

# PRESS RELEASE

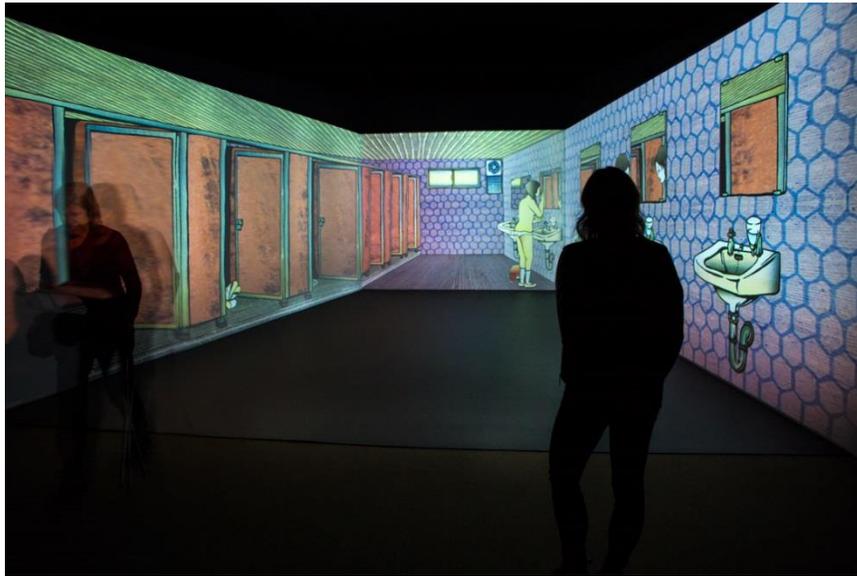
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## ***TABAIMO: UTSUTSUSHI UTSUSHI* CLOSING AT SEATTLE ASIAN ART MUSEUM FEBRUARY 26**

Last opportunity to see the museum's final exhibition before temporarily closing to begin renovation preparations



SEATTLE  
ART  
MUSEUM

ASIAN  
ART  
MUSEUM

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PARK

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seattleartmuseum.org

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Asian Art Museum's winter exhibition, *Tabaimo: Utsutsushi Utsushi*, closes Sunday, February 26. The exhibition features new and existing immersive video installations from acclaimed contemporary Japanese artist Tabaimo, alongside historic works from SAM's Asian art collection chosen by the artist.

This is the final exhibition at the Asian Art Museum before it closes to begin preparations for its upcoming renovation and proposed expansion, pending final approval of the project currently under review by the City of Seattle.

*Tabaimo: Utsutsushi Utsushi* presents eight video installations by Tabaimo, a globally renowned artist who represented Japan at the 2011 Venice Biennale. Four works created specifically for the exhibition and four previously existing works meld traditional imagery and elements with references to contemporary Japanese comics and animation. In adjacent galleries are paintings, prints, and furnishings from SAM's collection that inspired the artist, including beloved works such as Katsushika Hokusai's woodblock prints and the early 17th-century ink-and-gold *Crows* screens.

The museum's other installations, all drawn from SAM's permanent collection, will also close on February 26. These include *Terratopia: The Chinese Landscape in Painting and Film*, juxtaposing classical Chinese works with a film by contemporary artist Yang Fudong; *Awakened Ones: Buddhas of Asia*, with sculptures and paintings spanning 13 centuries from all around Asia; and *Ai Weiwei: Colored Vases*, works by one of China's most acclaimed contemporary artists and outspoken dissidents.



While the Seattle Asian Art Museum is closed, visitors will be able to see installations from SAM's Asian art collection at the downtown museum. Currently on view is *Pure Amusements: Wealth, Leisure, and Culture in Late Imperial China*, featuring Chinese works including prints, sculpture, furnishings, and ceramics that were created for, and enjoyed during, leisurely pursuits.

## RELATED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### **February 4**

#### **Free First Saturday**

Seattle Asian Art Museum

Celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Rooster with live music, martial arts performances, dress up, story time, and family tours. Take part in drop-in art activities inspired by *Tabaimo: Utsutsushi Utsushi*. Presented by Delta Air Lines.

### **February 4**

#### **Those Who Remain: After Hours**

Seattle Asian Art Museum

The final performance for *Those Who Remain: Concerto for Installation and Improviser*. This edition features Ivan Arteaga (saxophone), Peggy Lee (cello), and Yukio Suzuki (dance).

### **February 25 and 26**

#### **Asian Art Museum Closing Weekend Open House**

Seattle Asian Art Museum

Celebrate the arts and culture of Asia in this final weekend of all-ages programs at the Asian Art Museum. Enjoy drop-in art activities, tours led by curators and docents, tea tastings, and more.

## EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT

*Tabaimo: Utsutsushi Utsushi* is organized by the Seattle Art Museum in collaboration with Tabaimo.

Major Sponsor

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FOUNDATION

Additional Support

**The Japan Foundation**

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**NEC Display Solutions of America, Inc.**

**Image credits:** Installation view of *Tabaimo: Utsutsushi Utsushi* at the Seattle Asian Art Museum. © Seattle Art Museum, Photo: Natali Wiseman.

## **ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM**

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.