



Celebration-Flying Dragon Dharma-Gate of Non-Duality 2013 Mixed media work

Melody of the Firmament

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Message

Koji Kinutani, Honorary Director



Koji Kinutani in front of a work by his elder son, Kota Kinutani, at the venue for the exhibition "Genealogy of Kinutani – artist," after his receipt of the Order of Culture medal on November 10, 2021.

I was greatly touched by the unexpected honor of receiving the Order of Culture. I owe its conferral to your ongoing support, guidance, and encouragement, for which I am deeply grateful.

On the day that the Order was conferred, I was given the opportunity to visit the Imperial Palace and receive the medal directly from His Majesty the Emperor. Looking into his clear eyes, I told myself that I must to further devote myself and attend diligently to the field of painting.

The path I follow as an artist is long, arduous and yet enjoyable, but my journey is still only halfway complete, and I am determined to carry on without hesitating for even a moment.

Your ongoing guidance would be greatly appreciated.



Mr. Koji Kinutani, Honorary Director, delivering his speech at the opening ceremony of the Special Exhibition marking the conferral of the Order of Culture and the Museum's 5th Anniversary



A commemorative photo session with Mr. Yosuke Horiuchi, Museum Director, surrounded by press corps at the opening ceremony of the Special Exhibition

The First Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum Children's Picture Competition

Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum held the First Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum Children's Picture Competition to put in place a mainstay of the museum, for children all over Japan to experience the joy and fun of creation. Entry was open nationwide under the theme of "People, nature and town that is important for you". Entries numbered 3,009 in total.

Focusing on the message from each child, the Koji Kinutani Children's Grand Prize, Excellence Prize in each section, Museum Director Prize, Honorable Mention Prizes and Winning Prizes were finally decided on Thursday April 7, 2022 after rigorous screening that took three days (Mr. Koji Kinutani as the Chief Judge).

■ Koji Kinutani Children's Grand Prize :

Katsuaki Masui

(Fourth grade elementary school, Yamaguchi)

Title : "Nature Friendly Wind Power Generation"

■ Koji Kinutani Children's Excellence Prize,

Elementary School Lower Grades Section :

Sosei Ikeda

(First grade elementary school, Hiroshima)

Title : "Mother Reading a Book with My Brother"

■ Koji Kinutani Children's Excellence Prize,

Elementary School Upper Grades Section :

Chihiro Okura

(Fifth grade elementary school, Shizuoka)

Title : "Mother, Birds and Smile"

■ Koji Kinutani Children's Excellence Prize, Junior High School Section : Mizuki Endo (Third-year junior high school, Tokyo)

Title : "On the Way Home"

■ Koji Kinutani Children's Museum Director Prize : Hikari Ito (Sixth grade elementary school, Aichi)

Title : "Valuables"

In addition, 22 Koji Kinutani Children's Honorable Mention Prizes and 13 Koji Kinutani Children's Winning Prizes were selected. Congratulations for all the winners. The above-mentioned 40 prize winning pictures are on display at Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum from April 29 (Fri, holiday) to June 27 (Mon). We invite you to come and enjoy these works that are full of passion.



Group photo at the prize-giving ceremony held on April 29 (Fri, holiday). Center left is Mr. Koji Kinutani, Honorary Director, center right is Mr. Yosuke Horiuchi, Museum Director.

Judge's comments

Chief Judge Mr. Koji Kinutani (Order of Culture awarded in 2021, member of the Japan Art Academy)

Thank you very much for entering the First Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum Children's Picture Competition. 3,009 excellent works were entered from Japan and overseas. All the judges were amazed and moved by the works reflecting your passionate hearts like a mirror. The judges faced the screening as if they were the ones that were being judged.

"Nature Friendly Wind Power Generation", the honorable First Koji Kinutani Children's Grand Prize winner by Katsuaki Masui (Upper Grades of elementary school, Yamaguchi) is an explicit work depicting a wind power generation scene reaching straight up to the blue sky. The painter's passion for the earth and people is wonderfully expressed in it which is nature friendly and powerful, supporting the lives of people. It is a masterpiece which is fully deserving of the Grand Prize.

"Mother Reading a Book with My Brother", Excellence Prize in Elementary School Lower Grades Section winner by Sosei Ikeda from Hiroshima shows an everyday scene where the painter's brother sits close to his mother who is reading a book to him. It is a heartwarming work and we can feel the gaze filled with love.

"Mother, Birds and Smile", Excellence Prize in Elementary School Upper Grades Section winner by Chihiro Okura from Shizuoka is a self-portrait full of smiles, surrounded by beautiful flowers and animals together with her mother. It reminds us of the importance of peace, safety and security in our everyday lives.

"On the Way Home", Excellence Prize in Junior High School Section winner by Mizuki Endo from Tokyo shows an innovative theme of the town at dusk and the artist's father driving viewed from the rear seat with the happy time filled with trust expressed in monochrome tone. It has an outstanding appealing power among the entries, many in primary colors.

Beside these, many of the Honorable Mention Prizes and Winning Prizes included great works, which were just as good. I would like to give applause to the limitless future of children, and their potential from the bottom of my heart. Congratulations, everyone.

Last, but not least, I would like to conclude my comments by saying that there were also a lot of excellent works among those that were unfortunately not selected in this year's competition.



Commemorative photo with Katsuaki Masui, winner of the First Koji Kinutani Children's Grand Prize

Pictures of the winners and their comments



Koji Kinutani Children's Grand Prize "Nature Friendly Wind Power Generation"

Katsuaki Masui (Fourth grade elementary school, Yamaguchi)

I saw a lot of windmills far away when I went to Grandpa's house. I was curious, and I went there with my mother. When I took a closer look, they were bigger and more spectacular than I thought, and I was surprised. I wanted more people to know about them. That's why I painted the picture.

Koji Kinutani Children's Excellence Prize (Elementary School Lower Grades Section) "Mother Reading a Book with My Brother"

Sosei Ikeda (First grade elementary school, Hiroshima)

This is the first time I painted my mother. She is reading a fish picture book to my brother. It's his favorite. I did my best to paint them as I was watching them. At the bottom of the picture, I put in the picture I was painting, and my hand. I got the idea from an illusion book which I borrowed from the library. It was fun painting a room full of my favorite things.



Koji Kinutani Children's Excellence Prize (Elementary School Upper Grades Section)

"Mother, Birds and Smile"

Chihiro Okura

(Fifth grade elementary school, Shizuoka)

I painted the flowers in detail by carefully observing various flowers to express the difference between them. I pondered over how I could show the warmth when I painted the facial expressions and the tips of the bird feathers. It was difficult to paint while overlaying the colors. It was hard work. It was fun to come up with my own colors through mixing various colors. I was tense and my hand was shaking when I was painting the detailed parts. I made efforts so that my mother, birds, and flowers, everything I love, would all look as if they were having fun in my painting.



Koji Kinutani Children's Excellence Prize (Junior High School Section)

"On the Way Home"

Mizuki Endo

(Third-year junior high school, Tokyo)

I focused on the idea of "cherished" in this work. I was thinking of how viewers could sense the cherished moments in my work. I realized that the good atmosphere of the scene is more important than the art technique. I made it in the image of a sleepy night on the way home from a trip. I drew it with my cherished colored pencils. I was sure the viewers would notice some kind of cherished feeling.



Koji Kinutani Children's Museum Director Prize

"Valuables"

Hikari Ito

(Sixth grade elementary school, Aichi)

Humans live together with diverse forms of life created by the sun, air, water and soil. I painted this with the wish that children of a great many countries can become friends in this happy world.

Selection report

Judge Mamoru Nanjo (Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum Advisor/Curator)

The First Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum Children's Picture Competition exhibits 40 works selected from over 3,000 entries. It is a dream stage to experience the unlimited potential of children of coming generations, a real sight to see.

Congratulations to the winners from the bottom of my heart.

The selection process was rigorous. As for sections, there were 13 winners among 1,226 entries for the Elementary School Lower Grades Section, 14 winners among 788 entries for the Elementary School Upper Grades Section, and 13 winners among 995 entries in the Junior High School Section. Only 40 works were selected from the total 3,009 entries. The selection process took place over three days, focusing on the message from each and every child, with over 10 examinations.

All the winning pictures were masterpieces. Needless to say, the higher-ranking prize winners, also the Honorable Mention and Winning Prize winners were full of rich images and colors, bringing us the joy and fun of creation to deliver dreams and hope for tomorrow in these difficult times.

It is our sincere wish that all the entrants will develop an interest and curiosity in a great many things in their future, try painting various themes, and demonstrate their individuality to their full potential.

Selection results

Number of entries 3,009

First screening (April 1, 2022)

First screening passed 1,495

Second screening (April 4, 2022)

Second screening passed 937

Third screening (April 7, 2022)

Third screening passed 330

Fourth screening (April 7, 2022)

Fourth screening passed 40

Winners

Koji Kinutani Children's Prizes

(Breakdown)

Elementary School Lower Grades Section 1,226 / Elementary School Upper Grades Section 788
Junior High School Section 995

(Breakdown)

Elementary School Lower Grades Section 591 / Elementary School Upper Grades Section 409
Junior High School Section 495

(Breakdown)

Elementary School Lower Grades Section 386 / Elementary School Upper Grades Section 265
Junior High School Section 286

(Breakdown)

Elementary School Lower Grades Section 112 / Elementary School Upper Grades Section 111
Junior High School Section 107

(Breakdown)

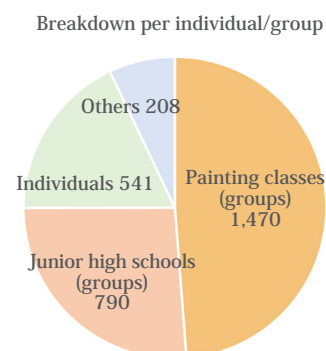
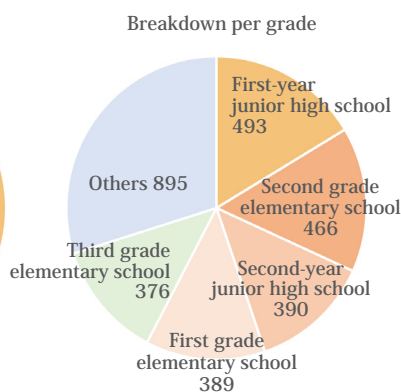
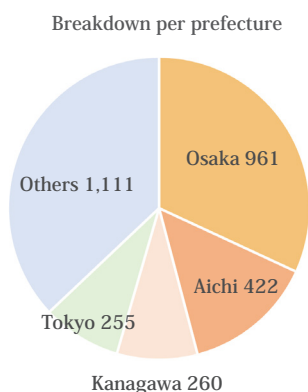
Elementary School Lower Grades section 13 / Elementary School Upper Grades Section 14
Junior High School Section 13

Grand Prize	1
Excellence Prize, Elementary School Lower Grades Section	1
Excellence Prize, Elementary School Upper Grades Section	1
Excellence Prize, Junior High School Section	1
Museum Director Prize	1
Honorable Mention Prize	22
Winning Prize	13

<Chief judge> Koji Kinutani <Judge> Mamoru Nanjo <Special judges> Yosuke Horiuchi (Museum Director), Hiroataka Sakamoto, Akio Takahashi, Risa Manda

Outline of the entries

The entry deadline for this picture competition was March 31, 2022. A large number of works were entered from all over Japan, totaling 3,009. First, the entry breakdown per prefecture shows Osaka prefecture ranked top with 961 entries, followed by Aichi prefecture with 422, Kanagawa prefecture with 260, Tokyo with 255, Kyoto prefecture with 122, and finally Hyogo prefecture with 120. Notably, many came from metropolitan areas.



Next, the breakdown per grade shows the largest entry came from junior high school first-year students, totaling 493, followed by elementary school second graders 466, junior high school second-year students 390, elementary school first graders 389, and elementary school third graders 376. Notably a large number of entries came from junior high school students and elementary school lower grade students.

As for individual and group entries, group entries made up 2,473, accounting for approx. 82% of the total entries. Its breakdown shows private painting classes/schools ranked highest with 1,470, followed by junior high schools with 790. The remainder were entries from elementary schools at 192.

Concluding the competition

We have held our first Children's Picture Competition, and we were very anxious at first. From the stage of preparing application requirements, receiving entries, screenings, and up to the preparation for award ceremony, everything was the first time for us, which we did by trial and error. Above all, we were anxious whether the number of entries would meet expectations.

Once the entry began, we received over 3,000 entries, far exceeding the expected number, which made us very happy. All staff exerted themselves after the entry deadline in order to complete the entry reception process before the screening began. I could feel the children's works energizing us. Some pictures powerfully painted futuristic images. Others straightforwardly depicted what they liked. There were also those that recalled happy memories in beautiful color tones. All the pictures reminded us of a cherished something we might have forgotten, and gave us courage to go on in these days so often full of bad news.

We would like to prepare for another competition next fiscal year, inspired by the energy filled with dreams and hopes from the children.

Akio Takahashi, Curator / Educator of Koji Kinutani Tenku Art Museum