

YUREI YOKAI COLLECTION

Ghosts, Monsters and Demons in Japanese Art



Fukuoka City Museum

Exhibition dates : July 19 – September 13, 2026

Prologue : Welcome to the Otherworld

Paintings featuring corpses and skeletons are frightening, aren't they? While they may not be ethereal like the spirits or the yokai, the first section of the exhibit focuses on these as its theme.

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
1	Skeleton Practicing Yoga on the Waves	Attributed to Maruyama Okyo	1774
2	Skeleton Practicing Yoga	Hara Zaichu	1774
3	The Nine Stages of Transformation of Anonymous Remains	Nagasawa Rosetsu	18th century
4	The Nine Stages of Transformation of Anonymous Remains	Unknown	19th–20th century

Part 1 : Depictions of yokai

Yokai are supernatural beings and phenomena born from human fear of the unknown. By giving form to these fears through art, people were able to understand, confront, and even find enjoyment in them. This section explores how yokai were visualized and transformed from objects of terror into familiar and fascinating figures through artistic expression.

1-1 Objects of Terror

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
5	Pandemonium: the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons	Ogata Morifusa	17th–18th century
6	Tsukumogami: Animated Tea Utensils and Musical Instruments	Ito Jakuchu	18th century
7	Battle between the Gods of Medicine and the Demons of Disease	Utagawa Yoshitora	1847–50
8	Miraculous Remedy Highly Effective against Choler (an Epidemic Disease)	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	1858
9	Shell Person Emerged from the Sea: Prophetic Creature	Unknown	19th century
10	Measles: Mitate Banzuke (Parodic Ranking)	Sumida Ryoko	1862
11	Earthquake Catfish: Shibaraku — A While Outdoors	Illustration: Utagawa Toyokuni III Text: Kanagaki Robun	1855
12	Kuwana: Sea Monster Sighting, from the series "Fifty-Three Pairings along the Tokaido"	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	1843–46
13	Ghosts of the Heike Attacking the Ships of Minamoto no Yoshitsune	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	19th century
14	The Mouse Wedding and the Fox Wedding Scene	Utagawa Kunikage	ca.1830–44
15	Samanosuke Mitsutoshi and a Vengeful Fox Spirit in Flames, from the series "One Hundred Ghost Stories from China and Japan"	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	1865
16	Three-Eyed Demonic Monk Appearing — an Old Tanuki in Disguise, Tokyo Nichinichi Shimbun, No. 445	Ochiai Yoshiiku	1874

1-2 Familiar figures of the Supernatural

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
17	Catalogue of Thirty Yokai	Sawaki Sushi	1737
18	Hanjo Danjo no Jo Chikakage Slaying a Giant Salamander	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	ca.1830–44
19	Fiery Light and an Auspicious Creature of a Bountiful Harvest	Unknown	19th century
20	Account of the Slaying of Monsters in Motoki Village, Munakata District, Chikuzen Province	Chikuho Nakamura Yu	March 1859
21	Illustrated Account of the Slaying of Monsters in Motoki Village, Munakata District, Chikuzen Province	Unknown	18th–19th century

22	Oeyama Emaki (The Tale of Shuten Doji)	Yamanaka Yukikatsu	1797
23	Taira no Koremochi Revealing the Demon's True Form in a Sake Cup, from the series "New Forms of Thirty-Six Ghosts"	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	1890
24	Kiso Yoshinaka and His Four Retainers Slaying Tengu in the Mountains of Kiso	Katsukawa Shunsho II	ca.1830–44
25	Tsumakome: Unmasked Fox Leaving Her Child Behind, from the series "Sixty-Nine Stations of the Kisokaido"	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	ca.1852
26	Old Demon Playing Tricks on Fujiwara no Tadahira, from the series "One Hundred Ghost Stories from China and Japan"	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	1865
27	The Earth Spider Conjuring Demons at Minamoto no Yorimitsu's Residence	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	19th century
28	Demon Disguised as an Old Woman Smiling at Her Severed Arm	Shikaku	20th century
29	Hakuzosu: A Fox Spirit Disguised as a Priest to Save Animals from a Huntsman	Ohara Donshu	19th century

1-3 Invented Monsters

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
30	Tofu Boy (Yokai)	Shigemitsu	ca.1848–54
31	Hosokute: Vengeful Spirit and the Lord, from the series "Sixty-Nine Stations of the Kisokaido"	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	ca.1852
32	Tsukumogami: Lacquered Wash Basin and Hand Mirror	Kawanabe Kyosai	19th century
R1	Snake and Frog in a Neck-Sumo Contest	Kawanabe Kyosai	19th century
33	Soma no Furu Dairi (The Ruined Palace at Soma): Oya no Taro Mitsukuni Fighting a Giant Skeleton	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	1845–46
34	Oya no Taro Mitsukuni amid Warring Skeletons, from the series "One Hundred Ghost Stories from China and Japan"	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	1865
35	Taira no Kiyomori Seeing Countless Skeletons	Utagawa Hiroshige I	1843–46
36	Susanoo no Mikoto Slaying Demons (Satirical Allegory), from the Kabuki Play "Honcho Furisode no Hajime"	Katsushika Hokki	ca.1851
37	Comic Hyakumanben (Satirical Allegory in the Guise of an Explanatory Picture)	Kawanabe Kyosai	19th century
38	Illustrated Tales of Thirty-four Yokai	Unknown	19th century
39	Cat Spirit Disguised as Otoyō, from the Kabuki Play "Saga no Oku Yomyo Kidan"	Yoshu Chikanobu	ca.1880
40	Sakata no Kintoki and Yokai	Unknown	20th century
R2-2	Continued: Yokai in Japanese Paintings	Yoshikawa Kanpo	1926
41	Ban Naoyuki Slaying a Shape-shifting Old Tanuki at the Fukushima Residence	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	1866
42	Miura and Kazusa Defeating the Nine-tailed Fox at Nasuno	Utagawa Kuniyoshi II	1858
43	Comic Night Parade of One Hundred Demons in the Light	Unknown	20th century
44	Caricature of Toads as Characters from the Kabuki Play "Kanadehon Chushingura" (The Treasury of Loyal Retainers)	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	1847–50
45	A Composite Cat Formed from Many Cats, from the series "The Fifty-three Stations"	Utagawa Yoshifuji	1847–48
46	Various Old and New Yokai	Mizuno Koho	19th–20th century
47	Exhausted Yokai	Maruyama Oshin	19th century

Part 2 : Depictions of ghosts and spirits

In contrast to yokai, ghosts refer to the spirits of those who have passed on.

In ancient Japan, these ghosts and spirits were said to be among the different types of yokai, however as time went on, they grew to be increasingly distinguished from one another. Eventually, ghosts became an artistic theme in their own right.

2-1 Ghost Paintings of Mourning and Remembrance

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
48	Smiling Ghost	Attributed to Maruyama Okyo	18th century
49	Ghost Softly Appearing	Komai Genki	18th century

50	Ghosts of the Four Seasons	Kobayashi Kiyochika	19th–20th century
51	Ghost Emerging from a Paper-Covered Lamp, Holding a Skull	Mori Tetsuzan	18th–19th century
52	Ghost with a Sidelong Glance, Said to be Okiku	Kobayashi Eitaku	19th century
53	Ghost with a Hand Resting on Her Belly	Unknown	20th century
54	Beauty in an Autumn Field, a Ghost	Saito Shuho	19th century
55	Courtesan Ghost Emerging in Smoke from a Skull, Holding a Branch of Cherry	Nanensai Gyokujo	18th–19th century
56	Miyano Station: Wife Appearing in Smoke, from the series "Fifty-Three Pairings along the Tokaido"	Utagawa Toyokuni III	1843-46
57	The Ghost of Otsuyu Peering into Her Lover's House, from the Kabuki Play "Kaidan Botan Doro"	Toyohara Kunichika	1892
58	Botan Doro: Otsuyu Turning Back with a Peony Lantern, from the series "One Hundred Ghost Stories"	Ochiai Yoshiiku	19th–20th century
59	The Ghost of Jigoku Dayu, the Courtesan	Gantei	19th–20th century
60	Mother Ghost	Gyokan	20th century

2-2 Fear and Entertainment in Ghost Paintings

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
61	Grinning Ghost with Protruding Teeth	Attributed to Maruyama Okyo	18th century
62	Ghost at the Graveyard	Gion Seitoku	18th–19th century
63	The Ghost of Okiku	Gion Seitoku	18th–19th century
64	Ushi no Koku Mairi (Midnight Curse Ritual)	Attributed to Nishikawa Sukenobu	18th century
65	Ushi no Koku Mairi (Midnight Curse Ritual)	Unknown	18th–19th century
66	The Ghost of Saigo Takamori Bearing a Proclamation	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	1878
67	The Ghost of Sugawara no Michizane	Ikai Shokoku	20th century
68	The Ghost of Sakura Sogo	Kawamura Chokan	20th century
69	Ghost with a Large Facial Scar	Unknown	20th century
70	Emaciated Old Woman's Ghost	Kawanabe Kyosai	1867
71	Ghost Holding a Young Woman's Head	Keisai Eisen	19th century
R3	Enshu Andon (Traditional Cylindrical Floor-standing Paper Lantern)	—	19th–20th century
R4	Vermilion-Lacquered Hand Andon (Portable Lantern)	—	19th–20th century
R5	Vermilion-Lacquered Bonbori (Traditional Pedestal Paper Lantern)	—	19th–20th century
72	Ghost Holding a Man's Head in the Mouth	Kawanabe Kyosai	1870
R6	Former Mounting of No. 72	—	20th century
73	Ghost Biting a Young Man's Head	Original: Hisanaga Reproduction: Yoshikawa Kanpo	20th century
R2-1	Yokai in Japanese Paintings	Yoshikawa Kanpo	1925
74	Ghost Peering through a Window	Ochiai Yoshiiku	19th–20th century
75	The Ghost of Oiwa as a Tattered Paper Lantern, from the series "One Hundred Ghost Stories"	Shunkosai Hokuei	1818–44
76	The Ghost of Togo, from the Kabuki Play "Higashiyama Sakura Soshi"	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	ca.1851
77	The Ghost of Kohada Koheiji, from the Kabuki Play "Kaidan Kohada Koheiji"	Utagawa Toyokuni III	ca.1853
78	The Ghost of the Wet Nurse Igarashi, from the Kabuki Play "Otogibanashi Hakata no Imaori"	Utagawa Toyokuni III	ca.1852
79	Yoshida Senshi's Celebrated Quick-Change Act	Utagawa Kunisada	ca.1838
80	The Ghost of Oiwa, from the Kabuki Play "Tokaido Yotsuya Kaidan"	Utagawa Kuniyoshi	1847–50

2-3 Widening varieties of Ghost Paintings

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
81	Playful Grotesque Yokai of Female Genitalia	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	19th century

82	Futagawa: Kimono Mistaken for a Ghost, from the series "Fifty-Three Pairings along the Tokaido"	Utagawa Hiroshige I	1843–46
83	Dead Man Revived, Surprising Gamblers, Yubin Hochi Shimbun, No. 589	Tsukioka Yoshitoshi	1875
84	Vacant-faced Ghost, Said to Be a Snow-laden Willow	Kubota Beisen	19th–20th century
85	Memorial Kabuki Performance for the First Anniversary of Onoe Shoroku and the Fiftieth Anniversary of Bando Hikosaburo II	Utagawa Kunisada	1816
86	Death Portrait of Ichikawa Monnosuke II : Welcome to the Pure Land by Departed Kabuki Actors	Utagawa Kuniyasu	ca.1824
R7	Death Portrait of Ichikawa Danjuro VIII: Journey to the Afterlife	Unknown	ca.1854
R8	Death Portrait of Bando Shuka I and Ichikawa Danjuro VIII: Journey to the Pure Land	Unknown	ca.1855
R9	Death Portrait of Ichikawa Danjuro VIII: Rebirth in the Highest Rank of the Pure Land	Unknown	ca.1854
87	Ghost at Court	Yano Yacho	18th–19th century
88	Half-crouching Ghost Glancing Back with a Glare	Suzuki Shonen	19th–20th century
89	Ghost Caricature	Hashimoto Kansetsu	20th century
90	Ghost Gaping and Chuckling	Seki Seisetsu	20th century
91	The Ghost of Sen no Rikyu	Toshu Zenchu	19th–20th century
92	Pale Ghost Biting Her Hair (Painted on an Auspicious Day)	Tsumura Toyo	1872
93	Exotic-looking Ghost Depicted as an Auspicious Image	Ueki Junshin	19th–20th century

Epilogue: Until we meet again

This unique exhibit introduces paintings of spirits that manifest in everyday items as well as those that appear only on festival nights.

Although society and people's ways of thinking have changed over time, these monsters have always existed between the everyday world and the extraordinary world, and it feels as though they are still right beside us today.

Cat. No.	Title	Artist	Period
94	Cut-out Ukiyo-e: Monsters	Keisai Eiju	ca.1824–30
95	Cut-out Ukiyo-e: Paper-Covered Lamp	Utagawa Yoshifuji	19th century
96	Ghost at the Graveyard	Yoshida Genchin	18th century
97	The Fox Wedding Scene	Shigemitsu	1848–53
98 ★	Otoro-e (Large-Scale Lantern Painting): Shuten Doji Vanquished	Unknown	20th century
99 ★	Otoro-e (Large-Scale Lantern Painting): Iwami Jutaro Slaying the Hihi	Ebisaki Sekkei	20th century
R10	Collaborative Drawing Screen by Thirteen Cartoonists, Created on a Festival Day	Collaboration	1971
R11	Collaborative Drawing Screen by Three Cartoonists, Created on a Festival Day	Collaboration	1971
100	The Morning Dew: the Ghost of Oiwa, and the Evening Mist: the Ghost of Okiku	Yoshikawa Kanpo	1948
R12	Ghost Depicted on a Tanzaku (Narrow Vertical Paper Strip)	Yoshikawa Kanpo	20th century
R13	Ghost Depicted on a Tanzaku (Narrow Vertical Paper Strip)	Yoshikawa Kanpo	20th century

R = Reference Work

★ = Fukuoka Prefecture Designated Tangible Folk Cultural Property

Cat.Nos. 98–99: Collection of the Ohama Nagare Kanjo Preservation Society

Cat.Nos. R7–R8: Private Collection

All other items: Collection of the Fukuoka City Museum