

December 27, 2024

## Keio Plaza Hotel Hosts Japanese Sword, Military Armor Exhibition - “Soul and Beauty of Samurai Sword Culture”

This exhibition is complimentary and will be held from December 27 (Friday), 2024 until January 28 (Tuesday), 2025

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TOKYO - [Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo](#) (KPH), one of Japan’s most prestigious international hotels located in Shinjuku, Tokyo, will host another special cultural exhibition entitled “Soul and Beauty of Samurai Sword Culture” from December 27 (Friday), 2024 to January 28 (Tuesday), 2025. Approximately 30 Japanese swords and other military items created by legendary master weapons craftsmen will be on display at various locations throughout our hotel to give visitors glimpses of the aesthetic beauty of Japanese military armor. This exhibition is held in cooperation with “The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Sword Culture” (NBSK, <https://nbsk-jp.org/english/>, Kita Ward, Tokyo, Chairman Shunji Murai) and will provide visitors with various information about the 680 year history of Japanese samurai swords and military items, including the samurai culture’s contributions to the Japanese sense of aesthetic beauty. Japanese swords are growing in popularity around the world not only because of their aesthetic beauty and cultural relevance, but also for the extremely durable and lightweight nature of their highly unique forged steel composition, which is made by using the highest quality forged steel manufacturing techniques in the world.

Also as part of this exhibition, a special event will be held from January 11, 2025 demonstrating “Taijutsu”, a symbolic sword handling demonstration reflecting the Japanese tradition of ringing in the New Year with events designed to ward off bad luck for the coming New Year.

Currently about 80% to 90% of Keio Plaza Hotel guests are visitors from overseas, and we have created a wide ranging program of exhibitions that display and various aspects of Japanese culture and appeal to both overseas and Japanese visitors.

<https://www.keioplaza.com/offers/katana.html>

## ■ “Soul and Beauty of Japanese Samurai Sword Culture” Exhibition Overview

### “Soul and Beauty of Japanese Samurai Sword Culture”

- Exhibition Date: December 27 (Friday), 2024 to January 28 (Tuesday), 2025
- Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel, 3rd Floor Lobby area of our Main Building
- Access: Keio Plaza Hotel is located a 2 minute walk from the Tokyo Tocho Mae Station on the Toei Oedo Line Subway Line and a 5 minute walk from Shinjuku Station.
- Admission Fee: Complimentary
- Contact Information: +81-3-5322-8061, Lobby Gallery Direct Line

#### **Exhibit ① Venue: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby of the Main Tower:**

A collaborative exhibition displaying numerous famous swords and a flower arrangement made by the renowned flower artist Tenkei Nomura to help ring in the New Year by warding off bad luck.

#### **Exhibit ② Venue: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Art Lobby of the Main Tower:**

##### **•680 Year History of Japanese Swords from the Northern and Southern Courts Period (Nanboku-Cho Period, 1336 to 1573) to Today**

Japanese swords of various manufacturing methods and created to match various fighting styles of the Samurai warriors who used them from the Nanboku-Cho Period to today will be displayed.

##### **• Comprehensive Art of Swords Born from the Four Seasons and Character of Japan**

The embroidered handles, sword guards, and other parts of swords made by using engraving, lacquer, inlaying, woodworking and other highly specialized techniques will be on display. ※ Some of the items on display will be available for purchase.



##### **• The Art and Beauty of Swords Reflected in “Oshikata” Paper Carbon Copy of Swords**

“Oshikata”, which is the art of making carbon copies of the contours and scriptures of Japanese swords onto paper as a unique Japanese artform to reflect the beauty and love of Japanese swords, will also be displayed.

#### **Exhibit ③ Venue: Corridor area in front of Our Main Bar “Brillant” on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the South Tower**

An exhibition of Japanese “Ukiyoe” woodblock prints depicting swords will be on display in the corridor area in front of our Main Bar “Brillant”.

#### **◇ Exhibit Examples**

(1) Artist: Kozaemon Gyohei Miyairi

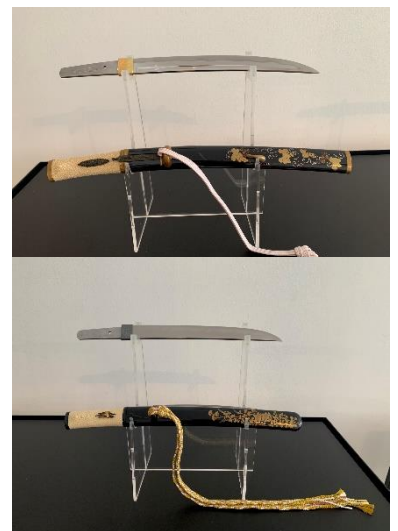
Type of Art: “Wakizashi” – Smaller sword of the two swords that are traditionally carried by Samurai on their waists.

Year Produced: 2024

Size: 30.7cm in length, 0.6cm in curvature

(2) Artist: Yoshimitsu Ohno

Type of Art: “Tantou” – Daggers



Year Produced: 2021

Size: 27.5cm in length, 0.2cm in curvature

The Japanese swords being made available for sale to the general public include conventional swords, long swords, short swords, and daggers, and range in price from about JPY2 million to JPY7 million.

Exhibit Venue: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Art Lobby of the Main Tower:

Exhibit Details: Conventional swords, long sword, short swords, and daggers

Price range: JPY2 million to JPY7 million

#### <Notes regarding purchases of swords>

All visitors are welcome to purchase swords and other items for sale at the exhibition, but please be reminded that some countries ban the import of swords into their country.

Exhibition staff will explain other details regarding the purchase of products at the time of their purchase.

## ■ Special Event Overview

From January 2025, the Keio Plaza Hotel will conduct a live Japanese sword performance called “Iaijutsu” as a symbolic ritual to ward off negative events in the New Year. This performance will show visitors traditional movements using Japanese swords. Japanese swordsmiths’ manufacture of swords was sublimated to become a nouveau artform along with the abolition of the use and carrying of Samurai swords from the Meiji Period (1868 to 1912). And we invite everyone to come visit the “Soul and Beauty of Japanese Swords and Military Armor Exhibition” to see and experience the historical romance of this traditional Japanese craft, artform and culture.

### Special Event ① Live “Iaijutsu” Sword Performance

Sword Technique: Yanagi Shinshoji Ryu

Venue: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby of the Main Tower

Date: January 11 (Saturday), 2025, 2 performances, 1<sup>st</sup> performance from 15:00PM and 2<sup>nd</sup> performance from 17:00PM

Fee: Complimentary



### Special Event ② Sword Sharpening Demonstration

Venue: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lobby of the Main Tower

Dates: January 5 (Sun), 11 (Sat), 18 (Sat), 25 (Sat)

Times: From 10:00AM to 16:00PM

Fee: Complimentary

## ■ Keio Plaza Hotel Japanese Cultural Events Program

The Keio Plaza Hotel provides luxurious and comforting accommodations to visitors from over 100 different countries, who currently account for 80% to 90% of our guests. While our Cultural Events Program was curtailed due to the spread of the coronavirus, we have expanded this Program along with the recovery in inbound tourists visiting Japan and staying at our hotel to the pre-pandemic levels (79.5% in 2019) to an even higher 88.3% of all guests in the first half of 2024.

Our Hotel was opened in 1971 in the tallest building in Japan at the time and became the most representative hotel in Japan. Since our opening, we have endeavored to promote a broader understanding of Japan's culture through our program of a wide range of Japanese cultural events, including exhibitions of Japanese Noh theatre, traditional crafts, and various other aspects of Japanese culture. The upcoming event highlights the aesthetic beauty and historic relevance of Japanese swords and related military armor used by Japanese Samurais.

Press release about our exhibition Japanese Noh Theatre held in 2023:

<https://www.keioplaza.com/press/pdf/20230908.pdf?20231010>

The Society for The Promotion of Japanese Sword Culture explains that the previous Sword Exhibition held at our Hotel was a great success due to the large number of inbound overseas visitors staying at our Hotel who have a keen interest in Japanese culture, and also because of the convenient location of our Hotel. Furthermore, various swords will be available for purchase in the upcoming exhibition due to the strong interest of inbound visitors to own Japanese swords.

### ■ About The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Sword Culture

The goal of The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Sword Culture is to promote an understanding and interest for Japanese swords. The Society creates opportunities to experience Japanese swords and their tradition at exhibitions of various Japanese swords and sword making techniques.

The Society also hosts workshops of various swordsmiths to demonstrate the traditional sword making techniques to the public. Another important role of The Society is to issue "Certificates of Authenticity" for modern Japanese swords, and it will continue to pass on the Japanese sword culture to people not only in Japan but also from around the world.

The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Sword Culture website: <https://nbsk-jp.org/english/>



### ■ Keio Plaza Hotel Information

#### 【Hotel Information】

Company name: Keio Plaza Hotel Co., Ltd.

Address: 2-2-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo, Japan

President: Katsuyoshi Wakabayashi

Keio Plaza Hotel Opening: June 5, 1971

Business overview: International hotel and tourism, and related businesses

Corporate website: <https://www.keioplaza.com/>



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