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Ha Noi art show offers taste of Japanese sensibility

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by **To Hang**

Japanese artists have taken over two floors at the Viet Nam Fine Arts Association's exhibition hall here, displaying their perspective on Viet Nam and Japan.

Entitled 13 Visions From Japan the exhibition, which opened on Wednesday, includes paintings and photographs from one Vietnamese and 12 Japanese artists.

"We hope the exhibition will help Vietnamese art lovers understand more about Japanese contemporary art," said Nguyen Dinh Dang, the show's sole Vietnamese artist.

On the first floor, visitors are introduced to Nakai Mikio's 16 black and white photos that capture rare moments in the daily lives of Vietnamese people throughout the country. From a woman selling sweets in a back alley to a Mong boy watching over his family's pony, the images expose the different sides of Viet Nam.

Also on the first floor, Shiga Nobuko's work attracts patrons in a very unique way. The six pictures of fruit, which are entitled with amusing names such as Sexy Peaches, Beet Festival and Mr Melon, give a different outlook on nature.

Moving to the second floor, visitors face a world of oil on canvas. Fifty-six paintings done in eight styles by eight artists create a symphony of colour, texture and emotion.

"Each of us paints in his own style. We hate to follow a certain style," explains painter Okamoto Yusuke, who has on display images of deities. Yusuke wants to introduce local art aficionados to the spiritual side of Japanese life.

In contrast, Saito Nozomi puts on display surrealistic paintings. He comments that the pieces share a similarity to traffic in Viet Nam.

"I must say this is beautiful room. The colours are bright and the paintings are done very carefully. Very Japanese," Tran Doc, a former lecturer at Ha Noi's Fine Arts College, said emphatically while touring the second floor.

"Many of the works look like photographs, but they do not make us bored. We instead want to learn more about them."

The exhibition runs until next Tuesday at 16 Ngo Quyen Street, though going early has its advantages with many of the Japanese artists still meeting the public at the gallery to receive comments. — VNS



Schoolgirl's Dali: Phong Canh Luot Qua (Passing Landscape), an oil on canvas by Saito Nozumi, is on display in the 13 Visions From Japan exhibition.

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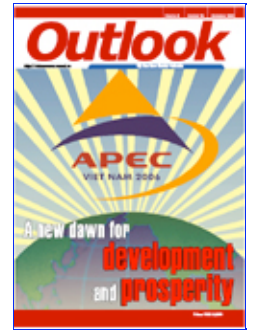
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