

UNESCO Cultural Lecture Habsburg Collection: Treasures of the Vienna Museum of Art History

Sponsor: Meguro Board of Education
Supervisor: NPO Meguro UNESCO Association
Presenter: Taiji Kimura, Western Art Historian
Date: 13:30~15:30 Thurs., 16th January 2020
Number of Attendee: 149
Venue: Small Hall in Meguro Persimmon Hall



masters from Renaissance to the 19th century. The collections began in earnest during the Emperor Rudolph II era.

Mr. Kimura selected Raphael's "Madonna del Prato (aka: Madonna del Belvedere)" as an example of classical paintings. The Virgin Mary is dressed in red and blue, symbolizing love and wisdom, respectively. On her side, there is the infant Jesus who is grabbing a cross held by St. John. Mr. Kimura pointed out that the triangle composition was established by Leonardo da Vinci who was 31 years older than Raphael. He stated that instead of viewing paintings with sensitivity, we need knowledge to understand them from a historical background.

He further explained the mythical transformation stories using "Jupiter and Io" and "Plundering Ganymede" by Correggio, the mythical painter. The mythical god Jupiter transforms into an eagle and lets a boy pour a drink, which represents constellation of Aquarius next to Aries. The "Transformation Story" in Latin Literature is an essential culture in the European upper-class society.

Mr. Kimura passionately uttered "in order to appreciate art, we need to stop viewing artwork based on our preference, instead we need to learn what is beautiful, and know the historical background. If we do, paintings, architectures, and sculptures will speak to us."

Unable to describe all, nonetheless, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to his eye-opening lecture.

- written by Mineko Yamada (Publicity) and translated by Yoko Nakamura

What we found through the UNESCO Children's Festival

Date: 11:00~16:00 Sun., 22nd December 2019
Venue: Small Hall in Meguro Persimmon Hall



I was the host of the 5th UNESCO Children's Festival. It was the first time I participated in the 5th event, and to be honest, I was very worried. But I am sure everyone enjoyed it.

Participants from Japan, Myanmar, Norway, Vietnam, Nepal and Syria performed on stage. I was able to see the unique culture of each country and listen to Japanese drums, piano, violin performance, dance and chorus. Audience enjoyed the dance and music recitals and enjoyed the cultural showcase.

I think that it was a really good experience for children to play the Japanese drums and to perform dances belonging to various cultures, and for foreigners to experience Japanese culture. People from Syria played a beautiful song about peace in Japanese and it reminded me that "Peace is the Best".

Since this UNESCO Children's Festival has been planned and executed mainly by high school students, I hope that many high school students will continue to be interested in Meguro UNESCO Association, volunteers and overseas in the future.

- written by Mika Suzuki (Kanto International High School 3rd Year) and translated by
Cyrus Mizue

MEGURO UNESCO NEWYEAR'S PARTY

Jan. 18 (Sat) 12 : 00~15 : 00 Lunchroom of Gohongi Elementary School



NPO Meguro UNESCO Association

2-24-3 Gohongi, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0053 (Monday to Friday, 1-4 pm)

Tel: 03-5725-6150 / Fax: 03-5725-6160

Email: meguro@unesco.or.jp Homepage: <http://www.unesco.or.jp/meguro/>