福田美術館
FUKUDA ART MUSEUM
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PRESS RELEASE

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Fukuda Art Museum

Acquisition by Fukuda Art Museum of *Kaso Zukan* [*Fruits and Vegetables*], a newly discovered picture scroll by Itō Jakuchū, announced at press conference

Painted by Jackuchū in his seventies

— Rare Picture Scroll to Star in October Special Exhibition —

With great delight, Fukuda Art Museum announces it has acquired, from Europe, a newly discovered picture scroll by Itō Jakuchū, *Kaso Zukan*. Now part of Fukuda Art Museum's collection of new acquisitions, in October, it will feature in a celebratory exhibition *Fifth Anniversary: Miraculous Appearance in Kyoto Arashiyama!* Soon, you actually will be able to see this extremely rare scroll by Itō Jakuchū on public display. Initially, *Kaso Zukan* was unveiled in a limited showing to the press on Tuesday, March 5. Fukuda Art Museum Chief Curator Okada Hideyuki remarked on the discovery and the historic significance of this event: "Because so very few colored works painted by Jakuchū in his seventies have come to light, this rare example tells much about how his painting continued to evolve. Tsuji Tadao, a leading expert on Japanese art history, commented, "The well-considered color contrasts are particularly interesting. The coloring evokes a feeling of freshness."

Itō Jakuchū's Kaso Zukan unrolled

Kaso Zukan Facts

- **Recently discovered, a colored illustrated scroll on silk.**
- **(H 30.5 × L 277.5 cm or 1' × 9' 3")* painted by Jakuchū.**
- **Created in 1791, when Jakuchū was, by Japanese reckoning , 76 years old.**
- **Appended to the scroll, there is a handwritten inscription by Daiten Kenjō, a scholar monk and court official.**

*** With 54.5 cm inscription, total L 332.2 cm**

Unrolling to more than three meters (nearly 11 ft.), *Kaso Zukan* is a large work painted in 1791 by Jakuchū when he was in his mid-seventies. It shows assorted fruits and vegetables depicted with his discriminating eye and beautiful coloring. During the year after completing this work, Jakuchū painted *Saichū-fu* [*Plants and Bugs*], an important cultural property held by Yoshizawa Memorial Museum of Art, Sano. While the works differ significantly, both in how the vegetables are depicted and in coloring, there are commonalities, pointed out below by Yoshizawa Memorial Museum curator Suetake Satomi:

- **The types of fruit and vegetable are mostly the same in both scrolls.**
- **Differences and similarities in how fruits and vegetables are arranged, how they are posed, and how they are colored are significant.**
- **The absence of bugs in *Kaso Zukan* helps us to better appreciate the composition of *Saichū-fu* and how the bugs are depicted.**
- **Daiten Kenjō's inscription reveals much about Jakuchū's relationship during his later years with the author and with patrons in Osaka. (We know that *Saichū-fu* was commissioned by a literati sponsor in Osaka.)**

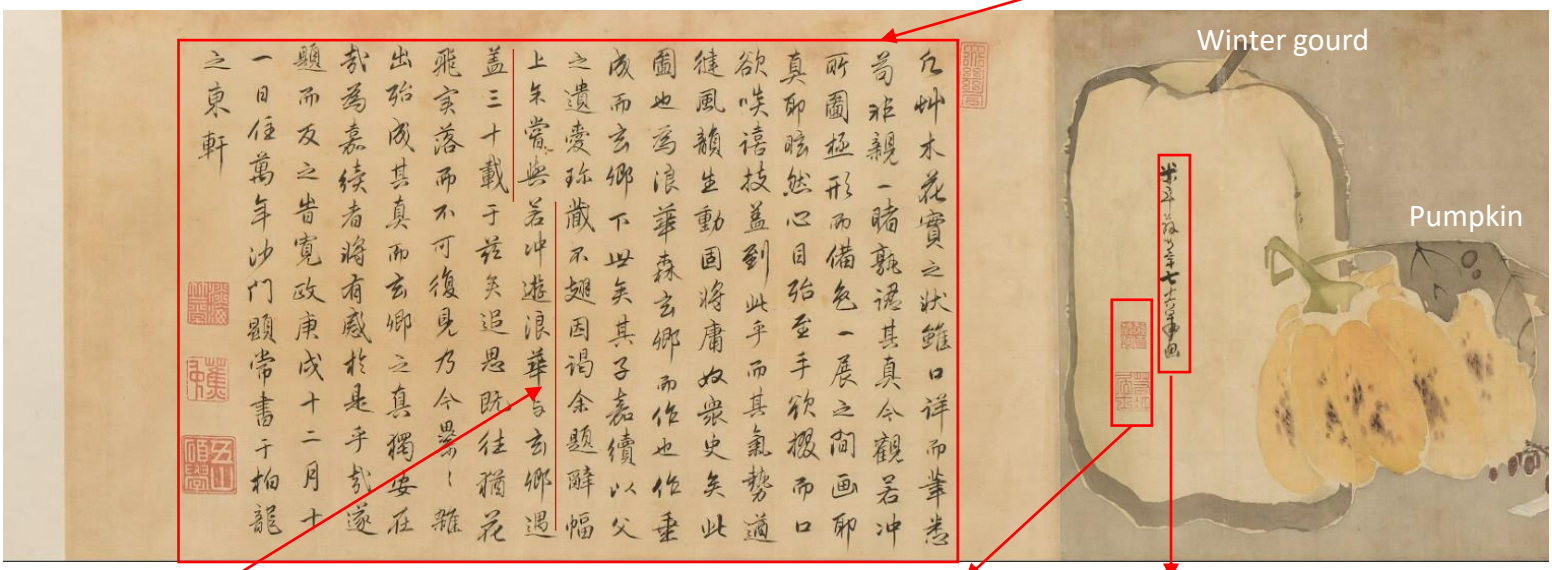
Brief comparison of *Kaso Zukan* and *Saichū-fu*

Painting title	*Kaso Zukan* [*Fruits and Vegetables*]	*Saichū-fu* [*Plants and Bugs*]
Year created	1791	1792
Jakuchū's age	76 (signed)	77
Dimensions (cm)	30.5 × 332.2	31.8 × 1095
Subject	Fruits and vegetables	Fruits, vegetables, bugs, frogs, etc.
Base color	Natural silk	Natural silk
Colophon	Baisō Kenjō (Daiten)	Hosoai Hansai
Title lettering	None	Fukuoka Buzan
Patron	Mori Genkyō	Unknown
Year discovered	2023	1999
Discovered in	Europe	Old residence, Tochigi Prefecture

Kaso Zukan Content

Basic Information
Title & artist: *Kaso Zukan* by Itō Jakuchū
Year created: 1791
Dimensions: H 30.5 × L 277.5 cm (1′ × 9′ 3″)

Botanical depictions by Jakuchū with an appended colophon by Baisō Kenjō (Daiten)



Here, it says that more than 30 years previously, together with Jakuchū, the author visited Mori Genkyō in Naniwa (Osaka).

Imprints of Jakuchū's artist seals

Jakuchū signature: Beito-ō [Old man Beito] painted aged 76

The inscription appended to the scroll is handwritten by Baisō Kenjō (Daiten) (1719–1801), a scholar monk at Kyoto Shōkoku-ji Temple, court official, and close friend of Jakuchū. The colophon highly praises the work and refers to the exemplary shapes and colors of the fruits and vegetables. It also states that the work was commissioned by Mori Gengō or Genkyō of Osaka, and that the author and Jakuchū had visited Mori 30 years previously. It adds that after Gengō's death, his son Yoshitsugu asked Daiten to write a colophon. Expressing the fond memories of an old friend, this precious document praises the magnificence of the painting.

With his distinctive flair for color and composition, Jakuchū painted the fruits and vegetables with great originality. The persimmon, bitter gourd, and apple are painted with beautiful gradations using neutral colors.

Assessment by Fukuda Art Museum Chief Curator Okada Hideyuki

Jakuchū distinctively colored each of the different botanical items with keen observation and descriptive ability. Very few colored works created by Jakuchū in his 70s remain and, with this one, we even know who commissioned it. This extremely rare painting significantly aids our understanding of Jakuchū's complete artistic trajectory.

Jakuchū the Painter

Active during the middle of the Edo period, Jakuchū was born in 1716 and died in 1800. As eldest son to a produce wholesaler in Kyoto Nishiki Market, Jakuchū inherited the family business when he was twenty-three. After he turned the business over to his younger brother, at age forty he returned to painting. His works are vivid and meticulously detailed. With its distinctive coloring and bold composition, his vision has been called fantastical. After a year-2000 exhibition to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Jakuchū's death, his work was re-evaluated and a boom in public interest ensued. In 2006, an exhibition of 109 works from more than 600 works in the American Etsuko and Joe Price Collection, the largest private holding of the artist's work, was held in Japan. Saichū-fu (previously mentioned) and all fifty of Jakuchū's wall paintings at Rokuon-ji Daisho-in have been designated important cultural properties. His set of thirty hanging scrolls, Colorful Realm of Living Beings, is a national treasure.

Please address inquiries to one of the persons below.
Note: we also consider requests for interviews with curators.

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