

Overview of the FY2025 Nijo-jo Painting Gallery Original Mural Exhibition | Series: Birds-and-Flowers Paintings in a Different Key

	Exhibition period	Exhibition overview	Works to be exhibited
Spring	60 days  from April 24 (Thu.)  to June 22 (Sun.)	<b>The Shogun's Hawk ~ The Fourth Room of the Ohiroma ~</b> The <i>Ohiroma</i> serves as the Shogun's formal audience chamber, adorned with murals of towering pine trees and birds set against a gold leaf background. While the First Room through the Third Room are distinguished by paintings of exotic birds such as peacocks and golden pheasants, the Fourth Room currently on display showcases majestic hawks—the very kind used in the Shogun's favored hawking expeditions. Additionally, while the First through Third Rooms showcase a new painting style that effectively utilizes empty space, the Fourth Room preserves the Momoyama period style, featuring towering pine trees and hawks so large they seem to extend beyond the painting's frame.	Murals in the Yon-no-ma (Fourth Room) in the Ohiroma <i>Matsutaka-zu</i> (Pines and Hawks)
Summer	60 days  from July 18 (Fri.)  to September 15 (Mon.)	<b>Towering Cypress ~The Chokushi-no-ma (Lower Level) of the Tozamurai~</b> The <i>Chokushi-no-ma</i> , located in the northeast of Tozamurai, served as a room for messengers from the Imperial Court. Unlike the <i>Tora-no-ma</i> , where feudal lords waited, this reception room is adorned with elegant paintings of flowers and birds. The lower-level room on display features peach and crabapple blossoms, evoking the spirit of spring, on the lower panels of the <i>shoji</i> and <i>fusuma</i> sliding doors, while the walls depict groves of cypress trees rising through golden clouds.Take in the striking presence of these screens, which exude both elegance and an air of authority.	Murals in the Chokushi-no-ma (Lower Level) in the Tozamurai <i>Kaede Hinoki Momo Shokin-zu</i> (Maple, Cypress, Peach, and Small Birds)
Fall	60 days  from October 9 (Thu.)  to December 7 (Sun.)	<b>Autumn in Kuroshoin ~ The Fourth Room of the Kuroshoin~</b> The Kuroshoin was used for meetings between the Shogun and those close to the Tokugawa family. Its murals are distinguished by seasonal motifs: the First and Second Rooms depict spring, the Third Room transitions from autumn to winter, and the Fourth Room—introduced here—features fan-shaped designs dancing above fields of Japanese pampas grass above the horizontal beams, while large chrysanthemums bloom below, both representing autumn. Take in the contrast between these two expressions of autumn—the curved, flowing lines of the pampas grass and fans versus the straight, elongated lines of the chrysanthemums.	Murals in the Yon-no-ma (Fourth Room) in the Kuroshoin <i>Kiku-zu (Chrysanthemums) and Akikusa Senmenchirashi-zu</i> (Folding Fans Scattered over Autumnal Grass)
Winter	60 days  from December 23 (Tue.)  February 23 (Mon.), 2026 * Closed from December 29 to 31	<b>Flowers and Birds in the Inner Palace ~ The Fourth Room and Chodai-no-ma of the Shiroshoin~</b> The Shiroshoin, located in the innermost part of Ninomaru-goten Palace, served as the master's personal quarters. The murals in this building are ink paintings that create a sense of tranquility. The First and Second Rooms feature landscape paintings, the Third Room depicts figures, and the Fourth Room and <i>Chodai-no-ma</i> showcase flowers and birds. The Fourth Room presents a serene winter scene, with egrets and sparrows perched on snow-covered flowering trees, while the <i>Chodai-no-ma</i> captures the essence of autumn with blooming bush clover and asters. The vibrant depictions of flowers and birds bring warmth and elegance to these two rooms, which, situated in the northeast, tend to be dimly lit.	Mural in the Yon-no-ma (Fourth Room) in the Shiroshoin <i>Secchu Baichikuryu Shokin-zu</i> (Snow Scene with Plum, Bamboo, Willow, and Small Birds) Mural in the Chodai-no-ma in the Shiroshoin <i>Akikusa-zu (Autumn Grasses)</i>