

The principles of this Art Museum

This Art Museum uses its natural premises and cultural properties to inform foreign visitors and to exhibit, research, and preserve familiar folk customs and practices that are being lost. Venerating folk culture and nature, this Art Museum seeks to pass on the essential richness of human experience and human relations to future generations.

Memorial hall, Founder First president

The Memorial Hall is a village headman's home built over 150 years ago (as of 2014). The building is named after Yasutaka Tanabe (age 92 when he passed away), the 20th head of the Tanabe family. Starting in his younger days, Tanabe held a number of important posts and he was closely involved in developing the area. As part of his duties, he helped arrange for the drop curtain for the Kohoku Public Hall. Tanabe asked national living treasure Keisuke Serizawa to come up with a design, and Tanabe received 4 sketches. Also enamored of folk culture, Tanabe was a member of the Japan Folk Arts Association. Tanabe endeavored to collect and preserve a number of folk cultural properties he brought back from overseas (East and Southeast Asia in particular), when traveling was still quite rare. Those properties have been kept in good condition to this very day.

The sketch for the drop curtain for the Kohoku Public Hall (Hills Burgeoning in the Sun)

The Tanabe family home, the basis for this Art Museum and Foundation, was known as The Long Entrance Path. Its history stretches back to the Edo Period. When establishing the Edo Shogunate after winning the Battle of Sekigahara, Tokugawa Ieyasu made the first generation of the Tanabe clan the First assistant storekeeper in the Bureau of Palace Kitchens. The Shogun allotted the head of the Tanabe family 30 *koku* [an ancient unit of rice] for 5 people and the right to a surname and to wear a sword. The head of the Tanabe clan was entrusted with managing the lands where the family settled (now Kohoku Ward, City of Yokohama). Later, the Tanabe clan erected the Shinpuku Temple on Komagabashi Peak (now the Shinpuku Temple on Shimoda Peak) to serve as a family temple and the Kumano Shrine (now Shimoda Shrine) to serve as a tutelary shrine. The surrounding area developed rapidly. The Foundation was established in order to permanently preserve the grounds, which are home to a number of remaining trees and native plants.

The Art Museum's "garden" is the overall term for the area from the path around the Yasutaka Tanabe Memorial Hall to the pond on the museum's east side and the path through the bamboo grove on the museum's east side. Even at a slow pace, the path takes 10 to 20 minutes to walk. Sights there include seasonal flowers and outdoor sculptures by Mitsuaki Tanabe.

Grounds: Native plants (long found in the area)

- Tawny daylilies, golden-rayed lilies, Korean lady's slippers, etc.

Sights Enormous native Chinese evergreen oaks, camellias, and sweet osmanthus

Outdoor sculptures by Mitsuaki Tanabe

- A pond drawing from a natural spring
- Seasonal flowers and trees
- Numerous garden stones from 10 tons of rock

Air raid shelters that were actually used during WWII (tours inside the shelters only take place on certain days)

- A storehouse built over 300 years ago etc.

The view from the pathway

Yoshino cherries and Japanese mountain cherries bloom at different times

This Art Museum permanently exhibits works by the sculptor Mitsuaki Tanabe as well as collected works that had a major influence on those sculptures. For 30 years, Tanabe produced modern sculptures to emulate a wild rice habitat conservation project (the wild strain not found in Japan) on the theme of “agriculture.” Those works are on display in rice-producing regions of Asia, international agricultural research institutes, national research institutes, art museums, and museums in different countries, and in UN organizations.

A collection of votive objects and farming implements from the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, the first rice-producing area to be included on the World Heritage List

The northern mountains of the island of Luzon are home to the Ifugao, Bontoc, Kalinga, and Kankanaey peoples. Rice terraces in those mountains are said to “stretch to heaven.” The footpaths between rice fields have a total length that would stretch halfway around the world. Rice cultivation rituals have been passed down in the area for thousands of years. Considered to be the oldest form of those rituals, the practices are handed down even today. The Tanabe Collection has recently been featured in the City of Shizuoka *Toro* Museum and at an exhibition by the Akita Prefectural Museum.