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Rufus Lin Gallery



New Art Museum in Richmond Features Japanese Artists

Richmond, BC - A new art museum has opened in downtown Richmond. The Rufus Lin Gallery of Japanese Art is tucked away on the top floor of a modern office building, and uses its spacious 2,250 sq ft layout to exhibit the work of contemporary artists from Japan, as well as selected paintings from its permanent collection of paintings by Canadian artist, musician and novelist, Rufus Lin. At this time, 12 artists have agreed to loan paintings to the gallery, and the number of artists is increasing every week.



"This is a rare opportunity to view the work of currently active Japanese painters, many of whom are completely unknown outside of Japan," says Ruiko Nagai, manager of the Rufus Lin Gallery of Japanese Art. "We are hoping that our proximity to the airport will allow us to make this wide range of talent known, not just to the local public, but also art lovers who happen to be coming to Vancouver for one reason or another."

Unlike commercial art galleries, which are little more than retail stores selling art, the Rufus Lin Gallery of Japanese Art is a philanthropic venture, established for the purpose of promoting a greater appreciation of paintings based on Japanese themes, motifs and culture. All paintings are selected by a jury, in accordance with stringent criteria, but each work of art is judged on its own aesthetic merits, not on the background and experience of the artist. This means that there are some surprisingly fine pieces by amateurs mixed in among the work of professionals.

The gallery was established in December 2009 by Rufus Lin who lives in Richmond BC. As an entrepreneur with businesses in Canada and Japan, his ties with Japan date back to the year 2000, when he founded what is today the largest English-Japanese patent translation firm in the world, Kakkazan Innovations Inc. He is also the president of Rufus Lin Designs, a company that imports Swiss and German watches into North America and Japan. In recent years, he has become less involved in his business ventures, and has found time to pursue his artistic projects. In addition to his novel about the immigrant experience, "Trout Rising Again" (see amazon.com), and his Art Letters project (acrylic art miniatures on beech wood panels, see www.rufuslinstudio.com), he can often be found playing the piano or singing at one of several small jazz bars in Tokyo.

Although the gallery is already open for visits by the general public, the official opening of the gallery is planned for mid-March.

The web site of the Rufus Lin Gallery of Japanese Art is at <http://www.rufuslingallery.com>

Interviews are available with Ruiko Nagai, manager of the Rufus Lin Gallery of Japanese Art.

Additional information and photographs are available by contacting Nae Watajima at info@rufuslingallery.com

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