

This exhibition focuses on the cultural exchange between the east and the west in the field of graphic art around 1900 pivoting two Czech artists: Alfons Mucha (1860–1939) and Emil Orlik (1870–1932). It also introduces Czech art as Japonisme, Japanese artists influenced by Mucha and Orlik, and artist in Vienna and Bohemia who contacted Orlik.

Mucha's first poster 'Gismonda' depicting the actress Sarah Bernhardt took the audience in Paris by storm, and made Mucha the most beloved artist of Art Nouveau. The reputation was brought over to Japan as well, stimulating Takeji Fujishima and other Japanese artists around the art and literature magazine *Myojo* and artists group *Hakuba-kai* (lit. White House).

On the other hand, Prague-born artist Orlik studied art in Munich and found the Japonisme trend in Berlin and Vienna. His longing for Japan brought him to the Far East in 1900. During his roughly one-year stay, Orlik learned the technique of *Ukiyo-e* print



In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Japan-Czech Republic Relations

MUCHA AND JAPAN / JAPAN AND ORLIK

November 2 - December 15, 2019



and created several multicolored woodcut prints by himself. In addition, he tried autolithographs at a print workshop in Tokyo demonstrating that an artist could create a print as art from beginning to end. It was a new concept for Japanese artists, as printing was based on the division of labor, and it opened up the path to the creative print movement later on. After coming back home, Orlik showed and lectured about what he saw, made and corrected in Japan. These

vivid information and materials stimulated artists in Vienna, Berlin, and other cities in Europe. The colored woodblocks by Bohemia-born artists Carl Thiemann (1881–1966) and Walther Klemm (1883–1957) indicate the further development of Japonisme-style prints as Orlik's successors.

These movements around 1900 were far from one-directional. In this show, you will find the direct and immediate "back and forth" communication in the field of graphic art as the full circle of Japonisme.

Upper: **Alfons Mucha**, *Poster for the Exhibition of Mucha's works at the Salon des Cent*, 1897, Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum, Osaka Sakai City

Lower: **Emil Orlik**, *Japanese Travelers*, 1901, Chiba City Museum of Art

▼ Organized by

- The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama

▼ General Information

- November 2 – December 15, 2019
- Open 9:30 to 17:00
- Closed on Mondays, except November 4 and November 11 (closed on November 5 and November 13 instead)

▼ Admission

- Adults: 1,000 (800) yen. Students: 800

(640) yen. Prices in parentheses for groups of 20 or more.

▼ Admission Free

- Under 18 (High School Pupils), over 65, the disabled, and foreign students studying in Wakayama. / Free entrance on November 22, Every first Sunday, and for college students on November 23 (Every fourth Saturday: Kiyo cultural foundation day).

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