

京都国立博物館

Kyoto National Museum

立地環境を活かした情報発信に取り組む

七条通りが行き止まるあたりから重要文化財に指定されている、袖壁、表門、そしてフレンチルネッサンス様式の壮麗な建物の全貌が現れる。西洋宮殿を思わせるその建物が、京都国立博物館の旧本館だ。

特徴は、名実ともに京都が、京の都として栄えた当時を伝える作品群であろう。東京の国立博物館に比べ、寺社由来のコレクションが多い。学芸員総出で行う、狙いを絞った社寺や旧家の総合調査活動によって、社寺由来の貴重な寄託品が年々増えている。また染織分野の収集では、お膝下が西陣織の生産地ということもあり、染織技法史をたどれる収蔵品も多い。

一般公開の展示は、館蔵品を中心に彫刻作品や美術工芸品が展示される平常展示館と、特別展示館になる旧本館での特別展覧会。ともに立地環境にふさわしく、かつての宮廷都市らしさを前面に押し出す。ただし、平常展示館はリニューアル工事進行中で、2013年まで休館予定。

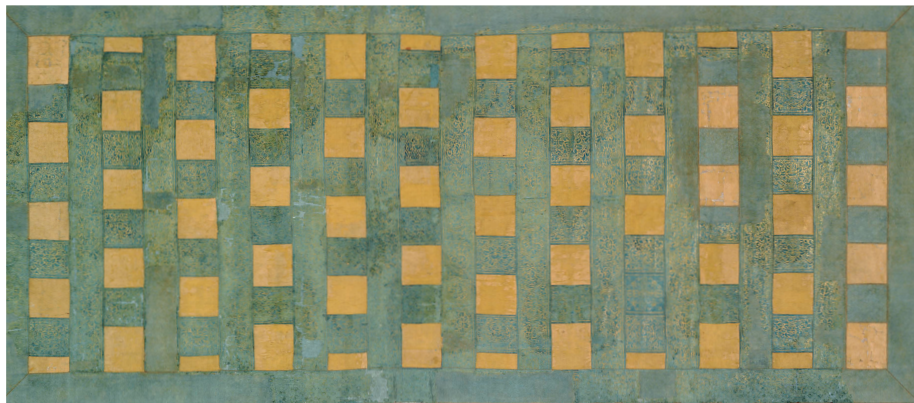
現在、一般展示は館蔵品以外を中心とした企画展示である特別展覧会のみだが、2010年10月9日からひと月半開催予定の「高僧と袈裟」は染織関係者にとって見逃せない企画であろう。空海、最澄たちが活躍した9世紀の僧衣服にはじまり、中世禅宗の伝法衣が数多く展示される。世界的にも貴重な中国の宋や

明時代の織物が一堂に会するまたとない機会だ。

館蔵品の画像や内容はホームページで公開中。〈収蔵品データベース〉では、染織にかかわる1,044件を検索できる。〈重要文化財高精細画像閲覧システム「KNW gallery」〉で検索すると、〈カテゴリー選択〉〈時代選択〉から作品が探れ、〈解説〉クリックにより各作品の詳細説明が入手可能。京博の収蔵品らしい古神宝(※1)や公家装束などの情報も公開されている。往時の技術を集めた作品群は、時空を超えて現代染織へのヒントにもなるのではないだろうか。

※1. 古神宝(こしんぼう)…9世紀後半頃からと伝えられる祭祀具。神社に奉納されて現在に伝わる宝仏類であり、具体的内容は祭神の日常生活に必要な調度、衣服、装飾品などからなる。当時の工芸美術の最高峰作品であり工芸・美術史からも貴重な資料。文化財価値もきわめて高い。中世工芸史に極めて重要な意味をもち、美的センスを漂わせる

◀ 牡丹唐草羯磨文様袈裟(ぼたんからくさかつまもんようげさ) 中国・南宋時代(13世紀)の25条大衣(だいえ)。縦103.6cm 横236.4cm。重要文化財。
写真=©KYOTOMUSE(京都国立博物館)
Buddhist surplice with peony and arabesque patterns in gold leaf. 25-panel garment from Nan (Southern) Song dynasty (13th century) China.
Length: 103.6 cm, width: 236.4 cm. Important cultural property.
Photo: ©KYOTOMUSE (Kyoto National Museum)



Making use of its location, KNM pours effort into sharing information

A full view of the magnificent French renaissance-style building including the wing walls and main gate, appear. This entire area from about where Shichijo Street comes to an end is designated as an Important Cultural Property. This building, reminiscent of a western palace, is the former main building of the Kyoto National Museum.

Exhibits at the Kyoto National Museum (KNM) are unique in that they indeed represent the period in Japanese history in which Kyoto flourished as the capital city. In comparison to the national museums in Kyoto and Nara, KNM's collection consists of a greater number of items obtained from temples and shrines. Thanks to a comprehensive survey that focused on temples, shrines and families of distinguished lineage conducted by all of the museum's curators, the collection is expanding continually with newly added valuable, historically significant objects.

KNM's exhibition for general viewing is divided into two sections: regular and special exhibitions. The former consists of sculptures, paintings and handicrafts, majority of which are from the museum's collection. The latter displays works other than those from the collection, according to a chosen theme. Both consist of works marked by elegance and beauty and display broad collections of dyed and weaved fabrics in a manner that guides visitors chronologically through their history. An example is the Kaifu (beach scene)-patterned mo (a traditional skirt), designated as a national treasure, which is a koshinpo (※1) that is an ancestral heirloom of Asuka Temple. It is a form of wrap-around skirt decorated with hand painted Kaifu pattern inspired by the Horai Mountains, a place believed to be an embodiment of utopia. This is an extremely valuable piece for understanding the history of medieval handicraft. "Peony,

arabesque and katsuma -patterned kesa" is presumed to have been made during the Northern Song Dynasty. Its ebullient peony and arabesque patterns cause viewers to feel as if 1,000 years have never passed.

Images and details of the majority of KNM's valuable collection can be viewed on the museum's website. On the Collection Database, 1,044 dyed and weaved works can be searched. By going to Important Cultural Properties High Definition Image Browser "KNM Gallery," viewers can search for items by selecting "Category" or "Period," and learn details of each by clicking on "Commentary." The site includes information on articles characteristic of KNM such as koshinpo and ceremonial dresses of the nobility. Dyed and weaved works created with the flair of the bygone days still retain their original splendor and continue to fuel the creative imagination of modern weavers.

* 1. Koshinpo: Sacred festival ritual items placed as an offering in a shrine and passed down since the latter half of ninth century. Specifically, they include furnishing goods, clothing and decorations necessary for daily lives of the enshrined deities. They represent the highest quality craftsmanship of the time, are valuable material for art history, and are priceless cultural property. These articles of keen aesthetic sense hold a vital place in the history of medieval arts and crafts.

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