

Press Release
December 2025

SPRING RISING

December 13, 2025 – May 31, 2026
Pola Museum of Art, Hakone, Japan

The Museum's First Exhibition Focused on Hakone.

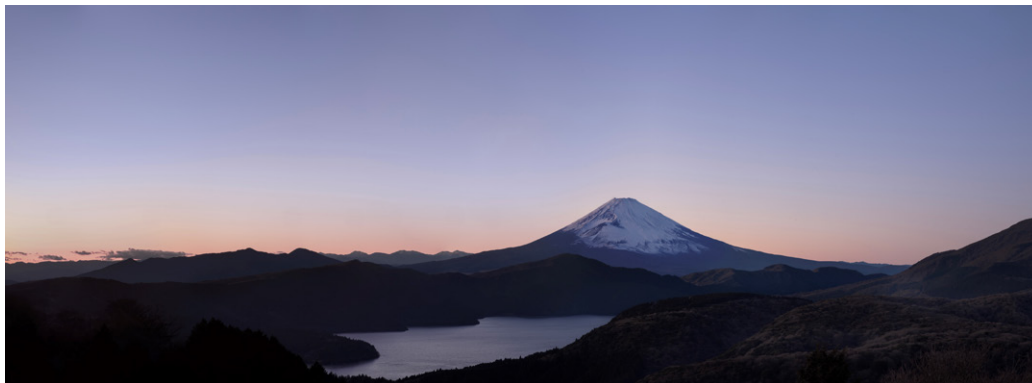
Spring is the time when life is reborn. Today, an era in which technology has overwhelmed society, people are beginning to reexamine and growing increasingly sensitive to natural wonders in their midst, memories of the earth beneath their feet, and the elemental human force. This exhibition focuses on paintings, sculptures, crafts, and installations, which illuminate the tremendous power of art, contain a pulse that sprouts up from people or the depths of the earth, and stir the senses and our very being.



Utagawa Hiroshige, *Hakone: Night Procession in the Mountains*, no.11 from the series "Famous Sights of the Fifty-three Stations," 1855, Hakone Museum of History and Folklore

Beginning with the major ukiyo-e collection held by the Hakone Museum of History and Folklore and with paintings designated as Important Cultural Properties by the town of Hakone, this exhibition presents works inspired by the landscapes of Hakone and other places along the Tokaido route linking Edo (present-day Tokyo) and Kyoto, from the Edo period (1603–1868) to today. It explores, in depth, what has drawn travelers to Hakone and sparked the imaginations of artists across the centuries.

Presenting Installations and New Works by Contemporary Artists



Sugimoto Hiroshi, *Mt. Fuji, Daikanzan*, 2024 ©Hiroshi Sugimoto/Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi

The exhibition features art that explores the depths of the earth, the forces of nature, and the myriad forms of life connected to them, with the works shaped through dialogue with these elements. It includes a large installation by Ohmaki Shinji that resonates with Hakone's natural environment, as well as new work by the internationally active contemporary artist Sugimoto Hiroshi and the ceramic artist Ogawa Machiko. Through approximately 120 pieces, including paintings, sculptures, crafts, and installations, the exhibition presents a diverse array of approaches and creative practices.

The masterpieces of the Pola Museum of Art

This exhibition also focuses on the Pola Museum of Art's painting collection, examining how painters pushed their work in new directions during Europe's long period of upheaval and renewal from the late 19th century to the present. Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, and Paul Gauguin responded to the shifting qualities of light and color, expressing in their paintings both the transience of passing moments and a yearning for permanence. The museum's remarkable group of paintings by Henri Rousseau is among the exhibition's highlights.



Top : Nawa Kohei, *PixCell-Deer#72 (Aurora)*, 2022
Private Collection ©Kohei Nawa, Photo by Nobutada OMOTE, Courtesy of SCAI THE BATHHOUSE
Bottom : Henri Rousseau, *Eve in the Garden of Eden*, ca. 1906-1910, Pola Museum of Art

General Information

SPRING RISING

Dates | December 13, 2025 – May 31, 2026 Open Daily

Venue | Pola Museum of Art, Hakone, Japan

Organiser | Pola Museum of Art, Pola Art Foundation

Supported by | Hakone Town, Hakone Town Board of Education

Curator | Imai Keiko (Chief Curator, Pola Museum of Art),
Uchiro Hiroyuki (Senior Curator, Pola Museum of Art)

Press Contacts

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E-mail : info@polamuseum.or.jp

Official Website <https://www.polamuseum.or.jp/en/>

Social Media Channels <https://www.instagram.com/polamuseumofart/>

About the Pola Museum of Art

A Symbiosis between Art and Nature

Nestled deep within the lush forests of Hakone, Kanagawa Prefecture, the Pola Museum of Art opened its doors in 2002 with a mission to realize a symbiosis between art and nature. Embracing the rich natural beauty of its surroundings, the museum was meticulously designed to minimize its environmental impact. With its aboveground structure restricted to just eight meters in height, the majority of the building lies below the forest floor—seamlessly integrated into the landscape.

The core of the museum's collection is the legacy of the late Tsuneshi Suzuki, the second-generation head of the founding family of the Pola group, who assembled an extraordinary range of works over four decades. Today, the museum houses an expansive and diverse collection that spans Western paintings, yōga (Western-style Japanese paintings), Nihonga (Japanese-style paintings), prints, East Asian ceramics, glass-works, and historical cosmetic utensils from every age and region.

In recent years, the museum has expanded its focus to encompass works by leading figures in contemporary art, thereby extending its perspective toward the diverse and evolving expressions of our time. With its exceptional collection, verdant surroundings, and radiant architecture, the museum exemplifies the ideal of symbiosis.



Opening Hours:

9:00 – 17:00 (Last admission 16:30) | Open daily

Admission:

Adults | ¥2,200

University / High school students | ¥1,700

Junior high school students and younger | Free

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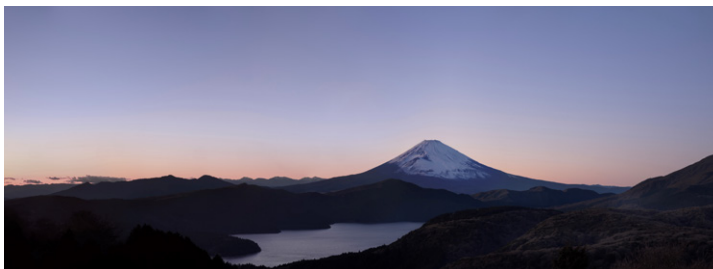
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- In no case may use be made of the images outside the period of the exhibition.
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Utagawa Hiroshige, *Hakone: Night Procession in the Mountains*, no.11 from the series "Famous Sights of the Fifty-three Stations," 1855, Hakone Museum of History and Folklore



Utagawa Toyokuni III, *Hakone: Hatsu-hana* from the series "Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido," 1852, Hakone Museum of History and Folklore



Sugimoto Hiroshi, *Mt. Fuji, Daikanzan*, 2024
©Hiroshi Sugimoto/Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi



Nawa Kohei, *PixCell-Deer#72 (Aurora)*, 2022
Private Collection ©Kohei Nawa, Photo by Nobutada OMOTE, Courtesy of SCAI THE BATHHOUSE



Henri Rousseau, *Eve in the Garden of Eden*, ca. 1906-1910,
Pola Museum of Art



Pola Museum of Art