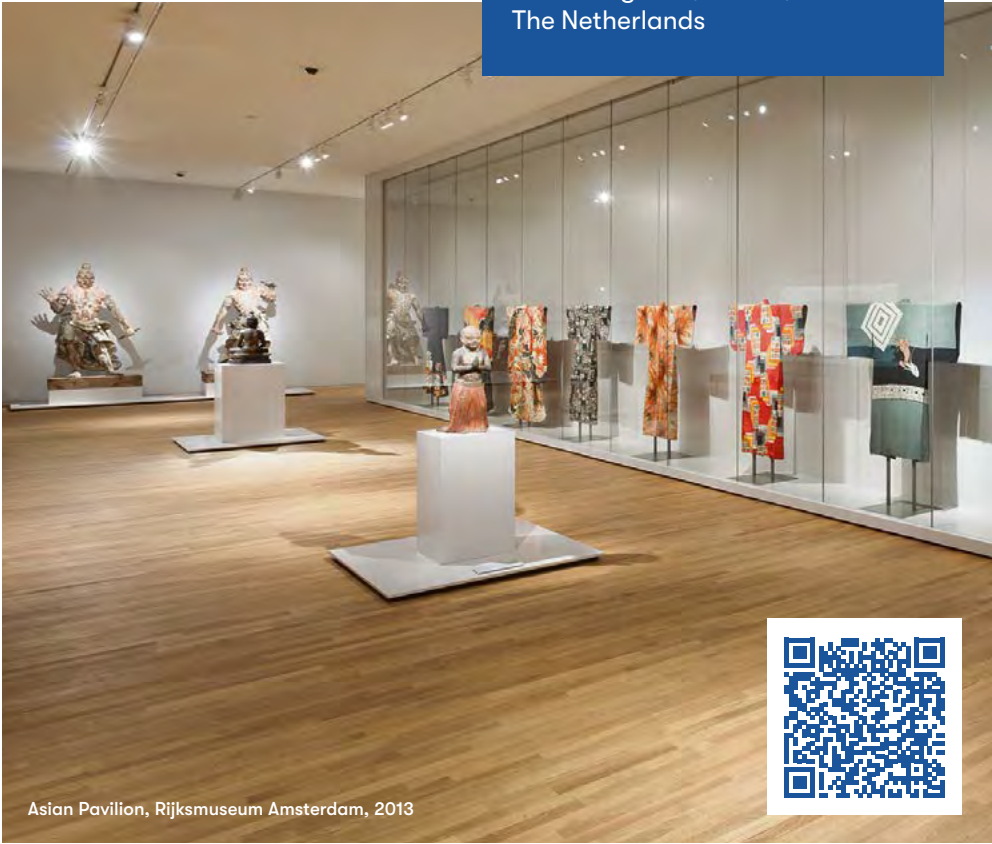


Seminar:
New Perspectives
on the Presentation
of Japanese Art II

Date
Thursday, December 11, 2025
Time
10:00 – 16:45
Location
Museum De Lakenhal, Auditorium,
Oude Singel 32, Leiden,
The Netherlands



Asian Pavilion, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, 2013

This December, the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and the Heinz Kaempfer Fund (HKF) are proud to present the second in a biennial series of seminars on Japanese Art. *New Perspectives on the Presentation of Japanese Art II* aims to demonstrate that the study of Japanese art is very much alive and part of a global discussion. The immense changes currently taking place in the attitudes and outlooks of scholars, curators, critics, policymakers, and those involved in the art market, reverberate within the study of Japanese art and affect the way in which Japanese art is displayed. The *New Perspectives* series shows that new narratives and challenges abound.

Confirmed speakers

Dr. Rosina Buckland (British Museum) *Staging the Samurai*
Dr. Alexander Hofmann (Asian Art Museum, Humboldt Forum Berlin) *To Facilitate Encounters and Inspire Questions: Arts of Japan at the Asian Art Museum in Berlin*
Dr. Mari Nakamura (Tunghai University, Taiwan) *Zen and Sustainability: MUJI's Approach to Minimalist Living and Design*
Dr. Ilona Bausch (Institute for East Asian Art History, Heidelberg University) *Shells and Shamans: Japanese Archaeology and the Sea*
Menno Fitski, MA (Rijksmuseum Amsterdam) *Rethinking Challenges: Evaluating the Japanese Display at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam*

Programme and Abstracts:

For the programme and abstracts, please see the IIAS-website here: <https://www.iias.asia/events/new-perspectives-presentation-japanese-art-ii>

Registration required

New Perspectives on the Presentation of Japanese Art II will take place on Thursday December 11, 2025 at Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden, The Netherlands. Attendance is free of charge, and all are welcome. As seating is limited, please register on the IIAS website by clicking on the link below: <https://www.iias.asia/events/new-perspectives-presentation-japanese-art-ii>

Registration will close on Monday, Dec 1, 2025, 23:59h Amsterdam Time (CET). Please note that this is an **IN-PERSON** event on location only. It will NOT be streamed or recorded.

Organisation

This seminar is jointly organised by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and the Heinz Kaempfer Fund (HKF)

International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)
IIAS is a global Humanities and Social Sciences institute and a knowledge exchange platform. It promotes critical, humanistic, and collaborative work on, with, in, and beyond Asia. For more information, please see: <https://www.iias.asia>

Heinz M. Kaempfer Fund (HKF)
HKF was founded in 1989 with the aim to promote the study of the Japanese arts through, among other means, the provision of financial support for young scholars. For more information, please see: <https://www.societyforjapaneseart.org/hkf>



River Revitalization in Nairobi



One and a half years after devastating floods wiped out large stretches of riverside settlements along the Ngong River in Mukuru and Kayaba, Nairobi, the newly formed Ngong River Planning Consortium (RCN), together with the River Cities Network (RCN), IIAS, and the Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network (SEANNET), gathered 15 experts in river revitalization from all over the world in Mukuru for an in-situ engagement project from 7-14 September 2025. The objective of the workshop was to help the Consortium foster learning across disciplines and sectors and to provide an opportunity to analyze and critique post-flooding river revitalization designs, while developing a multi-scalar framework for river basin planning.

The work took place at three levels. At the micro level, workshop participants engaged directly with Mukuru residents to integrate community-driven needs and artistic expressions into landscape designs, fostering site-specific and culturally grounded interventions. At the meso level, the focus shifted to neighborhood-scale engagement, where participants collaborated with communities to address future flooding challenges and to propose interventions to enhance the overall quality of the built and natural environment. At the macro level, the partners are contributing to the development of a planning framework for the broader Ngong river basin, synthesizing insights across scales to inform long-term, integrated strategies for riparian management.

The collaboration is part of an ongoing process. The RCN and its partners are committed to support the Ngong River Planning Consortium in creating a participatory and forward-thinking urban planning process for Mukuru and Kayaba by integrating artistic innovation, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. Through collaboration with artists, industries, and residents, the Consortium aims to deliver resilient, inclusive, and culturally vibrant urban spaces that serve as a model for sustainable development in the Ngong River riparian zone – and beyond.



Fig. 1 (left): Workshop participants engage in a transect walk along the Ngong River (Photo courtesy of Paul Rabé, 2025)

Fig. 2 (top right): Youth groups engage in tree planting on the newly vacated riverbank in Mukuru Kwa Reuben (Photo courtesy of Nuru Youth CBO Mukuru, 2025)

Fig. 3 (bottom right): Joint organizers of the in-situ engagement program. From left to right: Paul Rabé, co-coordinator of RCN; Jane Weru, director of Akiba Mashinani Trust; Rita Padawangi, coordinator of the Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network; Joy Mboya, director of the GoDown Art Centre; Satya Patchineelam, co-coordinator of RCN; and Patrick Njoroge, deputy director of Akiba Mashinani Trust. (Photo courtesy of Akiba Mashinani Trust, 2025)