to Sunday, December 6, 2020	Autumn Scenery: Selected Murals from the Shiroshoin This exhibition features murals of autumn scenery selected from the Shiroshoin. The Ichi-no-ma (First Room) to Yon-no-ma (Fourth Room) of Shiroshoin, where the shogun lived while in Kyoto, have murals in ink. The mural in the west of the Second and Third Rooms depicts Chinese figures in small size on a background of autumnal landscapes with wild geese and dying reeds. Meanwhile, murals in Chodai-no-ma depict golden brushwood fences, bush clovers, and gentian flowers on the wall below the <i>nageshi</i> (ornamental horizontal beams of wood) and a silver grass field with colorful China pinks and small chrysanthemum flowers above the <i>nageshi</i> . Enjoy the delicate and lovable world of the Shiroshoin murals, which are in sharp contrast with other famous majestic murals in Nijo-jo Castle.	<i>Seiko-zu</i> (West Lake) in the Shiroshoin Second Room, <i>Sansui Jinbutsu-zu</i> (Landscape and Figures) in the Shiroshoin Third Room, and <i>Akikusa-zu</i> (Fall Flowers) in the Shiroshoin Chodai-no-ma
Winter Exhibition	Monday, December 21, 2020 to Sunday, February 21, 2021 [Gallery closed from December 29 to 31]	Pine Trees and Beach with Pine Trees: Murals in the Kuroshoin San-no-ma The San-no-ma (Third Room) of the Kuroshoin is thought to have been a waiting room for visitors who came to meet the shogun in the meeting room. The murals in this room depict a beach with many pine trees above the <i>nageshi</i> (ornamental horizontal beams of wood) and below the <i>nageshi</i> a landscape with pine trees representing a passage from summer to winter. Kano Naonobu (1607-50), credited with these murals, was 20 years old when painting these works. It is said that he completed these important works with support from more experienced painters. Enjoy the delicate and tranquil landscapes with pine trees, to which the painter devoted his young days.	<i>Matsu-zu</i> (Pine Trees) and <i>Hamamatsu-zu</i> (Beach with Pine Trees) in the Kuroshoin Third Room