

Overview of the FY2023 Spring and Summer Exhibitions of Original Murals at the Nijo-jo Castle Painting Gallery

	Exhibition period	Exhibition overview	Works to be exhibited
Spring	60 days from April 20 (Thu.) to June 18 (Sun.)	<p style="text-align: center;">Flower Corridor: Botan-no-ma in the Kuroshoin</p> <p>The Botan-no-ma in the Kuroshoin is the eastern passage of the building. On the occasion of major repairs in 1626 during the Kan'ei era, all corridors in Ninomaru-goten Palace were decorated with splendid murals of flowers, birds, and plants, but most of those murals were lost by the end of the Edo period. The mural Botan-zu (Peonies), decorating the <i>fusuma</i> sliding doors and walls of the Botan-no-ma, is one of the precious surviving relics of the flower corridors. Moreover, two pieces depicting peonies on the north wall show a style older than that found in the Kan'ei-era murals. They are even somewhat likely to have been painted in the Keicho era, when Tokugawa Ieyasu built Nijo-jo Castle. Meanwhile, the mural pieces collectively called Ume-zu (Ume Plums) currently decorate the <i>tobusuma</i> sliding doors on the east side of the Botan-no-ma. However, it is thought that they were originally painted on <i>fusuma</i> sliding doors in the storages of the Ohiroma and the Tozamurai, and later relocated to their current positions during major repairs in the Meiji era. Botan-zu is evidence of what the palace looked like during the Kan'ei era, while Ume-zu has survived in a different form from its original. Take a close look at these flower murals, which witness the historical changes of Ninomaru-goten Palace.</p>	<p>Murals in the Botan-no-ma in the Kuroshoin:</p> <p><i>Botan-zu</i> (Peonies) and <i>Ume-zu</i> (Ume Plums)</p>

**Green Maple Leaves Welcoming Imperial Messengers:
Chokushi-no-ma in the Tozamurai**

The Chokushi-no-ma is a room located in the northeastern part of the Tozamurai, a waiting area for visitors. The Jodan-no-ma (upper level) of this room is thought to have been a place to welcome *chokushi*, or imperial messengers. The Chokushi-no-ma is designed differently from other meeting rooms in the palace. For example, unlike other meeting rooms, the Chokushi-no-ma has no *tsukeshoin* (writing alcove), which would indicate the room's status as the master's study. In addition, the Chokushi-no-ma is entirely decorated with murals of plants, which create a cozy atmosphere. A surface that encompasses the large alcove and the *chodaibusuma* sliding doors depicts green maple leaves, with their tips in red showing traces of their growth from red spring buds. The sharp contrast between the maple branches with green leaves piercing gold clouds and low peach trees "crawling" on *koshi-shoji* (paper sliding doors with waist-high wooden panels on the bottoms) is a delight to behold. This mural by Kano Jinnajo shows traces of a Momoyama-period painting style. Enjoy viewing the green maple leaves that add a refreshing color to this room, which was intended for visitors from the Imperial Court to Ninomaru-goten Palace.

Mural in the Chokushi-no-ma in the Tozamurai:
Kaede Hinoki Momo Shokin-zu
(Maples, Hinoki Cypresses, Peaches, and Little Birds)

Summer

60 days

from July 13 (Thu.)

to September 10 (Sun.)