

The National Art Center, Tokyo to host January 2026 talk events in London and Paris with Curator specialized in curating manga exhibitions in Japan and abroad



The National Art Center, Tokyo (NACT) opened in 2007 with the mission of contributing to the creation of a new culture that advances mutual understanding and inclusion through the power of art. Since then, we have constantly worked to become an art center that enables people from various regions and countries to experience a wide range of artistic expression, acquire knowledge, and encounter diverse values. The NACT presents new forms of creative expression across a wide range of fields, focusing on contemporary art as well as design, fashion, architecture, manga, and anime as it continues to promote the arts of our time. In 2023, it became Japan's first national art museum to establish the International Projects section within its Curatorial Department. In 2025, based on a Memorandum of Understanding for international collaboration with M+, one of Asia's leading contemporary art museums located in Hong Kong, the Center co-curated and co-organized *Prism of the Real: Making Art in Japan 1989–2010*. By building international networks and partnerships through such joint efforts, the National Art Center, Tokyo is committed to sharing Japanese contemporary art with audiences around the world.

In January 2026, ahead of the opening in October 2026 of *Shojo Manga Infinity: Moto Hagio, Ryoko Yamagishi, and Waki Yamato*, the National Art Center, Tokyo will hold talk events in London and Paris featuring Rei Yoshimura, a curator at the NACT. Yoshimura is one of the few researchers in Japan who specialize in manga and has been involved in numerous manga exhibitions in Japan and abroad. The talks will take place in Paris and London, where *MANGA ⇄ TOKYO* (La Villette, 2018) and *Manga* (the British Museum, 2019), exhibitions that Yoshimura was involved in preparing, were previously held. In conversation with local specialists, Yoshimura will discuss the great diversity of shojo (girls') manga, her field of research; the behind-the-scenes process of producing manga exhibitions; and the work of curators who specialize in manga.

Speaker



Rei Yoshimura

Curator

The National Art Center, Tokyo

Rei Yoshimura is a specialist in Manga Studies. After serving as a curator in the Manga Division at the Kawasaki City Museum from 2014 to 2017, she joined the National Art Center, Tokyo as a visiting researcher in 2017, and has held a curator position there since 2021. At the Kawasaki City Museum, she curated and co-curated several notable exhibitions, including *Speed Tarō and His Era: Focusing on the Sakō Shishido Collection* (2015), *Hisashi Eguchi: King of Pop* (2015), and *Exhibition: Drawing Manga! –Lines, Panels, Kyara* (2016).

At the National Art Center, Tokyo, she contributed to international projects such as *Manga⇄Tokyo* (2018, La Villette, Paris), commemorating the 160th anniversary of Japan-France diplomatic relations, and the Manga exhibition at the British Museum (2019). Following these, she contributed to the organization of the Tokyo homecoming exhibition *Manga City Tokyo: Japanese Manga, Anime, Games, and Tokusatsu 2020* (2020), which was based on the Paris show.

In recent years, her curatorial work has expanded beyond manga to include a wide range of exhibitions, such as *Hideaki Anno Exhibition* (2021), *Spinning Crocodiles, Tamura Satoru* (2022), *NACT View 02: Nohara Tsukiji – Nezumikke* (2023), and *Clamp Exhibition* (2024).

Lecture

Bringing manga to the museum

Talk by curator Rei Yoshimura

Tuesday 20 January 2026, 18:30-19:30

The Hall, Lower Ground Floor, Japan House London

Booking Essential | Admission Free

Explore how manga is represented in Japanese museums and galleries and has been embraced as a recognised art form.

Manga has been recognised as part of Japan’s art scene since the 1990s. Beginning with the Tezuka Osamu exhibition in 1990 at the Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art, manga museums dedicated to manga artists were established across the country. Academic research on manga also flourished, leading to more scholarly and critically engaged exhibitions.

This talk, part of a collaboration with Japan House London, accompanies The NACT’s 2026 exhibition on shōjo manga. The term ‘shōjo manga’ is often used to refer to manga for young girls, or perhaps more accurately to works that were published in magazines targeted at a female youth readership. The NACT exhibition focuses on three female manga artists who played a pivotal role in the ‘golden age’ of the 1970s and seeks to illuminate the broader historical contributions of shōjo manga.

Curator Rei Yoshimura introduces NACT’s engagement with manga and her curatorial approach, including how exhibitions situate artists and works within the broader history of Japanese manga, and the creative strategies used to present small-scale original drawings in compelling ways.

Since opening in 2007, NACT has promoted a wide range of contemporary modes of creative expression, from art, architecture and design to fashion, animation and manga. NACT approaches manga not only as consumerist popular culture but as a significant artistic and cultural medium, presenting it to both Japanese and international audiences.

Organizer	The National Art Center, Tokyo Japan House London Japan Arts Council Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan
Venue	Japan House London
Date & Time	Tuesday, January 20, 18:30–21:00 [Part I] 18:30-19:30 Lecture Location: Lower Ground Floor [Part II] 19:30-21:00 Networking Reception Location: Lower Ground Lobby and Library
Admission	Booking Essential Admission Free
Language	Japanese–English consecutive interpreting
URL	https://www.japanhouselondon.uk https://www.japanhouse.jp



Photo courtesy of Japan House London

About Japan House London

Japan House London is a cultural destination offering the best and latest from Japan. Located on Kensington High Street, the experience is an authentic encounter with Japan, engaging and surprising even the most knowledgeable guests. Presenting the very best of Japanese art, design, gastronomy, innovation, and technology, it deepens the visitor’s appreciation of all that Japan has to offer. Part of a global initiative, there are two other Japan Houses, one in Los Angeles and the other in São Paulo.

* Content and schedule are subject to change without notice. Thank you for your understanding.

Lecture

The World of Shojo Manga

Thursday, January 22, 18:00–19:30

Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris, Auditorium

Booking Essential | Admission Free

This lecture will be delivered by Rei Yoshimura, Curator at The National Art Center, Tokyo, and Bruno Pham, Editor-in-Chief of Éditions Akata. They will discuss the great diversity of shojo (girls’) manga, Yoshimura’s research theme, focusing on the works of Moto Hagio, Ryoko Yamagishi, and Waki Yamato. These three artists were pioneers during the golden age of shojo manga and remain highly prolific today.

Pham, who has contributed to the popularization of shojo manga in France, and Yoshimura will explore shojo manga as a mirror of Japanese culture and society, examining its history, aesthetics, and connection to daily life from both Japanese and French perspectives.



Photo courtesy of J MCJP

Organizer	The National Art Center, Tokyo The Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris Japan Arts Council Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan
Venue	The Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris, Auditorium
Date & Time	Thursday, January 22, 18:00–21:00 [Part I] 18:00-19:30 Lecture Location : Auditorium [Part II] 19:30-21:00 Networking Reception Location : Ground Floor Entrance Hall
Admission	Booking Essential Admission Free
Language	Japanese–French consecutive interpreting
URL	https://www.mcjp.fr/ja

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About the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris

The Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (MCJP) represents The Japan Foundation in France.

Since its opening in 1997, the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (Japan Cultural Institute in Paris) has served as a leading overseas hub for presenting Japanese culture, operating through a public-private partnership between Japan and France to promote Japanese culture from Paris, a global capital of the arts.

From traditional arts to pop culture, it offers wide-ranging programming that includes exhibitions, performances, films, lectures by researchers on Japan and others, a library, children’s programs, and a studio program. It also provides hands-on courses in manga, tea ceremony, calligraphy, ikebana flower arrangement, kimono, Japanese cuisine, sake, and more, along with Japanese language courses.

Objectives of the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris

As the world plunges headlong into a period of drastic transformation, the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris believes it has never been more important to connect people with varied perspectives through the power of Japanese culture. By doing so, it aims to offer insights for addressing global issues such as climate change and widening inequality, and contribute to the realization of a sustainable society.

Shojo Manga Infinity: Moto Hagio, Ryoko Yamagishi, and Waki Yamato

October 28 (Wed), 2026 - February 8 (Mon), 2027



To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the National Art Center, Tokyo's opening, a three-person exhibition will showcase the careers of three giants of shojo (girls') manga: Moto Hagio, Ryoko Yamagishi, and Waki Yamato. Hagio, Yamagishi, and Yamato all debuted as manga artists in the late 1960s and went on to be central figures in the 1970s "golden age of shojo manga," when the genre greatly expanded its creative possibilities. They have continued to publish actively up to the present day, making them witnesses to a history era of artistic diversity and innovation.

This exhibition retraces their creative paths through original drawings from their best-known works and valuable archival materials, while also exploring their respective careers and sources of inspiration.

About National Art Center, Tokyo



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Since opening in 2007, the National Art Center, Tokyo (NACT) has constantly worked to become an art center that enables people from various regions and countries to experience a wide range of artistic expressions, acquire knowledge, and encounter diverse values.

The NACT organized exhibitions with a focus on contemporary art, we showcase new expression in various genres such as design, fashion, architecture, manga, and anime, while endeavoring to generate interest in art of the present day.

For event registration, please refer to each venue's website.

Japan House London <https://www.japanhouselondon.uk>

The Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris <https://www.mcjp.fr/ja>

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