Hokusai Exhibit Opens at Chigasaki Art Museum

See life through the eyes of an Edo period artist!

This fall, the Chigasaki City Museum of Art will host a special exhibition called “Hokusai Manga”, featuring the works of Edo period artist Katsushika Hokusai. Hokusai was the first Japanese artist to be recognized internationally and his works have been influential in Japanese, European, and even American art, design, and culture for more than a century. His iconic Great Wave off Kanagawa and his paintings of Mount Fuji have become symbols of Japan and Japanese art the world over.

The Museum will showcase Hokusai Manga, a collection of his sketches covering a variety of subjects, giving viewers a glimpse into daily life in the Edo period as seen by Hokusai. The artist devoted himself to depicting nature in his art and also sketched dynamic movement and humorous facial expressions. He even visualized the invisible flow of winds by scattering leaves and through character movement. Don’t miss the chance to see this important part of Japanese culture.

The Chigasaki City Museum of Art also features works by local artists, ranging from woodblocks to paintings to prints. The museum is dedicated to not only enhancing art education but also contributing to the realization of a better society through collecting, preserving, studying and exhibiting art pieces.

Rain or shine, a day at the museum can be a great experience.

Hokusai Exhibit Opens at Chigasaki Art Museum

Chigasaki City Museum of Art
1-4-45 Higashikaigankita, Chigasaki 253-0053
Hokusai Manga Exhibition
September 11-November 6, 2016
Hours: 10:00-18:00 (Last admission: 17:30)
Admissions:
- Adults (¥700), College Students (¥500)
- Children/18 and under with student ID (Free)
- Senior residents 65 and over with ID (Free)
URL: http://www.chigasaki-museum.jp
TEL: 0467-88-1177
*The Museum is closed on Mondays (except for National Holidays/substitute public holidays on Monday, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following Tuesday instead).
*Please check the website for the detailed schedule.

Chigasaki Makana Hula Festival Is Back!

It’s time to celebrate hula and Hawaiian culture again.

The Chigasaki Makana Hula Festival will be held again this year from Sept. 17 (Sat.) to Sept. 19 (Mon.) at the Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan hall. Events include a hula dance competition, workshops, Hawaiian goods, and more.

In the Hawaiian Language, “makana” means “gift” or “blessing”, and that spirit is at the heart of this festival. The competition focuses more on learning than just competing and the workshops are a good chance to share in Hawaiian culture. The festival also celebrates Chigasaki’s bond with its sister city, Honolulu. So why not bring family and friends to experience Hawaii here in Chigasaki.

Chigasaki Makana Hula Festival
Place: Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan
Date: September 17-19, 2016
Contents:
- Hawaiian Hula Competition, workshop, Shop for Hawaiian food, dresses, accessories, etc.
Local Resident Rate:
- Adult: ¥3,240
- Child (Junior high student and under): ¥1,620
Standard Rate:
- Adult: ¥3,500
- Child (Junior high student and under): ¥2,000

*400 free tickets are available for those over 65 years old from August 15, 2016 at IKOREA
*For further information please access [http://www.world.hawaiianculture.org/]

Le chemin

The café Le chemin is open for business on the second floor of the Chigasaki City Museum of Art. Comforting, elegant, and filled with light, the Le chemin is lined by floor-to-ceiling windows looking out a panoramic view of Takasuna Ryokuchi garden. The café offers salads, hams, sandwiches and a selection of pastries, as well as a variety of juices, teas and coffee in a relaxing atmosphere for museum visitors and the creative community of Chigasaki City. The menu in the café is flexible and locally sourced. Stop by before or after you visit the museum!

Looking for Your Nearest City Office?

The City of Chigasaki has 6 local offices in town. You don’t have to go to the main City Hall. There are 4 branches and 2 citizen centers in town, which provide some city services.

Branch:
- Koide, Tsujido Station, Kagawa Station, Hamamina

Citizen center:
- Chigasaki Station, Hagisono

A copy of a Certificate of Residence can be ordered at all local offices. 4 branches are available for applying for childcare services and National health insurance program. For further information, access the City website.

Noh Theater is an ancient Japanese art form that started in the 14th century that often deals with supernatural legends or daily life in feudal Japan. It is usually performed in an ancient dialect of Japanese and accompanied by traditional Japanese music. In ancient times, Noh was captured the Noh atmosphere and transports the audience back to outdoors at night with fire pits to help light the stage. This firelight world peace.

While the evening outdoor theater event is only 47 years old, the shrine itself is much older. Samukawa Jinja is an ancient shrine that predates written records. According to local legends, it was founded in the 5th century as a place of worship for two local deities associated with a local mountain. However, the first official written documentation of the shrine was in 9th Century historical texts. In feudal times, Samukawa Jinja was considered to be the most important shrine in the old Sagami province, which was later combined to form modern day Kanagawa. Today the Samukawa Jinja is still an important shrine in Kanagawa prefecture and is visited by people from all over the Kanto region. The grounds are spacious, and peaceful. The buildings, while modern, capture the feel and style of old Japan.

Samukawa Jinja Shrine held their annual Sagami Takigi Noh event on August 15th. The event drew nearly 1,500 people for an evening of traditional Japanese theater. The event, which started in 1970, commemorates the end of World War II.

Noh Theater is an ancient Japanese art form that started in the 14th century that often deals with supernatural legends or daily life in feudal Japan. It is usually performed in an ancient dialect of Japanese and accompanied by traditional Japanese music. In ancient times, Noh was an all-day event consisting of five long, serious plays with smaller comedies, called kyougen, in between. Modern Noh however usually consists of only two regular plays with one comedy between them.

Takigi, which translates to bonfire, is a type of Noh done entirely outdoors at night with fire pits to help light the stage. This firelight captures the Noh atmosphere and transports the audience back to ancient times. It is a common style of Noh Theater and there are Takigi Noh events in places like Kamakura and Kyoto. Unlike these events, however, Samukawa’s Sagami Takigi Noh is completely free of charge, as the purpose of the event is not to make money, but rather to promote world peace.

The event opens with a Shinto prayer ceremony for those who died in the war and a prayer for eternal world peace. To attend, one simply submits a formal, written request by mail to the shrine and awaits a reply. If you can speak Japanese well enough, or if you can get help with the request, it is definitely worth seeing.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Aya Watada)
Meet “Mr. Japan 2016”, Masaya Yamagishi!

An aspiring swimmer turned hometown hero and will compete in the 11th edition of Mister International 2016.

We are pleased to welcome Masaya Yamagishi, the victor of the 2016 Mr. Japan competition, to Chigasaki Breeze interview. He spoke with our teenage writer to inspire young readers. He shows his winning personality and appearance, and shares his feelings for his hometown, Chigasaki.

CB: What made you want to become Mr. Japan?

M: I started swimming when I was 2 years old and my goal has always been to compete in the Olympics. However, I had some injuries and found it hard to reach my goal, so I retired. Although I felt like I gave it my very best, I still wanted to become a Japanese champion and compete with the world. That’s what made me want to try out for Mr. Japan, and I am glad and honored to represent Japan in the world finals.

CB: What was the best thing about becoming Mr. Japan?

M: Being Mr. Japan has totally changed my way of thinking in a better way, and that’s one of the best things. When I was a swimmer, I was too eager for improving my own record to feel the support from others. Now that I’m Mr. Japan, I can really feel a lot of supports. Being on the top of Japan made me broaden my perspective and now I can see a totally different view from what I used to see. I am constantly feeling the pressure of representing Japan and am grateful for the warm support of people around.

CB: When you are facing a difficulty, what do you do?

M: If thinking about it helps resolve the problem I think about it thoroughly, but when it doesn’t I tell myself to stay positive and keep smiling. By changing my facial expression, it brightens my feeling and smiles change the air around me. So whenever I face a difficulty I always try to keep my self-confidence, and stand up to the problem with a smile.

CB: What did you want to grow up to be when you were a child?

M: When I was little, I wanted to be a superhero like Ultra-man just like any child would. But I also loved swimming so I thought seriously about becoming an Olympic athlete.

CB: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

M: In 10 years, I hope to see myself with a wife and children living by the beach. I was born and raised in Chigasaki so I have a special feeling about my hometown. No one knows about the future but I hope to represent and become the symbol of Chigasaki.

CB: What do you like about Chigasaki?

M: I love how everyone living in Chigasaki is warm and caring. Everyone is friendly so it’s easy to become friends with one another. I love the air people here in Chigasaki make.

CB: Please tell us how you feel about the upcoming world competition.

M: In the world finals, I will always try to do my best, I will not only representing Japan, but also Chigasaki. I will always try to be myself in hopes to let people know who Masaya Yamagishi really is, rather than thinking about the ranking. I would love to show the world how wonderful Japan is and most importantly let the world know how great my hometown Chigasaki is.

A big thank you to Masaya Yamagishi, and good luck for the upcoming world finals!!!

(PHOTOGRAPHER: Aya Watada)

Chigasaki Jamboree in Satoyama Park

Chigasaki Jamboree, a free outdoor Western music concert, will be held in Satoyama Park on September 22, Autumn Equinox Day, from 10:00 until 17:00. This will be the 7th anniversary of the concert and more than 10 Shonan-area bands will gather and play mostly country and blues music. Since there will be a number of stalls selling American foods and Western goods, you will feel like you are in the USA. Why don’t you enjoy the Western atmosphere in the middle of the beautiful nature park?

For more information, please access the official website.
[http://www.chigasaki-kankou.org/jamboree/index.html]

Due to the limited amount of parking, please use public transportation.

Chigasaki Cultural Festival

The festival gathers residents to appreciate music, art, culture and more! Chigasaki Cultural Festival will be held for two months starting October 2nd. A number of citizen groups from various fields will attract the people in town with 27 events of stage performances, exhibitions, and literature at Chigasaki Shimin Bunka Kaikan hall. One of the highlights is a chorus recital by Chigasaki citizens. They will perform an original song called “The song of Shonan”. At the calligraphy exhibition, 150 artworks will be displayed, including art pieces from Honolulu, a sister city of Chigasaki. If you are history maniac, you will be fascinated by the display of the holy place for Sagami-no-kuni Shugen-do. There is also a display of famous writers connected to Chigasaki.

Check the website for the detailed information.
[http://www.chigasaki-bdk.sakura.ne.jp/index.html]

The Chigasaki Environmental Fair Is Happening Again in 2016

The fair is a day of eco-activities, fun and music, hosted by sustainability experts, innovative business organizations, and creative local schools who embrace eco ideas through their work. One of the highlights will be a live streaming lecture on the possibility of habitable, Earth-like planets from the Subaru Telescope at the summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

Be sure and mark your calendar for Sept. 24th 10:00-15:30 at Chigasaki City Hall. You will discover something to do for future life and for your society. To find out more about the 2016 fair, please visit the website of Chigasaki City.
Dear African in Japan,

The reason is that most Japanese tend to avoid communication with unknown people. Some people will simply nod or smile to show some respect without saying anything. On the other hand, shop staff in Japan are always very polite and well trained in "Customer First" principles. So, you might think it's odd to see the staff being polite and the customers not responding to them. But, you don't have to be bothered by this. It's quite a normal scene at convenience stores in Japan.

However, we communicate well with store staff once we get well acquainted. We also talk friendly to small shop owners like the greengrocers, butchers and fishermen in our neighborhood.

Anyhow, I think it's very nice of you to be friendly to convenience store staff. They'll show you a big smile and it'll make you happy too!

Best regards,
Fujii

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**The 19th Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition**

The Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition has been held every two years since 1981. This event exhibits children's art from all over the world, and is intended to use the power of painting to foster the dreams and creativity of today's young children who will go on to become the leaders of tomorrow.

**Entry Period:**
Sept. 1 ~ Nov. 30, 2016

**Qualification:**
Applicants must be between the ages of 4 and 15 as of Apr. 1, 2016.

**Notification of Awards:**
A list of winners will be posted on the Kanagawa Biennial's website in Mar. 2017.

**Exhibition's period:**
July 1 ~ Aug. 31, 2017

**Kanagawa Biennial's website:**
[http://www.earthplaza.jp/biennial/English/index.html]