

HAIKU

Create a haiku based on one of the images you have seen in the *Seasons* exhibition.

The haiku has 17 syllables (5-7-5) and usually has some reference to the season, and an expression of how the writer feels. The feelings Japanese people have for the seasons remain basically unchanged from the time of their ancestors. They share the same involvement with nature and celebrate the changing of the seasons such as *hanami*, *tsukimi* etc.

Image 92 in the catalogue is by the artist Buson. Buson was a great admirer of the most famous haiku poet Basho, who is credited with establishing haiku as an independent form of poetry. In this work Buson wrote and illustrated the entire text of Basho's haiku journal entitled *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*.

In 1689 the 46 year old poet Basho set out on a poetry making journey from his home in Fukugawa, Edo (Tokyo). For about six months he travelled north through the interior and the eastern coast, visiting well known places, until arriving at Ogaki, Gifu, having covered 2400km. The *Narrow Road to the Deep North*, his famous haiku journal, was a result of this trip. The trip was Basho's pilgrimage to famous places sung in ancient poems – to experience first hand the poetic sentiment of the ancients and at the same time to seek inspiration for creation of his new haiku.

Basho completed his poetic journal in 1694 a few months before his death.

Ninety years later in 1779, Buson, also a haiku poet and admirer of Basho, wrote and illustrated this screen. Buson was the first artist to compose, write and illustrate haiku in his own hand thus establishing the synthesis of haiku, calligraphy and image.

One of Basho's *Narrow Road* haiku:

Yuku haru ya / tori naki uo no / me wa namida

Departing spring: birds cry and,
In the eyes of fish, tears

(Translation: Hiroko Sato, *Basho's Narrow Road: Spring and Autumn Passages*, Berkley, California: Stone Bridge Press, 1996, p.43)

Kigo 季語 **season words**

Use these words (and your own imagination!) to create your own seasonal haiku, and fax them to the Japanese consultants on 9886.7160. There will be prizes for the best efforts!

Season 季節 (きせつ)

General words

mountain	山 (やま)
river	川 (かわ)
sky	空 (そら)
cloud	くも
pine tree	松の木 (まつのき)
bridge	はし
willow	やなぎ
to wait	まつ

Feelings

happy	うれしい、しあわせ
sad	かなしい
lonely	さびしい
alone	ひとりで
tears (fall)	なみだ (がでる)
to cry	なく
quiet	しずか
heart	こころ

Spring

cherry blossom	春 (はる)
plum blossom	さくら
to fall	うめ
warm	おちる
flower viewing	あたたかい
light rain	花見 (はなみ)
flowers falling in the wind	小雨 (こさめ)
	はなふぶき

Autumn

autumn leaves	秋 (あき)
autumn wind	こうよう
cool	あきのかぜ
moon viewing	すずしい
	月見 (つきみ)

Colours

pink	ももいろ
white	しろ
green	みどり
blue	あおい
red	あか
brown	ちゃいろ
gold	きんいろ
purple	むらさき

Adjectives

beautiful	きれい
wonderful	すばらしい
great!	すごい
large	おおきい
small	ちいさい
lots	たくさん
not many	すくない
deep	ふかい

Summer

夏 (なつ)	
cicadas' sound	せみのこえ
festival	まつり
sea	うみ
to swim	およぐ
hot	あつい
humid	むしあつい
surfing	サーフィン

Winter

冬 (ふゆ)	
snow	ゆき
snow white	まっしろ
cold	さむい
skiing	スキー