

2021–2022 Nijo-jo Castle Painting Gallery Original Mural Exhibitions

	Period	Title and Summary	Works
Spring Exhibition	Thursday, April 22 to Sunday, June 20, 2021 [60 days]	Cherry Blossoms and Landscapes from the Shogun's Point of View: Murals in the Kuroshoin Meeting Rooms The Ichi-no-ma (First Room) and Ni-no-ma (Second Room) of the Kuroshoin are thought to have been used for meetings between the shogun and high-ranking people. The meeting rooms have murals depicting spring landscapes with cherry blossoms in brilliant colors and murals depicting mountains and waterside landscapes in India ink and pale tints. These murals add both splendor and tranquility to the rooms. This exhibition displays the murals in the same arrangement as the shogun is thought to have seen on his seat in the First Room during meetings. Enjoy the spring features and tranquil landscapes from the shogun's point of view.	<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 15 to Sunday, August 23, 2021 [40 days] Second period: Friday, September 3 to Sunday, September 26, 2021 [24 days]	Meeting Rooms 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 rooms of the Ohiroma were the most formal places 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 rooms 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 7 to Sunday, December 5, 2021 [60 days]	Pioneering Edo-Period Painting: Kano Tan'yu Masterpiece <i>Matsukujaku-zu</i> in the Ohiroma San-no-ma When he led the creation of murals in Ninomaru-goten Palace in 1626, Kano Tan'yu was just about 25. He took charge of painting murals of the Ichi-no-ma (First Room) to San-no-ma (Third Room) of the Ohiroma, located in the center of Ninomaru-goten Palace. The Third Room was a room for visitors to wait for meetings with the shogun and is decorated with a highly impressive mural of pine trees and peafowls on the gilt ground. Among the Ohiroma murals, the mural of the Third Room is the clearest proof of Kano Tan'yu's talents as a pioneer, as seen in the extensive blank space and the handling of gold leaf. Enjoy this masterpiece to the fullest.	<i>Matsukujaku-zu</i> (Pine Trees and Peafowls) in the Ohiroma Third Room
Winter Exhibition	Monday, December 20, 2021 to Sunday, February 20, 2022 * Gallery closed from December 29 to 31 [60 days]	Murals of the Tozamurai "Tiger" Rooms: King of Bamboo Forest as the Guardian of the Palace 2022 is the year of the Tiger in the Chinese zodiac. This exhibition features tigers depicted in the murals of the Ichi-no-ma (First Room) and Ni-no-ma (Second Room) of the Tozamurai. The Tozamurai was the place that visitors to the Ninomaru-goten Palace stepped into first. The murals there depict not only gallant tigers living in a bamboo grove, which appear to cast a glare at all visitors to the palace and menace them, but also tigers being asleep peacefully and cubs playing joyfully. These depictions symbolize the shogun's overwhelming power to tame even such fierce, divine beasts. Closely observe a wide variety of depictions of tigers' appearances and expressions.	<i>Chikurin Gunko-zu</i> (Tigers in a Bamboo Forest) in the Tozamurai First and Second Rooms <i>Chikko-zu</i> (Bamboos and Tigers) on <i>sugi</i> sliding doors in the Tozamurai