

Japanese gardens and masterpiece paintings in beautiful harmony

Visitors to the Adachi Museum of Art can delight in our Japanese gardens, which are constantly changing in response to the four seasons, while taking in a number of superb paintings by modern Japan's great painters, such as Taikan Yokoyama (1868-1958). My grandfather Zenko Adachi founded this museum with the intention of harmonizing these two mediums—Japanese gardens and paintings—and, in doing so, helping visitors to enjoy the “excitement of beauty.”

A U.S. gardening magazine, the *Journal of Japanese Gardening*, picked our museum, which is located in the city of Yasugi, Shimane Prefecture, as home to Japan's top-ranking Japanese garden for six years in a row. Similarly, a French travel guidebook, the *Michelin Green Guide Japan*, gave this museum's Japanese garden three stars—a rating that means that the garden is worth taking the time to visit. Currently, the annual number of foreign visitors stands at between 8,000 and 10,000 people. I aspire to raise this figure to 50,000.

The Japanese garden covers a total area of about 165,000 square meters. A staff of about 30 women clean the garden every morning before it opens, regardless of weather conditions. Seven resident gardeners care for our garden's trees. My responsibility is to arrive first in the morning and check the garden.

Kyoto and Nara are the leading travel spots in Japan for foreign tourists. But there are many other nice places in Japan. The Adachi Museum of Art is one of them. I fully intend to continue to draw attention to this wonderful and overlooked area of Japanese culture.



Yokoso! Japan Ambassador
director of the Adachi Museum of Art
Takanori Adachi

Profile of Takanori Adachi

Born in 1947 in Shimane Prefecture on the Sea of Japan side, Takanori Adachi first worked as a salaried worker before coming to work for the Adachi Museum of Art founded by his grandfather in 1970. He has served as director of the museum since 1987. In February 2009, he was appointed a Yokoso! Japan Ambassador.



The Japan Tourism Agency appoints as goodwill ambassadors people actively working to boost awareness of the allure of Japan among people overseas.



On the Internet

<http://www.adachi-museum.or.jp/e/index.html>