

Chronology

- 1948 Sep. Japan Traffic Culture Association established
Seishu Suzuki appointed Chairman; Fujitaro Taki appointed Senior Managing Director
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- Bust of Fujitaro Taki erected at Creare Atami Yugawara Atelier*
- 1953 Nov. Proposal and enactment of the Traffic Culture Award (presented by the Minister of Transportation) for distinguished persons working in transport and tourism
- 1954 Apr. First Traffic Culture Exhibition held in Tokyo Station, commemorating the establishment of the Traffic Culture Award
- 1958 Nov. Publication of "Collection of Thesis on Traffic" commemorating the association's 10th Anniversary
- 1968 Mar. Educational program for students and families of railway employees established; continues now as the Takifuji Foundation
- 1969 Feb. Photograph Exhibition of 100 Scenes from New Japan Tourism (currently Photograph Exhibition of Japan Tourism) held to celebrate the 100th year since the beginning of the Meiji Era
- 1972 Oct. Stained glass work Tenchi Sozo (The Creation, original drawing by Ichiro Fukuzawa) installed in front of the grand staircase in the underground center corridor of Tokyo Station, commemorating the 100th year of the railway system; first stained glass installation in a public space
- 1975 May. Takashi Yoshimatsu appointed Association Chairman
Dec. The association's founder, Fujitaro Taki, passed away at 72 years of age in an automobile accident
- 1976 Feb. Hisao Taki, son of Fujitaro Taki, appointed Senior Managing Director; devotes his work to the development of the Association
Jun. Educational programs department renamed Takifuji Foundation
- 1977 Feb. Ceramic relief Kyoto Higashiyama Sanjuroppo Shiki (Four Seasons of the Thirty-six Peaks of Higashiyama, original drawing by Hideo Nishiyama) installed above the central concourse entrance of Kyoto Station, commemorating the station's 100th anniversary
- 1979 Dec. Harajuku Fashion Joy Board installed along the tracks at National Railways Harajuku Station; first Harajuku Fashion Joy Board Autumn Culture Festival is held, called Harajuku Monogatari
- 1980 Apr. Takifuji Art Award for art students established
Sep. Creare Shigaraki Atelier opened in Shigaraki, Shiga Prefecture, specializing in ceramic reliefs
- 1981 Jan. Creare Yugawara Atelier (currently Creare Atami Yugawara Atelier) opened in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, specializing in stained glass, mosaics and murals in various media
- 1982 Jul. First publication of magazine "Public Space"
- 1987 Feb. Mokuji Araki appointed Association Chairman
Apr. Commemorative publication "115 Years of National Railways Nostalgia," celebrating seven new JR companies established as a result of privatization
- 1988 Jul. American Train (Hisao Taki, Director) began operation, visiting stations across the country throughout the following year
- 1990 Dec. Supported first International Amateur PAIR GO championship
- 1991 Apr. Takifuji Art Award revised to International Takifuji Art Award, inviting participation from art students abroad
Aug. Tsunenori Katagiri appointed Association Chairman
Dec. Akiyoshi Yamada appointed Association Chairman
- 1993 Jun. Hisao Taki appointed Association Director General
- 1994 Oct. First Railway Day held
Dec. Kazumasa Mawatari appointed Association Chairman
- 1998 Sep. The 50th anniversary of the founding
- 1999 Dec. Association Director General Hisao Taki received the 46th Traffic Culture Award
- 2000 Nov./"Proposal Regarding the Promotion of Public Art" outlined and submitted to Minister of Transportation, Commissioner for Cultural Affairs, Chairman of The Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, presidents of major art universities and institutions
- 2001 Apr. Complete renovation of Creare Atami Yugawara Atelier
May. Director General Hisao Taki wrote "The Feeling to Contribute"
Sep. Takifuji Foundation is upgraded by increasing the amount of scholarship funds
Oct. Railway Personnel Culture Exhibition revised to Traffic Culture Exhibition; exhibition is expanded Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Japan) and The Surrey Institute of Art & Design University College (UK) became new participants in the International Takifuji Art Award, expanding internationalization of the award

Modern Mural Arts Institute

The association operates and 100% finances the Modern Mural Arts Institute (Louis Fransen, Art Director). The Institute owns Creare Atami Yugawara Atelier (Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture) and Shigaraki Atelier (Shigaraki, Shiga Prefecture), which carry out research and production of ceramic relief, stained glass, mosaic and other murals.

* The Institute's trademark "Creare" is the Latin word for "creation."



A scene at the Creare Atami Yugawara Atelier.

Murals & Sculptures



The association has installed over 400 murals and sculptures in public spaces throughout Japan.

JAPAN TRAFFIC CULTURE ASSOCIATION

7F Shin-kokusai Building, 3-4-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Japan 100-0005
Tel. +81-3-3215-0731 / Fax. +81-3-3212-4783

Japan Traffic Culture Association

JAPAN TRAFFIC CULTURE ASSOCIATION

財団法人 日本交通文化協会

Peace and Prosperity through the Promotion of Art and Culture



Japan Traffic Culture Association

Hisao Taki
Director General

The world is facing an historic turning point. People of various beliefs and values hope to build a better society. We believe that the promotion of art and culture is essential to realize the ideal of world peace.

With that ideal in mind, Japan Traffic Culture Association (JTCA) actively engages in promoting art and culture. When we began, our activities focused primarily on traffic-related media, but have since expanded to include many other fields.

The association was founded by Fujitaro Taki in 1948. The initial objective at the time was to contribute to the improvement of traffic culture as Japan strove to rebuild and develop its railway system in efforts to recover from the war. That idea lives on after more than half a century.

We held our first traffic-related culture exhibition in 1954, and have continued to hold exhibitions annually each autumn in Tokyo. Painting, photography, calligraphy and other media are exhibited for the pleasure of the public. The association has also installed more than 400 murals, sculptures, and other works of art in railway stations and public spaces.

Our educational programs have gained attention both within Japan and abroad. The Takifuji Foundation (established in 1968) and the International Takifuji Art Award (established in 1980) offer scholarships to talented young people.

We hope to persevere in our ideals, and consider it our mission to pass on the fruits of our endeavors to the next generation. Your understanding and kind support are deeply appreciated.

Objectives

- ① The promotion of art and culture is essential to overcome the crises the world now faces.
- ② The association is determined to persevere and expand the scope of its activities.
- ③ Our traffic-related culture exhibitions, educational programs and public art activities gain the attention of a wide public.
- ④ We aim to advance the field of public art as part of the continuing development of art and culture.

Our Main Activities

Traffic Culture Exhibition

Every autumn an exhibition of photography, haiku and calligraphy done by a wide range of participants is held in the Marunouchi side hall of Tokyo Station for the benefit of railway users and interested citizens. Works judged the best are awarded the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Award, the Minister of the Environment Award, the President of the Japan Railway Company Award, the Chairman of the Japan Tourist Association Award, and the Chairman of Japan Traffic Culture Association Award, as well as prize money.

This culture exhibition was begun in 1954 as a venue to celebrate the Traffic Culture Award. The objective was to introduce citizens to the fruits of cultural activities performed by people in traffic-related work. However, in time the exhibition expanded, inviting a wider range of participants. Throughout all its changes in name or content, the exhibition has continued to be held every year without fail, to this day.

Concurrent with the culture exhibition, another exhibition called Sakuryokai is held, where paintings and calligraphy of prominent contemporary artists are exhibited to the public. This exhibition has gained much attention all over Japan for its rareness in exhibiting works of such a variety of artists of different schools.



People enthralled by a piece of work

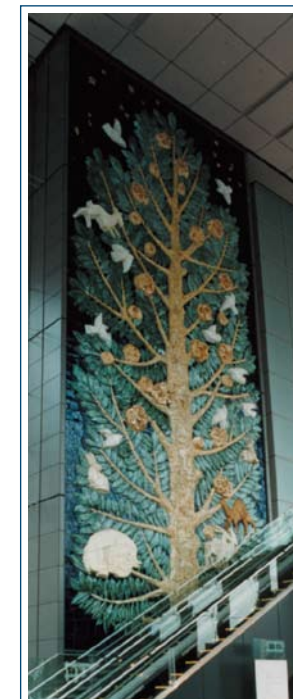


At the Exhibition (inside Tokyo Station)

Murals & Sculptures

To improve the use of public space, we promote the installation of murals (stained glass, ceramic relief, and other media) and sculptures in railway stations and other public places. Since starting this course in 1953, we have installed over 400 works of art in a wide range of locations throughout Japan including railway stations, schools, hospitals, public offices, and corporations. These works of renowned artists provide joy and enrichment to the people.

The first work was a sculpture by Katsuzo Entsuba called Sanshimai (Three Sisters) installed in the central hallway of Tokyo Station. This outstanding piece was so popular that it became a famous meeting place. Other major works are the stained glass piece Tenchi Sozo (The Creation) from an original drawing by Ichiro Fukuzawa, also in Tokyo Station; the ceramic relief Higashiyama Sanjuroppo Shiki (Four Seasons of the Thirty-Six Peaks of Higashiyama) from an original drawing by Hideo Nishiyama, in Kyoto Station; the ceramic relief Kofuku no Ki (Tree of Happiness) from an original drawing by Ikuo Hirayama, at The East Japan Railway Company Head Office; and Cerulean ni Somaru Ai (Love in the Color of Cerulean) from an original drawing by Koji Kinutani, in Tokyu Cerulean Tower.



Tree of Happiness



Three Sisters



Love in the Color of Cerulean

Educational Programs

International Takifuji Art Award

The Takifuji Art Award began in 1980 as a scholarship program with the objective of nurturing young artists and promoting art in public space. In 1991 it was decided that participants from around the world would be eligible to participate, so the name of the award was changed to the International Takifuji Art Award.

Selected students from participating art schools both in Japan and abroad are awarded scholarships in the amount of 300 thousand yen for one year. Currently ten schools in Japan and a total of five schools in Asia, North America and Europe are participating in the program. We hope to further internationalize the program to include more schools from abroad.



After the International Takifuji Art Award ceremony

Takifuji Foundation

The Eisai Educational Foundation was established in 1968 as an aid program to foster potential in the younger generation, and was renamed Takifuji Foundation in 1976 in honor of one of the founders Fujitaro Taki. It is available to people working in transportation or traffic-related businesses (including tourism) and their family members currently attending university or another form of higher education. Each year 20 to 50 participants are carefully selected. Outstanding university students who are paying tuition may receive financial assistance or full scholarships.



A poster soliciting participants to the Takifuji Foundation

Public Art Activities

There is an increasing importance for cultural utilization of public space. Such use undoubtedly heightens people's awareness of art and culture. The Ministry of Transportation (current Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) has twice pointed out the importance of public art.

The association has long acknowledged such importance and carried out many related activities. One such activity was the establishment of a special committee composed of famous Japanese artists such as Ikuo Hirayama which held debates and outlined a "Proposal Regarding the Promotion of Public Art." The proposal was presented to the Minister of Transportation, Commissioner for Cultural Affairs, Chairman of The Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, presidents of major art universities and colleges, and important people within various fields. With that proposal as a foundation, the association shall continue to carry out activities for the promotion of public art.



Submitting a proposal to Minister of Transport Morita



The First Special Committee Meeting