

Setagaya Literary Museum Special Exhibition Sakutaro Hagiwara: Howl at the moon

2022-10-01/2023-02-05

EXHIBITION OUTLINE

On the gleaming ground bamboo growing,

[...]

bamboo, bamboo, bamboo growing.

(‘Bamboo’ from *Howling at the Moon*)



Hagiwara Sakutaro, a central figure in modern Japanese poetry: many may have encountered his vivid imagery and rhythm in their school textbooks. He lived out the last days of his life in Setagaya. Commemorating the 80th anniversary of his death, “Hagiwara Sakutaro Taizen 2022” is being held through 52 institutions all over the nation, including this museum, shining a new light on this extraordinary poet.

In the preface to *Howling at the Moon*, Sakutaro wrote, “A person, individually, is always terribly lonely forever and ever”, and his poetry affects us sharply and powerfully today, in a period in which divisions of generation and rank unconsciously force each of us into loneliness. However, he continues with the thought that, when we discover something common between people, “we are no longer lonely forever.” Beyond the solitude of a man who dedicated everything in his life to poetry, what did Sakutaro see? We will explore numerous excerpts from his writing, as well as his notes and documents, alongside the work of contemporary artists who found inspiration in Sakutaro.

*during the exhibition period some of the exhibits will be replaced

Biography Sakutaro Hagiwara

A poet born in Gunma. Sakutaro submitted *tanka* to literature magazines such as *Bunko* and *Myojo* while attending Mae-bashi Junior High School. Deeply affected by the poems of Murou Saisei, he began writing poetry himself. Five of his poems, including ‘Michiyuki’, were included in *Zamboa*, edited by Kitahara Hakushu, marking his debut as a poet. In 1917, he published *Tsuki ni Hoeru (Howling at the Moon)*, which established his style of free verse written in a colloquial voice. This was an epoch-defining volume of modern Japanese poetry. His other works include poetry books such as *Aoneko (Blue Cat)*, *Junjo Shokyokushu (A Collection of Naive Short Pieces)*, and *Hyoto (Icy Island)*; a collection of aphorisms, *Atarashiki Yokujo (Fresh Passions)*; essays on poetry, such as *Shi no Genri (Principles of Poetry)*; poetry criticism, such as *Nihon e no Kaiki (Return to Japan)*; and the short novel *Nekomachi (Cat Town)*. In 1931 he moved to Shimokitazawa in Setagaya, and his final home, which he designed himself, was built in Daita two years later.

Four Features of the Exhibition

1. Composition of poetry

Approaching the creative process through manuscripts and notes.

2. Variety in expression

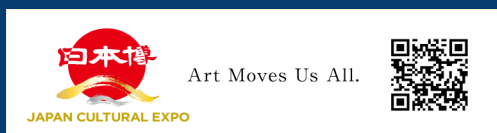
Examining colorful expressions relating to music, painting, design, and photography.

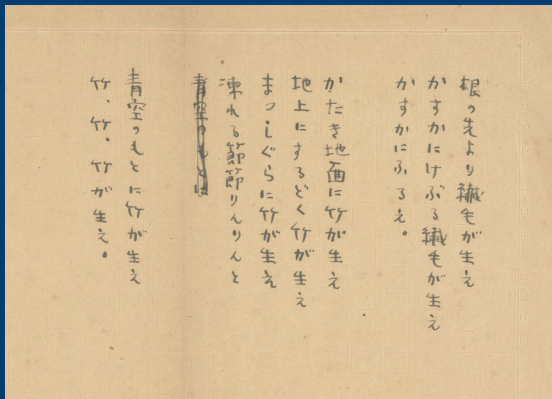
3. Poems in painting

Introducing works by Sakutaro in paintings by contemporary artists and comic writers, alongside his portraits.

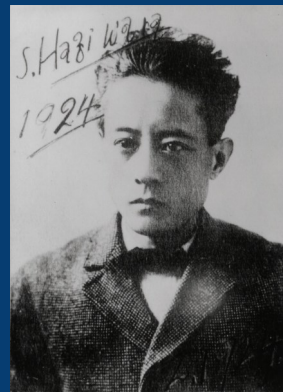
4. Poetry experience

Experiencing the world of Sakutaro’s poetry through the visual design of the space, an interactive exhibition in which you can create your own poem, and the display of automata pieces.





Hagiwara Sakutarō, 'Bamboo' manuscript
(collection of the Maebashi City Museum of Literature)



Portrait photograph of Hagiwara Sakutarō
(collection of the Maebashi City Museum of Literature)

Visitor Information

Opening Hours

Exhibition rooms: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm (last admission 5:30 pm)

Closures

Every Monday (Closed Tuesday when a national holiday falls on Monday)

In-house maintenance periods and New Year holidays (December 29th – January 3rd)

Admission Fees

[Special Exhibition] **Sakutarō Hagiwara:Howl at the moon**

Category	Individuals	Groups (price per person)
General	¥900	¥720
Students (College, High School)	¥600	¥480
Students (Junior High, Elementary School)	free	free
Seniors (Over 65)	600	480
Disability Certificate Holders	¥400	¥320

* Group fees apply to groups of 20 or more visitors

* Visitors may access collection exhibition with special exhibition tickets

* Disability certificate holders of college age and below are admitted free of charge (+free admission for 1 caregiver)

Various Discounts

The following discounts are available for both collection & special exhibitions (multiple discounts may not be combined)

- Groups of 20+ visitors will receive a 20% discount on admission fee
- Setagaya Arts Card, Friends of the Setagaya Literary Museum, Friends of the Setagaya Art Museum, or SePT Club members will receive a 20% discount on admission fee (please present proof of membership)
- The first Friday of each special exhibition is Seniors' Day – visitors of 65 years of age or older will receive free admission (please present proof of age)
- In addition to the above, there are discounts on admissions for holders of affiliate cards, etc. (please inquire for details)

Access

5-minute walk from Roka-koen Station's South Exit (Keio Line)

5-minute walk from Roka Koshunon (take Keio Bus from Chitose-Funabashi Station (Odakyu Line) -

Towards Chitose-karasuyama Station (Keio Line))

Contact Us

Setagaya Literary Museum

157-0062 1-10-10 Minami Karasuyama, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo

TEL 03-5374-9111 <http://www.setabun.or.jp/>

