Founded in 1907, Japan Society is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization that brings the people of Japan and the United States closer together through understanding, appreciation and cooperation. Society programs in the arts, business, education and public policy offer opportunities to experience Japanese culture; to foster sustained and open dialogue on issues important to the U.S., Japan and East Asia; and to improve access to information on Japan.

ジャパン・ソサイエティは、1907年ニューヨークに設立された非営利の民間・非政府機関です。米日間の相互理解・協力と友好関係を深めることを目的に、芸術、文化、教育、ビジネスなど、広範囲にわたるプログラムや人物交流活動を通じて日本文化の紹介に努め、アジアと世界の視点から広く日米関係を考察する機会を提供しています。
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As of June 30, 2006
THERE IS MUCH TO CELEBRATE in the year covered in this annual report—an award-winning exhibition of the art of Hiroshi Sugimoto and an extremely popular exhibition of recent video art; well-regarded lectures by Sadakazu Tanigaki, Minister of Finance of Japan, and corporate CEOs, including John Thain (New York Stock Exchange), Fumiko Hayashi (Daiei), Kunihiko Yogo (Kanebo) and David Rubenstein (Founding Partner and Managing Director, The Carlyle Group); the U.S.-Japan Innovators Project’s first retreat in San Francisco; and outstanding performances from Tessenkai Noh and Pappa Tarahumara in their long-awaited New York debut, as well as projects by Ko Murobushi, Miyako Itchu, Agatsuma and Seinendan Theater Co. that we toured throughout the United States.

It was also a year of transition, marked especially by the departure of President Frank Ellsworth in the spring, which led to my being called out of retirement to serve as president. The staff and the directors of Japan Society have been remarkably supportive and resourceful in supporting me in this role.

Japan Society is moving ahead quickly to create an outstanding year of events to celebrate its centennial in 2007-08, strengthen its membership and endowment, and plan important new programs into the 101st year and beyond. Our Centennial Gala will be held on May 9, 2007, and I am happy to announce that David Rockefeller and Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda have agreed to be Honorary Co-Chairs for Japan Society’s Centennial.

All of the centennial events and programs—and planning for the years to follow—are guided by staff and the Board of Directors’ commitment to the core mission of Japan Society, i.e., building better understanding and cooperation between the U.S. and Japan. Japan Society is the major single producer of high-quality content on Japan for the U.S., and we continue to increase our endeavors beyond our landmark base of operations at 333 East 47th Street. Wherever possible, as you will see in the pages that follow, our exhibitions and performances travel widely in North America. One of our goals for the immediate future is to enhance Japan Society’s ability to share its programs electronically, for the benefit of other Japan-America societies, schools and colleges. This year we are inaugurating a new partnership with Keio University in Tokyo to enable high-definition video broadcasting. We will be seeking corporate support for streaming video, podcasting and webcasting, and we’ll be creating new on-line communities interested in Japan, especially through our U.S.-Japan Innovators Project.

The work of Japan Society matters because the relationship between Japan and the U.S. matters. It matters in all of its cultural, economic, educational and political complexity—which also makes it endlessly fascinating. The mutual understanding Japan Society fosters is a continuing project of great importance.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Wood
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1 Hiromitsu Agatsuma, tsugaru-shamisen artist, is joined by members of Japan Society’s 333 Club for a post-performance “Meet the Artist” reception. Left to right: Michael Cunningham, Japan Society Performing Arts Director Yoko Shioya, Hiromitsu Agatsuma, Julia Bergman, Chris Dina and Japan Society Membership Director Michelle Andrews. Back: William Laurent. Photo © Mie Igarashi.

2 Ann Yonemura, Senior Associate Curator of Japanese Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery; artist Hiroshi Sugimoto; and John Lipsky, Vice Chairman, Investment Bank, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Director, Japan Society, at the opening reception for Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History. Photo © George Hirose.

3 Japan Society Chairman James S. McDonald and his wife Karen McDonald are joined by Yoshie Murase (left) and Hiroko Murase (right) at the Society’s New Year’s party. Photo © Kayoko Akabori.

4 Circle of Friends members at the annual New Year’s party. Left to right: guests Karen Skurka, Guy Mitchell and Gail Hashimoto. Photo © Kayoko Akabori.

5 Guests at a dinner in honor of The Honorable J. Thomas Schieffer, U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Clockwise from upper left: The Honorable J. Thomas Schieffer; Mrs. Schieffer; Ronald J. Anderson; Gregory A. Boyko, Chairman and CEO, Hartford Life International, Ltd.; Mrs. Boyko; and Mrs. Kenzo Oshima, wife of UN Ambassador Kenzo Oshima. Photo © Mie Igarashi.
More than 600 guests gathered at the Hilton New York on June 7 for Japan Society’s 2006 Annual Dinner. Robert MacNeil, formerly of The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour and a former Japan Society Director, served as Master of Ceremonies. The Honorable Mark R. Warner, former Governor of Virginia, delivered a timely and compelling keynote address after being introduced by Justin A. Rockefeller, Co-Founder and National Program Director, GenerationEngage. Following a spirited performance by jazz pianist Hiromi, His Excellency Motoatsu Sakurai, Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York, introduced noted Japan scholar Professor Donald Keene as the recipient of the 2006 Japan Society Award. The evening concluded with a moving speech by Professor Keene.

Serving as Co-Chairs for the evening were Yukitoshi Funo, President and CEO, Toyota Motor North America, Inc.; David W. Heleniak, Vice Chairman, Morgan Stanley; Stephen H. Long, President, International Operations, Citigroup Inc.; Martin J. Sullivan, President and CEO, American International Group, Inc.; Hideyuki Takahashi, President and CEO, Nomura Holding America, Inc.; Ryoichi Ueda, President and CEO, Mitsubishi International Corporation; and Motokazu Yoshida, President and CEO, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

1 The Honorable Mark R. Warner, former Governor of Virginia and 2006 Annual Dinner keynote speaker, with (left to right) His Excellency Motoatsu Sakurai, Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York; Mrs. Sakurai; and James S. McDonald, President and CEO, Rockefeller & Co. and Chairman, Japan Society. Photo © George Hirose.

2 The Honorable Mark R. Warner delivers the keynote speech. Photo © George Hirose.

3 Guests enjoy dinner and conversation. Photo © George Hirose.

4 Jazz pianist Hiromi charms the audience with an energetic performance. Photo © George Hirose.
5 Left to right: Richard J. Wood, President, Japan Society; His Excellency Motoatsu Sakurai, Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York; The Honorable Mark R. Warner, former Governor of Virginia; Professor Donald Keene; Justin A. Rockefeller, Co-Founder and National Program Director, GenerationEngage; James S. McDonald, President and CEO, Rockefeller & Co. and Chairman, Japan Society; and Master of Ceremonies Robert MacNeil. Photo © George Hirose.

6 The Honorable Paul A. Volcker (left) and Dr. Henry A. McKinnell, Jr., Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Pfizer Inc (right), both Japan Society Life Directors, with The Honorable Mark R. Warner (center). Photo © George Hirose.

7 Left to right: Richard J. Wood, President, Japan Society; Justin A. Rockefeller, Co-Founder and National Program Director, GenerationEngage; Charles P. Rockefeller, Private Client Manager, Sotheby’s; Mari Eijima, Advisor, Japan Society; and Columbia University Professor Donald Keene. Photo © George Hirose.

8 Sir Deryck Maughan, Managing Director and Chairman, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts Asia and Japan Society Director (left), and Richard S. Lanier, President, Asian Cultural Council and Chairman, Japan Society Executive Committee (right). Photo © George Hirose.
1 Right to left: At a luncheon reception, AIG President, CEO and Director Martin Sullivan shares a laugh with Hideyuki Takahashi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nomura Holding America, Inc.; Vice Chairman, Japan Society and James McDonald, President and CEO, Rockefeller & Co., Inc.; Chairman, Japan Society. Photo © Ken Levinson.

2 Cameron Sinclair, Founder, Architecture for Humanity, speaking at the U.S.-Japan Innovators Project retreat, “INSPIRE: Connecting Communities.” Photo © Geoff Ellis.

3 Professor Hugh Patrick, Director, Center on Japanese Economy and Business, Columbia University Business School (right) engages SANYO Electric Co., Ltd. Chairman Tomoyo Noraka and Bank of Japan General Manager for the Americas Tadashi Nunami. Photo © Ken Levinson.
As the Corporate & Policy Programs season got underway in September 2005, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi’s administration pushed through a series of reform measures aimed at dismantling structural impediments to growth. In a snap election called that month, Koizumi was rewarded with a landslide electoral victory and a mandate to carry out further reforms, a signal to all concerned that Japan was well on its way to economic recovery after some 15 years of stagnation.

During the season, we highlighted a number of individuals who rode the wave of Japan’s economic recovery and took their own bold initiatives to reform and restructure their firms. These included Kunihiko Yogo, Industrial Revitalization Corporation Japan Managing Director and Chairman and CEO, Kanebo Cosmetics, Inc. and Fumiko Hayashi, Chairman and CEO, Daiei, Inc., who represents a model of success to many female Japanese executives. Foreign and domestic private equity firms, too, were active in Japan, purchasing and restructuring ailing businesses, and are credited by many with fueling Japan’s economic recovery.

2005–06 saw a marked increase in Japanese private equity activity and the Corporate Program was proud to host some of the biggest players in this field, including David Rubenstein, Founding Partner and Managing Director, The Carlyle Group and Richard Folsom, Representative Partner, Advantage Partners, LLP. As corporate Japan’s coffers filled in 2005–06, there was a noticeable upturn in Japanese consumer spending.

A half-day conference in conjunction with Japan External Trade Organization highlighted opportunities for foreign direct investment in Japan’s newly resurgent retail sector. Speakers included Victor M. Luis, President and CEO, Baccarat Inc. and Debbie Howard, President, American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; President, Japan Market Resource Network.

Throughout the year, prominent corporate executives offered their views on a wide range of global business issues. John Thain, Chief Executive Officer, New York Stock Exchange, discussed NYSE’s leadership in global capital markets and Martin Sullivan, American International Group, Inc.’s newly appointed President, CEO and Director, dissected strategies to mitigate risk and meet the challenges facing the global insurance industry.

While economic conditions in the U.S. and Japan have improved recently, future growth in both countries hinges on the ability to educate and inspire the next generation of creative, innovative workers. In early March, the Society had the pleasure of co-organizing a luncheon panel with the Institute for International Socio-Economic Studies to examine how both countries will tackle this challenge. Two months later, we hosted Iwao Matsuda, Japan’s Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy and for Information Technology, who laid out Japan’s strategy for stimulating creativity and made the case that, like the U.S., Japan, too, should be a destination for foreign researchers searching for a supportive environment.

In 2005–06, top-tier policy makers from Japan and the United States were showcased in a series of programs that looked at issues ranging from the privatization of Japan Post, to the enforcement measures at the disposal of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, and the geopolitical and economic issues at stake in the relations among Asia’s economic powerhouses. Programs included a discussion of the state of Japan’s economic recovery by Japan’s Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki and a conference featuring former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage that offered in-depth analysis of the economic and political interdependence among the U.S., Japan and China.
2005–06 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CONFERENCES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, SEMINARS & SYMPOSIA

Postal Privatization—Japan’s Next Big Bang? • 11 OCTOBER • With Mark Schehr, Director, Postal Financial Services Development. Panel: Naoyuki Yoshino, Professor of Economics, Keio University; Kobo Inamura, former Executive Vice President and Managing Executive Officer, Japan Post; Patricia Kuwayama, Vice President, Economic Research, JP Morgan Chase & Co.; and Naoyuki Yoshino, Professor of Economics, Keio University. Mark Schehr, Director, Postal Financial Services, moderating.

JETRO Symposium on Business Alliances/Investment in Japan: Market Brainstorms: Can Japan’s Changing Consumer Market Redesign the Service & Retail Sectors? • 1 NOVEMBER • Organized by JETRO (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan; United States Department of State). • With Victor M. Luis, President and CEO, Baccarat Inc.; former President and CEO, Givenchy Japan, Inc., Moet-Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH) Group. Opening remarks: Lawrence Greenwood, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State and Hiroshi Tsukamoto, President, JETRO (Japan Export Trade Organization). Presenters: Debbie Howard, President, American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and President, Japan Market Resource Network; Masaaki Kaji, Chief Representative, Development Bank of Japan, New York Representative Office; and Akira Miwa, Deputy Director General, Trade Policy Bureau, METI. Panelists: Michael Shindler, Senior Vice President, Acquisitions and Development, Hyatt Hotels Corporation; Leslie T. Chao, President, Chelsea Property Group, Inc. and Chairman, Chelsea Japan Co., Ltd.; Bernard Platt, Senior Vice President, Franchising, Au Bon Pain; and Patrick A. Roney, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dean & DeLuca, Inc. Chester C. Dawson III, Editor, Business Week, moderating. Masahiko Hosokawa, President, JETRO New York, presiding.


Toward a Knowledge Society: U.S. & Japan Perspectives • 1 MARCH • Sponsored by Institute for International Socio-Economic Studies. • With Ian Condon, Assistant Professor of Japanese Cultural Studies, MIT; Douglas McGray, freelance writer; Kostas Terzidis, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; and Motohiro Tsuchiya, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University. Ken Belson, Business Reporter, The New York Times, moderating.

Asia’s Shifting Balance of Power: China’s Impact on Japan’s Economic Future • 13 JUNE • Sponsored by Nomura Holding America, Inc. • With Richard L. Armitage, President, Armitage International and former Deputy Secretary of State; Michael J. Green, Senior Advisor and Japan Chair, CSIS, Associate Professor, Georgetown University and Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asia; Richard Koo, Chief Economist, Nomura Research Institute; and C.H. Kwan, Senior Fellow, Nomura Institute of Capital Markets. Frederick H. Katayama, Anchor, Reuters America, Inc., moderating.


CORPORATE LUNCHEONS

Meeting the Challenge of Leadership in Global Capital Markets • 27 SEPTEMBER • With John Thain, Chief Executive Officer, New York Stock Exchange. James S. McDonald, President and CEO, Rockefeller & Co., Inc.; Chairman, Japan Society, moderating.

Sometimes Dreams Turn into Nightmares: The Perfect Pension Fund Storm • 28 SEPTEMBER • With William Lerach, Partner, Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP. Bill Alpert, Senior Editor, Barron’s, presiding.

Securities Law Enforcement: Sanctions & Remedies • 9 NOVEMBER • With Linda Chatman Thomsen, Director, Division of Enforcement, United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Merit E. Janow, Professor, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and Columbia Law School; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

Growing Private Equity Markets in Japan • 1 DECEMBER • With David Rubenstein, Founding Partner and Managing Director, The Carlyle Group. Masatsugu Nagato, Managing Executive Officer and Head of the Americas, Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

Finance Minister Tanigaki on Japan’s Economic Recovery: Challenges & the Road Ahead • 9 JANUARY • With Sadakazu Tanigaki, Minister of Finance of Japan. James S. McDonald, President and CEO, Rockefeller & Co., Inc.; Chairman, Japan Society, presiding.

AIG’s Martin Sullivan on Challenges Facing Global Insurance • 10 JANUARY • With Martin Sullivan, President, CEO and Director, American International Group, Inc. Hideyuki Takahashi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nomura Holding America, Inc.; Vice Chairman, Japan Society, presiding.

1 Speakers and moderator gather during an intermission at the Nomura Holding America-sponsored conference on United States, Japan, and China economic and political relations. From left to right are speakers Richard Koo, Chief Economist, Nomura Research Institute; C.H. Kwan, Senior Fellow, Nomura Institute of Capital Markets; Michael J. Green, Senior Advisor and Japan Chair, CSIS, Associate Professor, Georgetown University; former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asia; moderator Frederick H. Katayama, Anchor, Reuters America, Inc.; and speaker Richard L. Armitage, President, Armitage International; former Deputy Secretary of State. Photo © Ken Levinson.

2 New York Stock Exchange CEO John Thain (left) considers comments from Masatsugu Nagato, Managing Executive Officer & Head of the Americas, Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.; Director, Japan Society at a corporate luncheon on leadership in global capital markets. Photo © Ken Levinson.

3 Linda Chatman Thomsen, Director, Division of Enforcement, United States Securities and Exchange Commission (left), exchanges views with David Hellenik, Vice Chairman, Morgan Stanley; Director, Japan Society and Merit E. Janow, Professor, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and Columbia Law School; Director, Japan Society. Photo © Ken Levinson.

4 Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki fields questions from reporters following his speech on Japan’s economic recovery. Photo © Ken Levinson.
Roles of Private Equity Investment in the Growing Japanese Economy • 14 APRIL • With John Ehara, Partner and Co-Founder, Unison Capital, Inc. Alicia Ogawa, Associate Director, Center on Japanese Economy & Business, Columbia University, presiding.


Innovator Japan—Japan’s New Science & Technology Strategy • 5 MAY • Sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in New York. • With Iwao Matsuda, Japanese Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy; Minister of State for Information Technology; Member of the House of Councilors. David Heleniak, Vice Chairman, Morgan Stanley; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

Buy-Out Firms: Japan’s Engine for Recovery • 1 JUNE • With Richard Folsom, Representative Partner, Advantage Partners, LLP. Jun Makihara, Chairman, Neoteny Co., Ltd; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

Sanyo’s Challenge for the 21st Century • 1 MAY • Additional support provided by Astellas USA Foundation. Supporting organizations: Asian Women in Business; Women’s Foreign Policy Group. • With Tomoyo Nonaka, Chairman, SANYO Electric Co., Ltd. Naomi Moriyama, President, The Moriyama Group, presiding.

Daiei’s New Approach to Distribution: Renaissance Through Premium Customer Service • 9 JUNE • Additional support provided by Astellas USA Foundation. Supporting organization: Asian Women in Business. • With Fumiko Hayashi, Chairman and CEO, Daiei, Inc. Satoru Murase, Partner, Bingham McCutchen Murase; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

Japan Society wishes to thank the following corporations for their generous support of Global Affairs Corporate & Policy Programs:


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Japan Society has a long tradition of bringing Americans and Japanese together through exchanges, retreats and public programs for dialogue and problem-solving on a range of topics. Over the years, these leaders in business, government, the nonprofit world, the media, and arts and culture have helped form the Society’s intellectual capital base.

The Society’s current initiative in this important area, the U.S.-Japan Innovators Project, now in its second year, builds on this tradition by bringing together American and Japanese innovation leaders in business, culture and civil society, to explore challenges facing both countries in the 21st century.

In the fall of 2005, six Japanese innovators traveled to the United States to meet with their American counterparts to explore issues and challenges of common concern. Yoshito Hori, Chairman and CEO of GLOBIS Corporation, met with entrepreneurs in the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley to discuss how venture capitalists in Japan and the U.S. might learn from each other. Hiroshi Takeda, President of SophiaBank, a cutting-edge Japanese think tank, traversed both coasts discussing social entrepreneurship with his American counterparts.

On the civil society front, Yasushi Aoyama, former Vice Governor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, sat down with urban planners and housing organizations on issues of social inclusion and providing support for minorities and the homeless. Tomoko Fujisaki, Founder of Health and Development Services (HANDS), focused on ways to strengthen the Japanese NPO/NGO sector.

Cultural critic and philosopher Hiroki Azuma met with writers and scholars to discuss society and the Internet. On the creative side, Dai Sato, screenwriter and Executive Director of Frognation, met with writers and production executives in the television and film industry to discuss protecting intellectual property rights. Capping off the exchange, Hiroki Azuma and Dai Sato took part in a lecture program at the Society entitled “Otaku Unmasked: The Life, Death & Rebirth of Japan’s Pop Culture,” moderated by journalist and Project participant Douglas McGray.

In the spring of 2006, the U.S.-Japan Innovators Project brought 22 Japanese and Americans social entrepreneurs, architects, business innovators and artists together in San Francisco at the offices of Stone Yamashita Partners for a two-and-a-half day retreat. Called “(IN)SPIRE: Connecting Communities,” the retreat gave Japanese and American thought leaders the opportunity to engage in multidisciplinary, bilateral dialogue on the challenges facing communities and to identify areas of potential U.S.-Japan collaboration in seeking real solutions.

Before the San Francisco retreat, some of the Japanese participants spent two days in New York City, where they explored different aspects of community building, including visits to Ground Zero, the High Line and Common Ground Community. Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, architect, Atelier Bow-Wow, and Limbon, a Professor of Urban Planning at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, took part in “Small Spaces + Big Imagination = Life in the Modern City,” a panel discussion at the Society moderated by Clifford Pearson, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Architectural Record, on how space is utilized and maximized in Japan.
U.S.-JAPAN INNOVATORS PROJECT
The U.S.-Japan Innovators Project is generously funded by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the co-organizer of the project. International transportation supported by Continental Airlines and All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

Innovator Trip to the United States •
24–26 OCTOBER • Yoshito Hori, Chairman and CEO, Globis Group.

Innovator Trip to the United States •
29 OCTOBER–6 NOVEMBER • Hiroshi Tasaka, President, SophiaBank.

Innovator Trip to the United States •
31 OCTOBER–9 NOVEMBER • Yasushi Aoyama, former Vice Governor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

Innovator Trip to the United States •
12–22 NOVEMBER • Tomoko Fujisaki, Founder, HANDS.

Innovator Trip to the United States •
28 NOVEMBER–8 DECEMBER • Dai Sato, anime screenwriter.

Innovator Trip to the United States •
28 NOVEMBER–8 DECEMBER • Hiroki Azuma, philosopher and social critic; Executive Research Fellow and Professor, Center for Global Communications.

Private Luncheon • 23 JANUARY • With Yoshito Hori, Chairman and CEO, Globis Group.

(IN)SPIRE: Connecting Communities •
11–17 JUNE • New York meetings and San Francisco retreat. With Marty Ashby, Executive Producer, MCG Jazz; Cheryl Dorsey, President, Echoing Green; Debra Dunn, Board Member, Skoll Foundation and Former Sr. VP, Corporate Affairs, Hewlett Packard; Tomoko Fujisaki, Founder, HANDS; Chikara Funabashi, President, WillisSeed; Rosanne Haggerty, Founder and President, Common Ground Community; Hideyuki Inoue, Representative, ETIC; Mitsuhiisa Ishikawa, President, Production IG; Jon Iwata, Senior Vice President of Communications, IBM Corporation; Kaori Kuroda, Co-Director, CSO; Network Japan; Justin Leach, Animator, Lucasfilm; Limon, architect and Professor of Urban Planning, Ritsumeikan University; Douglas McGary, writer and Fellow, New America Foundation; Craig Newmark, Customer Service Representative and Founder, craigslist.org; Kohei Nishiyama, CEO and Founder, elephant design; Mitsuko Shimomura, Chairman and CEO, Center for Health Care & Public Concern; Cameron Sinclair, Founder, Architecture for Humanity; Megan Smith, Director, New Business Development & Strategy, Google Inc.; Bill Strickland, President and CEO, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild (MCG); Hiroshi Tasaka, President, SophiaBank; Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, Architect, Atelier Bow Wow; Alan Webber, Founding Editor, Fast Company magazine; and Keith Yamashita, Founder & Chairman, Stone Yamashita Partners.

2005–06 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1 "(IN)SPIRE: Connecting Communities" keynote speaker Craig Newmark, Customer Service Representative and Founder, craigslist.org, in a conversation with Alan Webber, Founding Editor, Fast Company magazine. Photo © Geoff Ellis.

2 Cheryl Dorsey, President, Echoing Green, during her presentation on “Entrepreneurial Communities” and Hideyuki Inoue (right), Representative, ETIC. Photo © Geoff Ellis.

3 Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, Architect, Atelier Bow Wow, presents his work on small spaces in Tokyo. Photo © Geoff Ellis.

4 Limon, Architect & Professor of Urban Planning, Ritsumeikan University, in the session on “Communities & Place.” Photo © Geoff Ellis.

5 Bill Strickland, President and CEO, Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild, discusses the work of the Guild during the session on “Kids’ Communities.” Photo © Geoff Ellis.

6 Jon Iwata, Senior Vice President of Communications, IBM Corporation, speaks about the company’s business model on innovation. Photo © Geoff Ellis.

INNOVATORS SERIES PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Otaku Unmasked: The Life, Death & Rebirth of Japan’s Pop Culture • 30 NOVEMBER • Support provided by Astellas USA Foundation and transportation support provided by Continental Airlines. • See p. 31 for complete program details.

Small Spaces + Big Imagination = Life in the Modern City • 12 JUNE • Co-organized and generously funded by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, additional support provided by Astellas USA Foundation, transportation assistance provided by All Nippon Airways. • See p. 31 for complete program details.
Since the first Japan Society Fellowship in 1984, the Society has given a number of influential leaders who help shape public opinion in the U.S. and Japan the opportunity to experience and learn first hand about each other. The U.S.-Japan Media Fellows Program has evolved into a tailored and in-depth experience for American and Japanese journalists and nurtures a great appreciation and understanding of the U.S. and Japan.

Four American and two Japanese journalists were selected as 2005 U.S.-Japan Media Fellows. Mark Halperin, Political Director at ABC News, focused on the Japanese political system, and the emerging Democratic Party of Japan in particular. Maggie Jones, currently a Contributing Writer for The New York Times Magazine, wrote a lengthy piece on the hikikomori or shut-ins, the first in-depth story on these troubled young Japanese. David Samuels, Contributing Editor, Harper’s Magazine, and a frequent writer for the Atlantic Monthly, has a forthcoming piece on Internet suicides in Japan. Madhulika Sikka, currently the Supervising Senior Producer, Morning Edition, National Public Radio, researched current attitudes about Japan-China relations.

Kenichi Hanioka, Senior Writer, Nikkei Medical, examined cancer care in the United States, in particular how hospital performance measurements are conducted and what criteria patients use in selecting a hospital. Takao Norikoshi, dance critic and writer, investigated the contemporary dance scene in the U.S. Both have published their findings in print and on the Internet.

In Tokyo on March 16, 2006, Japan Society co-sponsored a unique symposium on support systems for the homeless in New York, Seoul and Tokyo. Japan Society Fellow Rosanne Haggerty, Founder and Director of Common Ground Community, was a keynote speaker. The session presider was Yasushi Aoyama, former Deputy Governor of Tokyo. Both are participants in the Society’s U.S.-Japan Innovators Project.
FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship Residency: 2005 United States-Japan Media Fellows Program • 2 JULY–31 AUGUST • Madhulika Sikka, Senior Producer, ABC News/Nightline.

Fellowship Residency: 2005 United States-Japan Media Fellows Program • 12 JULY–14 SEPTEMBER • Maggie Jones, freelance writer.

Fellowship Residency: 2005 United States-Japan Media Fellows Program • 1 SEPTEMBER–10 NOVEMBER • Kenichi Hanioka, Senior Writer, Nikkei Medical.

Fellowship Residency: 2005 United States-Japan Media Fellows Program • 1 FEBRUARY–31 MARCH • Takao Norikoshi, Freelance dance critic and writer.

Selection of the 2006 United States-Japan Media Fellows, United States • 2 MARCH • Daniel Pink, Contributing Editor, WIRED; Joshua Shenk, freelance writer and author; Brad Stone, Silicon Valley Correspondent, Newsweek; and Melanie Thernstrom, Contributing Writer, The New York Times Magazine.


Fellows’ Orientation & Annual Meeting: United States-Japan Media Fellows Program; Japan Society Local Government & Public Policy Fellows; U.S.-Japan Leadership Program • 9–10 JUNE • A two-day meeting for newly selected Fellows to prepare for their Fellowship and for past Fellows to renew ties and join in the discussions on U.S.-Japan relations. Panelists, speakers, presenters, moderators and special guests: David d’Heilly, CEO, 2dk; Mark Halperin, Political Director, ABC News; Maggie Jones, Contributing Writer, The New York Times Magazine; Peggy Orenstein, Contributing Writer, The New York Times Magazine; Ambassador Motoatsu Sakurai, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan; David Samuels, Harper’s Magazine; Madhulika Sikka, Supervising Senior Producer, National Public Radio; and Junichi Yano, Deputy Director, Media Relations Division, Foreign Press Center Japan.

The United States-Japan Media Fellows Program is generously supported by the United States-Japan Foundation. Assistance provided by the Foreign Press Center. Transportation for the Fellowship program is supported by Japan Airlines.

1 Madhulika Sikka, ABC News/Nightline, interviewed Yoitaro Kobayashi, Chairman of the Board and Director, Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. and Co-Chairman of the 21st Century Committee for Japan-China Friendship, while a 2005 United States-Japan Foundation Media Fellow. Photo © Mari Ikeda.

2 2005 United States-Japan Media Fellow Maggie Jones, from The New York Times Magazine, interviewed Takeshi Watanabe, a counselor at the Tokyo Mental Health Academy and an expert on hikikomori. Photo © Mari Ikeda.

1 Tokyo Drifter, part of Hiroshi Sugimoto Film Series: The Moving Image of Modern Art. Photo © 1966 Nikkatsu.


3 Akemi Takeya in bodypoems_REFLECTION. Photo © William Irwin.
A leading institution for the exhibition, research and publication of Japanese art, Japan Society Gallery presents two major exhibitions each year, working with an international roster of museums, curators, scholars and artists. Whether presenting ancient painting and sculpture or contemporary media, the Gallery’s exhibitions continue to draw the highest critical acclaim and enthusiastic public response.

The Gallery’s exhibitions for 2005–06 continued to garner critical praise from media and visitors. Curated by internationally-acclaimed artist Hiroshi Sugimoto, the fall exhibition, *Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History*, was selected as “Best Museum Show” by *New York* magazine. *New York Times* art critic Grace Glueck called the exhibition “an engaging Wunderkammer” and a “very personal, whimsical exhibition.” *History of History*’s juxtaposition of Sugimoto’s photographs, natural history dioramas and wide-ranging collection of artifacts highlighted the artist’s preoccupation with the passage of time and how human appreciation of time is inseparable from nature’s artful recording of its own changes. After Japan Society, the exhibition traveled to the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C. It will travel to Toronto and San Francisco in 2007. In the spring, Japan Society Gallery joined other leading New York City galleries and museums to present the fourth annual Asian Contemporary Art Week (ACAW), with a special focus on Asian video art. *Fast Futures: Asian Video Art*, introduced single channel video works by leading and emerging Asian artists. The Society showcased exciting new works by Bea Camacho, Hiraki Sawa and Koki Tanaka. Exhibitions from past years continued to be critically recognized as well. The spring 2005 exhibition, *Little Boy: The Arts of Japan’s Exploding Subculture*, curated by Takashi Murakami, won the award of “Best Thematic Museum Show in New York City” by AICA (The International Association of Art Critics, U.S. Chapter).
Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History

Co-organized by Japan Society and the Freer Gallery of Art & the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. Support for this exhibition was provided by Toyota Motor North America, Inc., New York State Council for the Arts, Daniele Agostino Foundation, Inc. and The Cowles Charitable Trust. Additional support was provided by the Leadership Committee for History of History. Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines.

Exhibitions at Japan Society Gallery are also made possible in part by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund and the Japan Society’s Circle of Friends gallery supporters. Installations at Japan Society Gallery are supported by a generous gift from Henry Cornell.

Art World Preview • 22 SEPTEMBER
Members Preview • 29 SEPTEMBER
Exhibition • 23 SEPTEMBER–19 FEBRUARY

A precisely staged, richly evocative construction of history in which history is a process that unfolds through attentive experience, a continual discovery of the past in the present and the present in the past, Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History brought together over 80 works chosen by internationally acclaimed artist Hiroshi Sugimoto. The exhibition offered a tour of history that included prehistoric fossils, ritual objects from Japan’s Jomon and Kofun periods (6th century BC to 7th century AD), religious reliquaries, textiles, mandala, paintings, sutras and sculptures from the 8th through the 15th centuries, and a number of recent assemblages in which the Sugimoto combined ancient works or fragments with his own photographs and other contemporary objects. History of History offered an unusually direct and accessible point of entry into the artist’s investigations of time. The exhibition traveled to the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C., 1 April–30 July. Additional showings are planned in Toronto and San Francisco in 2007. Catalogue published by Rikuyosha Co. Ltd.

EXHIBITION-RELATED LECTURE PROGRAM

Inside the Studio: Hiroshi Sugimoto • 1 DECEMBER • See page 31 for complete program details.


4. Eleanor Heartney and Michael Kimmelman announce the award of “Best Thematic Museum Show in New York City” to Japan Society for Little Boy: The Arts of Japan’s Exploding Subculture at the AICA awards ceremony. Photo © Suisho Moriguchi.
Fast Futures: Asian Art Video
New Works By Three Artists

Exhibitions at Japan Society Gallery are made possible in part by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund and Japan Society’s Circle of Friends gallery supporters. Installations at Japan Society Gallery are supported by a generous gift from Henry Cornell.

Opening Preview • 23 MAY

Exhibition • 22 MAY–18 JUNE
Japan Society Gallery, along with other museums and galleries in New York City belonging to the Asian Contemporary Art Consortium, took part in the annual week-long, city-wide Asian Contemporary Art Week. This year’s exhibition, Fast Futures: Asian Art Video, presented single channel video works by leading and emerging Asian artists. Japan Society presented new works produced by: Bea Camacho (The Philippines), Enclose; Hiraki Sawa (Japan), Trail; and several works by Koki Tanaka (Japan).

LITTLE BOY WINS AICA AWARD

The exhibition Little Boy: The Arts of Japan’s Exploding Subculture, curated by Takashi Murakami and presented by Japan Society in spring 2005, was awarded the “Best Thematic Museum Show in New York City” by AICA (The International Association of Art Critics, U.S. Chapter). The award ceremony was held on 2 February at The Jewish Museum, New York.

JAPAN SOCIETY’S NOGUCHI SCULPTURE IN JAPAN

Japan Society’s wall sculpture Celebration (Holiday) by Isamu Noguchi is part of a major international loan exhibition traveling among three Japanese museums. Celebration (Holiday) was created in Japan by Isamu Noguchi in 1953, and given to Japan Society by Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd in 1971.

Isamu Noguchi—Connecting the World
Through Sculpture
15 APRIL–JUNE 25 • Yokohama Museum of Art
8 JULY–18 SEPTEMBER • Yokohama Museum of Art
29 SEPTEMBER–12 NOVEMBER • Takamatsu City Museum of Art
Performing Arts Program

The 2005–06 Performing Arts Season celebrated Japanese performance from its traditional roots to the ground-breaking cutting edge. In conjunction with Japan Society Gallery’s exhibition Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History, Performing Arts presented The Hawk Princess (Takahime), a modern noh play staged by the noh group Tessen-kai, which was co-directed by Mr. Sugimoto and also featured a backdrop of a photograph from his Seascapes series.

The Society embarked on one of its most ambitious touring seasons this year, with four touring programs: The five-city tour of Ko Murobushi & Edge Co.’s new work Handsome Blue Sky, created in homage to butoh founder Tatsumi Hijikata; the four-city tour of Miyako Itchu, the Grand Master of the Itchu-bushi style of shamisen music, with his ensemble of three shamisen players, four singers, four percussionists and a kabuki dancer; the three-city tour of Hiromitsu Agatsuma with his band comprised of cello, piano and taiko drum; and a seven-city tour of Seinendan Theater Company’s double-bill of one-act comedies The Yalta Conference and Ronin Office Ladies (OL Chushingura).

The year also saw the inaugural performances of two new series: The Play Reading Series, dedicated to introducing the canon of contemporary Japanese plays in English translation to audiences and artists outside of Japan, and the Tzadik Label Music Series, developed in collaboration with John Zorn’s nonprofit music label. Other programs in the year included Vienna-based Japanese dancer/poet/performance artist Akemi Takeya in her eclectic bodypoems_REFLECTION; the 9th Annual Japanese Contemporary Dance Showcase; and the long-awaited New York debut of Pappa Tarahumara with their intimate duet Island.

A plethora of workshops accompanied this year’s programming, offering in-depth and hands-on opportunities for students and general public to encounter a variety of performance styles, including a five-day traditional dance intensive “From Edo & Kyoto to Okinawa,” led by master dancer Sachiyu Ito and other on and off-site educational events with partnering organizations, including the City University of New York and CAVE.
PERFORMANCES

MONDAY PLAY-READING SERIES
The Monday Play Reading Series is supported, in part, by the Kinokuniya Bookstore.

In a new initiative to introduce the canon of contemporary Japanese plays to audiences outside of Japan, these inaugural readings for the new annual Play Reading Series featured the most prominent contemporary Japanese plays staged in English translation by emerging and established American directors and actors.

Monday Play Reading Series
The Face of Jizo (Chichi to kuraseba), written by Hisashi Inoue & directed by John Clinton Eisner
12 SEPTEMBER
Developed with the Lark Play Development Center.

Monday Play Reading Series
Fireflies (Kami wo kakiageru), written by Toshiro Suzue & directed by Jennifer Goodlander
19 SEPTEMBER
Developed with the Lincoln Center Directors Lab.

The Hawk Princess (Takahime)
Co-directed by Kanze Tetsunojo & Hiroshi Sugimoto
24 & 25 SEPTEMBER
Supported by The Japan Foundation.

Renowned art photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto created a stunning backdrop with his highly acclaimed Seascapes series for the set of The Hawk Princess (Takahime), a modern noh play written in the 1960s by Mario Yokomichi, based on W.B. Yeats’ At the Hawk’s Well. Kanze Tetsunojo, Artistic Director of Tessen-kai noh theater group, led a stellar cast including kyogen master and film/TV star Nomura Mansai.

Ko Murobushi and Edge Co. in Handsome Blue Sky
6–8 OCTOBER
The five-city North American tour of Ko Murobushi & Edge Co.’s Handsome Blue Sky was organized and produced by Japan Society, and was supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan; and The Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program. Touring cities: Towson, MD; Vancouver, BC; Chicago, IL; Houston, TX.

Ko Murobushi, one of the world’s best known and acclaimed butoh artists, performed his latest work together with three male dancers from his company Edge Co. Handsome Blue Sky is an homage to butoh founder Tatsumi Hijikata, and takes its title from one of Hijikata’s essays.

Akemi Takeya in bodypoems_REFLECTION
4 & 5 NOVEMBER
Special thanks to the Austrian Cultural Forum.

Japanese dancer/poet/performance artist extraordinaire Akemi Takeya, a resident of Vienna since 1991, combined five short vignettes into an evening of solo work, with live music performed by electronic musician and guitarist Marc Weiser.
SHAMISEN FESTIVAL I
Miyako Itchu: Traditional Shamisen Ensemble
with Kabuki Dance
8 & 9 DECEMBER
The four-city East Coast tour of Miyako Itchu: Traditional Shamisen Ensemble was organized and produced by Japan Society, and was supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan; and The Japan Foundation. Touring cities: Middletown, CT; Boston, MA; Washington, DC.
Miyako Itchu XII, the 11th successor and Grand Master of the Itchu-bushi style shamisen music, presented this colorful and exquisite program of both Itchu-bushi and Tokiwazu-bushi, featuring a lavish ensemble of three shamisen players, four singers and a four-person percussion section.

9th Annual Japanese Contemporary Dance Showcase
20 & 21 JANUARY
Supported by The Japan Foundation.
Celebrating its ninth season, this showcase of the most riveting work in Japanese contemporary dance featured the three-woman group SHINONOME BUTOH; APE’s comic and expressive movement collages; the bold, feminine work of choreographer Kaoru Uchida’s Roussewaltz; and two maverick soloists: Yukiko Amano, the lead dancer of the celebrated dance company Biwakoe; and accomplished jazz dancer/choreographer and TV darling Youya Shinjo. Co-curated with Mayumi Nagatohsi, President, AN Creative, Inc.

SHAMISEN FESTIVAL II
Agatsuma: Contemporary Shamisen Fusion
8 & 9 FEBRUARY
Hiromitsu Agatsuma’s three-city North American tour was organized and produced by Japan Society and supported by The Japan Foundation. Touring cities: Philadelphia, PA; San Antonio, TX.
Hailed as the “messiah” of Japanese traditional instruments, Agatsuma performed with a lively band of traditional Japanese taiko drum, cello and piano, in a vibrant acoustic set—a testament to his constant exploration of the range of his instrument. Renowned American composer and guitarist Scott Johnson joined in for the world premiere of his new work, written especially for Agatsuma’s band.

1 Miyako Itchu (third from left) and his ensemble of traditional instrumentalists with nihon buyo dancer Hanayagi Kiyohito. Photo © William Irwin.
2 Hiromitsu Agatsuma and his band. Photo © William Irwin.
3 SHINONOME BUTOH, part of the 9th Annual Japanese Contemporary Dance Showcase. Photo © Jack Vartoogian/FrontRowPhotos.
4 Pappa TARAHUMARA in Island. Photo © William Irwin.
5 Mike Patton (left) and Yamataka Eye (right) in “Tzadik Music Label Series: New Voices from Japan.” Photo © William Irwin.
6 Seinendan Theater Company in The Yalta Conference. Photo © William Irwin.
Pappa Tarahumara in Island
The tour of Pappa Tarahumara’s Island was supported by The Japan Foundation through Performing Arts JAPAN program.

2 & 3 MARCH
Island was the stunning New York debut of the internationally acclaimed performance group Pappa Tarahumara, under the direction of its founder, Hiroshi Koike. Melding text, song and dance into a unique performance style, this tragic duet-piece was adapted from “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,” a short story by Gabriel García Márquez.

Seinendan Theater Company in The Yalta Conference & Ronin Office Ladies (OL Chushingura)
Written & directed by Oriza Hirata
23–25 MARCH
The five-city North American tour of Seinendan Theater Company was produced and organized by Japan Society and supported by The Saison Foundation for Japan Society’s Japanese Theater NOW initiative, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan. Touring cities: Norman, OK; Houston, TX; Portland, OR; Victoria, BC; Urbana, IL; Hempstead, NY.

The renowned contemporary theater company Seinendan presented two comic one-acts: The Yalta Conference, based on the infamous meeting of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt during World War II; and Ronin Office Ladies (OL Chushingura), in which a cast of disgruntled “office ladies” discuss the shifting personnel structure within their workplace—a spoof on the classic story “Chushingura,” about 47 samurai plotting vengeance in the name of loyalty.

TZADIK MUSIC LABEL SERIES
New Voices from Japan
Curated by John Zorn
Featuring Haino Keiji, Makigami Koichi, Yamataka Eye
12 & 13 MAY
Presented in association with Tzadik. Supported by The Globus Family Charitable Trust.

Developed through collaboration with Tzadik, the nonprofit record label founded by John Zorn, the inaugural performances of this series featured the boldest vocal works in Japan’s new music scene, including vocalist-composer and pioneer in avant-noise-music Makigami Koichi; disturbing iconoclast Yamataka Eye, the front man vocalist for the Boredoms; and underground noise guitar-hero Haino Keiji. Artists performed in solos, duos and trios with U.S.-based artists Mike Patton, Jim O’Rourke, Ikue Mori and John Zorn himself.
WORKSHOP SERIES

Butoh Workshop: Hijikata’s Legacy with Ko Murobushi
8 OCTOBER

Butoh Workshop with Yumiko Yoshioka
17 OCTOBER

Shamisen Workshop for Composers with Miyako Itchu
10 DECEMBER

Shamisen Workshop for Music Lovers with Miyako Itchu
10 DECEMBER

Performance Workshop with Hiroshi Koike
4 MARCH

Exploring Naturalism: Acting Workshop with Oriza Hirata
25 MARCH

Traditional Dance Intensive with Sachiyo Ito
31 MAY-4 JUNE

NATIONAL TOURS

Ko Murobushi & Edge Co.’s Handsome Blue Sky
(Towson, MD; Vancouver, BC; Chicago, IL; Houston, TX)

Miyako Itchu: Traditional Shamisen Ensemble
(Middletown, CT; Boston, MA; Washington, DC)

Hiromitsu Agatsuma (Philadelphia, PA; San Antonio, TX)

Seinendan Theater Company (Norman, OK; Houston, TX; Portland, OR; Victoria, BC; Urbana, IL; Hempstead, NY)

RELATED EVENTS

2nd CAVE New York Butoh Festival
4-26 OCTOBER
Presented by CAVE in conjunction with Japan Society’s presentation of Ko Murobushi & Edge Co.

An Evening with Oriza Hirata & Chuck Mee
10 FEBRUARY
Co-presented with Martin E. Segal Theatre Center; the Ph.D. Program in Theatre and Continuing Education, The Graduate Center, CUNY.
Featuring an excerpted staged reading of The Yalta Conference, directed by Yehuda Duenyas.

Japan Society 2005–06 Performing Arts Programs were made possible in part by The Starr Foundation; the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund; the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; and The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc. Programs also made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency. Transportation supported by ANA, All Nippon Airways. Plasma Display provided by Pioneer Electronics (USA) Inc.
2005–06 was an ambitious season for the Film Program, with 44 screenings of prominent classic and contemporary Japanese films, almost double the number from last year. With the mission to present the most vital and important aspects of Japanese cinema to American audiences, three major film series and several special screenings of critically acclaimed films drew in large numbers of new audience members.

The After War... film series and the Hiroshi Sugimoto Film Series: The Moving Image of Modern Art were presented back-to-back over four months from September to December. After War... commemorated the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, examining how Japanese filmmakers have grappled with Japan’s experience of the war and its consequences. The Hiroshi Sugimoto Film Series, held in conjunction with the Japan Society Gallery exhibition Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History, offered films personally selected by acclaimed fine art photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto. In April, the Society presented Against the Tide: Rebels & Mavericks in Contemporary Japanese Film. This 11-day event featured 21 screenings of 12 wildly varied films that celebrated the independent spirit inspiring the new heroes of Japanese cinema. Special film screenings included Tony Takitani, Pulse, Original Child Bomb, Drawing Restraint 9 and Always—Sunset on Third Street.

This year the Film Program launched a new initiative called the J-Cinema campaign. At the center of the campaign was the J-Cinema website as a comprehensive resource for Japanese cinema events throughout the New York City area. Screening venues included Japan Society, the Museum of Modern Art, the Film Society of Lincoln Center, BAM and the Film Forum. Funding was provided by The Japan Foundation and the Japan National Tourist Organization. Based on the success of the J-Cinema campaign, a new, expanded website is planned for the future.

Special screenings were a great success this season, with tremendous audience response completely filling the theater at every event. Each screening presented a new opportunity to collaborate with other organizations. Partnership highlights included Strand Releasing (Tony Takitani), Magnolia Pictures (Pulse), IFC Films (Drawing Restraint 9) and the New York Asian Film Festival by Subway Cinema (Always).

To nurture future audiences, the Film Program began the Student Sponsorship Program to attract new, younger viewers. Over 200 tickets for film students to attend Film Program screenings were generously sponsored by The Globus Family Charitable Trust. The Criterion Collection also assisted with in-kind donations to the program. In 2006–07, the Student Sponsorship Program will continue to help film students experience and learn more about Japanese cinema.
FILM SERIES
Made possible by The Japan Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency, and the Circle of Friends film supporters.

After War...
27 SEPTEMBER-23 OCTOBER
A film series examining how Japanese filmmakers have grappled with World War II and its consequences since the war’s end 60 years ago.

FILMS
The Face of Jizo (Kazuo Kuroki); New York premiere; in conjunction with the Performing Arts Program’s staged reading of The Face of Jizo (part of the Monday Play Reading Series).
Under the Flag of the Rising Sun (Kinji Fukasaku); introduced by Kenta Fukasaku, the director’s son.
Children of the Beehive (Hiroshi Shimizu)
Out of This World (Junji Sakamoto); New York premiere; introduced by the director.
Japanese Devils (Minoru Matsui)
A Man’s Face is His Resume (Tai Kato)

Hiroshi Sugimoto Film Series: The Moving Image of Modern Art
11 NOVEMBER-11 DECEMBER
Acclaimed fine art photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto chose seven films emphasizing the artifice and myth-making ability of films for The Moving Image of Modern Art.

FILMS
Tokyo Kid (Torajiro Saito); first screening with new English subtitles.
Tokyo Drifter (Seijun Suzuki)
Blind Beast (Yasuzo Masumura)
The Face of Another (Hiroshi Teshigahara)
The Water Magician (Kenji Mizoguchi); with live narration by Hiroshi Sugimoto and music performed by Kenta Nagai.
The World of Geisha (Tatsumi Kumashiro)
Ten Dark Women (Kon Ichikawa)

Against the Tide: Rebels and Mavericks in Contemporary Japanese Film
6-16 APRIL
A film series that celebrated the independent spirit inspiring the new heroes of Japanese cinema, with 21 screenings presented in 11 consecutive days.

FILMS
Maison de Himiko (Isshin Inudo); U.S. premiere; introduced by director Isshin Inudo and producer Shinji Ogawa.
Wild Berries (Miwa Nishikawa)
Down the Drain (Shinobu Yaguchi)
Kaza-hana (Shinji Somai); U.S. premiere
Canary (Akihiko Shiota)
Yakuza Graveyard (Kinji Fukasaku)
Rikidozan: A Hero Extraordinary (Hae-sung Song)
The Owl (Kaneto Shindo); U.S. premiere
Bullet Ballet (Shinya Tsukamoto)
Preparations for the Festival (Kazuo Kuroki)
Knock Out (Junji Sakamoto)
Believe (Ken'ichi Oguri); U.S. premiere
1  Under the Flag of the Rising Sun, part of After War... film series. Photo © Home Vision Entertainment.


3  The Water Magician, part of Hiroshi Sugimoto Film Series: The Moving Image of Modern Art. Photo courtesy of National Film Center, the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.

4  Maison de Himiko (U.S. premiere), part of the Against the Tide film series. Photo © Asmik Ace Entertainment, Inc.

5  Tony Takitani, a New York premiere screening presented with Strand Releasing. Photo © Strand Releasing.

6  Director Kiyoshi Kurosawa (right), Eamonn Bowles (center), President, Magnolia Pictures and Mrs. Hiromi Kurosawa (left) at a post-screening reception of the U.S. premiere of Pulse. Photo © Ryo Nagasawa

7  Matthew Barney’s Drawing Restraint 9, U.S. premiere screening presented with IFC Films. Photo © IFC Films.

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS**

**Tony Takitani**
**20 JULY**
*Co-presented with Strand Releasing.*
New York premiere. This stylish reverie on love and loneliness is based on a story by Haruki Murakami.

**Pulse**
**3 AUGUST**
*Co-presented with Magnolia Pictures and Bomb Magazine.*
U.S. premiere. Celebrated at the Cannes Film festival as one of the scariest films ever made. Introduced by director Kiyoshi Kurosawa.

**Original Child Bomb: Film Screening & Panel Discussion for High School Students**
**10 MARCH**
A powerful documentary about the legacy of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Presented in collaboration with the Education Program, the screening hosted a select group of New York City high school students for a special panel discussion with director Carey Schonegevel McKenzie and student activists Nicole Boyd and Edwin Figueroa. See also page 36.

**Drawing Restraint 9**
**28 MARCH**
*Co-presented with IFC Films, Agnes B., and Tokion.*
U.S. premiere. Director and visual artist Matthew Barney introduced his internationally acclaimed film, shot in Nagasaki Bay on board the Japanese whaling ship Nisshin Maru. Film composer Björk attended the post-show reception.

**Always—Sunset on Third Street**
**14 JUNE**
*Co-presented with the New York Asian Film Festival by Subway Cinema.*
Lecture Programs

In its fourth year as an independent department, Lecture Programs engaged the public in intercultural dialogue through lectures and discussions ranging from the arts to urban planning. Highlights included a sold-out sake tasting, in which participants enjoyed samples of some of the finest sake brewed in Japan as well as a dynamic lecture by sake expert John Gauntner. The Inside the Studio series continued with a lecture by Hiroshi Sugimoto, in which he analyzed the art presented in his self-curated exhibition, Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History. Two programs were presented in collaboration with the U.S.-Japan Innovators Project. In November, acclaimed philosopher and cultural critic Hiroki Azuma and screenwriter of Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex Dai Sato participated in “Otaku Unmasked: The Life, Death & Rebirth of Japan’s Pop Culture,” which drew a significant new and youthful audience to the Society. And in June, a provocative program entitled “Small Spaces + Big Imagination = Life in the Modern City,” brought together Limbon, a Professor of Urban Planning at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and Atelier Bow-Wow architect Yoshiharu Tsukamoto to explore the effective use of limited spaces in Japanese architecture.
2005–06 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INNOVATORS SERIES PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Otaku Unmasked: The Life, Death & Rebirth of Japan’s Pop Culture
30 NOVEMBER
Support provided by Astellas USA Foundation and transportation support provided by Continental Airlines.
With philosopher and cultural critic Hiroki Azuma; screenwriter Dai Sato of Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex. Journalist Douglas McGray moderating. (See also p. 15.)

Small Spaces + Big Imagination = Life in the Modern City
12 JUNE
Co-organized and generously funded by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, additional support provided by Astellas USA Foundation, transportation assistance provided by All Nippon Airways.
With Tokyo-based architect Yoshiharu Tsukamoto of Atelier Bow-Wow and Limbon, Professor of Urban Planning, Ritsumaikan University. Clifford Pearson, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Architectural Record, moderating. (See also p. 15.)

INSIDE THE STUDIO

Hiroshi Sugimoto
1 DECEMBER
With artist Hiroshi Sugimoto and Japanese antiquities collector and Shakespearean scholar Sylvan Barnet.

GENERAL LECTURES

Sake Brewing Now & Then: Comparing Traditional & Modern Techniques
26 SEPTEMBER
Co-sponsored by the Sake Export Association.
With sake expert John Gauntner and members of the Sake Export Association.

1 Journalist Douglas McGray (left), philosopher and cultural critic Hiroki Azuma, and Ghost in the Shell, Stand Alone Complex screenwriter Dai Sato (right) discuss the future of Japanese pop culture in “Otaku Unmasked: The Life, Death & Rebirth of Japan’s Pop Culture,” part of the Innovators Series. Photo © Julie Lemberger.

2 Hiroshi Sugimoto (left), signs a book for Sylvan Barnet (middle), a major Japanese antiquities collector, at the reception following his lecture in the Inside the Studio series. Photo © Julie Lemberger.

3 Clifford Pearson, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Architectural Record (left), architect Yoshiharu Tsukamoto (middle), and Limbon (right), Professor of Urban Planning at Ritsumaikan University in Kyoto, answer questions from the audience at “Small Spaces + Big Imagination = Life in the Modern City.” Photo © Julie Lemberger.
EDUCATION

1 A Japanese language teacher training student makes a presentation in her class. Photo © Roy Mittelman.

2 Butoh dancer Takuya Muramatsu works with Professional Performing Arts School students during an eight-week intensive butoh program. Photo © Kazuko Minamoto.
Education Programs

Education Programs bring Japan to the classroom and to the children of the New York metropolitan area. During 2005–06, teachers and students enhanced their knowledge about Japan through a variety of programs, partnerships, events and the education website, Journey through Japan. We also initiated a popular new series of weekend public programs for children to learn about Japan in a fun and interactive setting.

Two 30-hour comprehensive professional development courses, focusing on Japanese festivals and religion and on Japanese performing arts, were offered to educators, with additional one-day professional development seminars on more specialized topics. These courses continue to be in high demand, and result in the creation of many innovative and sophisticated lessons about Japan being taught in schools throughout the New York metropolitan area. Through our school partner alliance program, we continued to work with hundreds of students through a variety of programs on art, film and performing arts. Other popular programs included student tours of Japan Society Gallery exhibitions and a summer immersion program in which students created their own exhibition focusing on otaku culture.

This past year we were particularly pleased to inaugurate a series of new and very popular public programs that allow children to learn about and experience Japanese culture. This opening season of family programs included a celebration of Children’s Day in May, in which children watched a kamishibai storytelling performance and enjoyed holiday-related, hands-on art activities. Another program introduced children to the tea ceremony and its broader context. Children participated in an actual ceremony, and even made their own tea bowls.
**Programs for Educators**

**30-Hour In-House Courses for Educators**
New York City public school teachers who completed these courses were eligible for professional development credit available through the New York City Department of Education by creating a final project related to the course material.

**Japanese Festivals & Religion**
8–12 August
*In cooperation with the New York City Department of Education.*
Participants examined Japanese holidays and festivals, and their Shinto and Buddhist religious components. Stories, activities, rituals and foods associated with different times of year were discussed, as well as modern, secular and foreign influences on traditional Japanese celebrations. Lecturers: Michael Como, Professor of Religious Studies, Columbia University; Margaret Eisenstadt, Kamishibai For Kids; Mary Hammond Bernson, Associate Director, East Asia Resource Center, University of Washington; Hiro Kurashima & Taiko Masala; and Tara McGowan, Storytelling Arts, Inc.

**Traditional to Contemporary: Performing Arts of Japan**
15–19 August
*In cooperation with the New York City Department of Education.*
Participants looked at both traditional and contemporary theater performing arts in Japan, including noh, kyogen, kabuki and butoh. They discussed how to integrate literary and historical components of theater into classroom teaching, and got a chance to practice many different types of theatrical movements. Lecturers: Sarah Cusick, Columbia Preparatory School; Loren Edelson, PhD candidate, CUNY Graduate Center; Teri Gindi, Professional Performing Arts School; Sachiyu Ito, Sachiyu Ito & Co.; Samuel Leiter, Brooklyn College, CUNY; and Garret Sokoloff, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Performing Arts.

**One-Day Programs for Educators**

**Shinto in Annual Rituals**
8 October
A one-day workshop on the history, concepts and rituals of Shinto, Japan’s indigenous religion. In the morning session, educators learned how Shinto is connected to annual festivities and rituals in Japan. In the afternoon, participants observed a Shichigosan ceremony for the growth and good health of children ages 3, 5 and 7, held in the UNICEF building at the United Nations. Lecturer: Michael Como, Professor of Religious Studies, Columbia University.

**Meet the Author of Kamishibai Man: An Evening with Allen Say**
27 October
Caldecott Medal-winning author and illustrator Allen Say discussed his recently-published children’s book *Kamishibai Man*, presenting it through kamishibai storytelling.

**Programs for Students**

**Summer Immersion Workshop for High School Students**
Experience Otaku! Create an Exhibition: An Interactive Exploration of Contemporary Art & Culture for High School Students
5–8 & 11–15 July
Student participants considered the ways in which museum and gallery exhibitions open public dialogues on important social and cultural issues. The centerpiece of their study was the Japan Society Gallery exhibition *Little Boy: The Arts of Japan’s Exploding Subculture*, Takashi Murakami’s cutting-edge critique of contemporary Japanese culture. Their final project, a student-curated exhibition entitled *Pop Bunmei Kaika*, included artifacts that described the influence of Japanese pop culture on American pop culture, particularly the impact of otaku culture on American teen fandom. Lecturers: Eleni Corcoras, Exhibitions Manager, Japan Society; Kiyoshi Ike, Gallerist, Concepto Gallery; Lawrence Eng, Ph.D. Candidate, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Celia Imrey, Principal Architect, Imrey Culbert Ltd; Dr. Amy Kurlander, freelance writer; Susan McCullough, Director of School and Family Programs for Students.
Comparing Themes in Japanese Contemporary Art

DECEMBER–JANUARY

Japan Society and the Isamu Noguchi Museum partnered to offer four third-grade classes from P.S. 107 interactive tours with a focus on themes common to exhibitions at both institutions on time, nature, Shinto and Japanese aesthetics. Students first viewed the Japan Society exhibition Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History and then visited the Noguchi Museum, concluding their experience with an art activity.


Comparing Themes in Japanese Contemporary Art

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Kamishibai Storytelling for Children: Featuring Japanese Folktales & Ghost Stories

29 OCTOBER

With Nadine Grisar, storytelling specialist at P.S. 217. Adults and children experienced Japanese folktales and ghost stories through kamishibai, Japan’s traditional storytelling technique for young viewers that uses large picture boards on a small stage. Participants were introduced to Japanese folktales and ghost stories, and also made masks of otherworldly creatures featured in the stories.

Celebrating Japan's Children's Day through Kamishibai Storytelling

6 MAY

With Tara McGowan and child storytellers from Kamishibai Kidz. Participants learned firsthand about Tengo no sekku (Children's Day), an annual event for children, through kamishibai storytelling and craft activities. Kamishibai Kidz, a group of child storytellers (ages 6 to 11) presented their original stories associated with this festival. Children and accompanying adults made koinobori (carp streamers), tachie puppets, and kabuto (samurai helmets), and enjoyed traditional kashiwa mochi (bean-paste treats).

Art Cart: Chanoyu

11 JUNE

With Tea Master Ashley Takayama, Director, New York Branch of the Mushakoji Sanke Tea School; Suzanne de Vegh, Program Officer, Education & Public Programs, Arts & Culture, Japan Society; and Victoria Moller, Education Associate, Japan Society. Children and accompanying adults participated in a tea ceremony, exploring its rich cultural traditions by handling ceremonial utensils and creating their own clay chawan (tea bowls).

Caldecott-Award-winning author Allen Say discusses his new book, Kamishibai Man, through an evening of kamishibai storytelling. Photo © Kazuko Minamoto.

Children show off the oni masks they made in “Kamishibai Storytelling for Children: Featuring Japanese Folktales & Ghost Stories.” Photo © Kazuko Minamoto.
The school partnership program provides schools with the materials and pedagogical support necessary to encourage teaching and learning about Japan—its history, literature and arts. Participating schools are offered a range of educational opportunities, including professional development for teachers, and a variety of visual and performing arts programs for students. The 2005–06 season marked the third year of partnership with Richmond Hill High School (Queens) as well as continuing alliances with the Professional Performing Arts School (Manhattan) and Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School (Manhattan).

**Perspectives in Science in Art: Looking at Objects in Context**

*7 FEBRUARY*

With Suzanne de Vegh, Program Officer, Education & Public Programs, Arts & Culture. Students from Richmond Hill High School visited the American Museum of Natural History, Hall of Asian Peoples, Japan section and the Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History exhibition at Japan Society Gallery to critically view the ways in which Japanese artifacts and information about Japan are presented by different institutions. Students engaged in guided inquiry, working in small teams to answer questions and discuss their observations. The program concluded with a creative writing assignment.

**Original Child Bomb: Film Screening & Panel Discussion for High School Students**

*10 MARCH*

In cooperation with the Japan Society Film Program.

High school students from Columbia Preparatory School, Professional Performing Arts School, Richmond Hill High School and the United Nations International School attended a special screening of Original Child Bomb, followed by a panel discussion with director Carey Schonegevel McKenzie and Nicole Boyd and Edwin Figueroa, two student anti-nuclear activists. Linda Hoaglund, Senior Film Curator, Japan Society, moderating. (See also p. 29).

**Play Reading: The Yalta Conference**

*24 MARCH*

In cooperation with the Japan Society Performing Arts Program.

Drama students from the Professional Performing Arts School participated in a workshop and special reading of The Yalta Conference with Seinendan Theatre Company director Oriza Hirata. See p. 25 for performance details.

**Butoh Workshop**

*28 MARCH-23 MAY*

In cooperation with the Japan Society Performing Arts Program.

During this eight-week intensive program, Japanese butoh performer Takuya Muramatsu led students from the Professional Performing Arts School in both improvisational and instructive sessions. As a culminating activity, students worked with the artist to create a butoh dance performance.

**Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History**

*18 NOVEMBER-19 FEBRUARY*

In cooperation with the Japan Society Gallery.

Over 300 students experienced interactive gallery lessons with Suzanne de Vegh, Program Officer, Education & Public Programs, Arts & Culture, Japan Society.

**Fast Futures: Asian Video Art**

*22 MAY-18 JUNE*

In cooperation with the Japan Society Gallery.

Over 100 students participated in interactive gallery lessons with Victoria Moller, Education Associate, Japan Society, during this short-term exhibition held in conjunction with the city-wide Asian Contemporary Art Week.

Education Programs are made possible with generous funding from The Freeman Foundation.

1 Butoh dancer Takuya Muramatsu works with Professional Performing Arts School students during an eight-week intensive butoh program. Photo © Kazuko Minamoto.

2 Teenage anti-nuclear activists Edwin Figueroa and Nicole Boyd (right) in a post-screening discussion of Original Child Bomb with director Carey Schonegevel McKenzie (second from left) and Japan Society Senior Film Curator Linda Hoaglund (far left). Photo © Kazuko Minamoto.
The Society’s Japanese language education program, which began in 1972 with just a single class, has grown into one of the largest and most respected in the nation. Today, the Toyota Language Center offers 12 comprehensive levels of Japanese, as well as a variety of specialized courses and workshops including shodo (Japanese calligraphy), ensuring that there is a class for every level of student. In addition, the Center caters to native Japanese speakers by providing four levels of English conversation (ESL) classes and a Japanese Language Teacher Training Program at the beginning and intermediate levels. This year, the Toyota Language Center held its second Alumni event, featuring as a special guest Hideki Matsui of New York Yankees, who shared his views of life in New York with language students past and present.

C.V. Starr Library

The C.V. Starr Library houses approximately 14,000 volumes, in addition to a language library and an impressive rare book collection. Its holdings include a comprehensive collection of books (primarily in English) on Japanese art, history, culture, society, politics, economics, religion and many other subjects. An ideal place for research on Japan and Japan-U.S. relations, the library has also become one of the favorite attractions of Japan Society visitors.
Mini-Workshops: Learn to Read Hiragana & Katakana
22 & 23 SEPTEMBER
25 & 26 JANUARY
26, 30 MAY
Enables beginning students to master efficiently the reading of hiragana and katakana.

Japanese Language Courses
26 SEPTEMBER–9 DECEMBER
30 JANUARY–10 APRIL
31 MAY–11 AUGUST
Twelve levels of Japanese, from beginning to advanced.

English Conversation Courses
3 OCTOBER–8 DECEMBER
6 FEBRUARY–12 APRIL
1 MAY–21 JUNE
10 JULY–29 AUGUST
Four levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) in 30- or 38-hour sessions.

Kanji I, II, III
28 SEPTEMBER–9 DECEMBER
1 FEBRUARY–7 APRIL
31 MAY–11 AUGUST
Designed to enable those proficient in Japanese to read Japanese newspapers with ease.

Economics & Business: Advanced Reading Course I
27 SEPTEMBER–6 DECEMBER
31 JANUARY–4 APRIL
6 JUNE–8 AUGUST
Guides advanced language students in reading the Nihon Keizai Shimbun and the Japanese versions of Newsweek and Forbes, and also covers important business customs.

Intensive Japanese Weekend Courses
12, 13, 19 & 20 NOVEMBER
4, 5, 11 & 12 MARCH
17, 18, 24 & 25 JUNE
Total immersion for people who plan to travel or move to Japan or for students unable to attend regular weekday classes.

Intensive Practical Japanese: Business & Culture
26 APRIL–25 MAY
Teaches essential classroom teaching skills to native and fluent speakers of Japanese who have had little or no formal training in the teaching of Japanese as a second language.

Japanese Language Teacher Training Program
25 APRIL–25 MAY
Teaches essential classroom teaching skills to native and fluent speakers of Japanese who have had little or no formal training in the teaching of Japanese as a second language.

Japanese Language Teacher Training Follow-Up Program
4 OCTOBER–6 DECEMBER
A continuation of the teacher training program, providing the skills necessary to teach Japanese at the intermediate level.

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test Preparation Course (New Kanji III)
2 JUNE–11 AUGUST
The first course of an ongoing series, designed to prepare students to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 1.

Shodo Workshops I, II, III & Advanced course
26 SEPTEMBER–9 DECEMBER
30 JANUARY–7 APRIL
8 MAY–24 JULY
A multi-level workshop series, from beginner to advanced, on the techniques of shodo, Japanese calligraphy.

1 Instructor Satomi Ochiai (right) jokes with her Japanese level I students. Photo © Roy Mittelman.
2 Language instructor Yuko Aizawa, guest speaker Hideki Matsui of the New York Yankees and Hugh Selby, a student at Toyota Language Center, at the Toyota Language Center Alumni Meeting. Photo © Ken Levinson.