

2013.6.26

Special Exhibition

Evangelion and Japanese Swords

Wednesday, July 3,2013 to Monday (public holiday), September 16,2013

Osaka Museum of History

1-32 Otemae 4-Chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka City, 540-0008

Tel 06-6946-5728

Website <http://www.mus-his.city.osaka.jp/>

Hours

9:30-17:00 (Fridays 9:30-20:00)

*Please Enter 30 Minutes Prior To Closing

Closed

Tuesday (If Tuesday is a National Holiday, Closed Wednesday),

28 December - 4 January

Sponsorship

Osaka Museum of History

Television Osaka, Inc.

TV Setouchi Broadcasting Co.Ltd

All Japan Swordsmith Association

Plan Cooperation

GROUNDWORKS:

Cooperation

TSC Create

DENGEKI HOBBY

Admission fee

(Special exhibition only)

Adults: JPY 800 (720)

High school/university students: JPY 600 (540)

(Tickets on the day, which include the permanent exhibition)

Adults: JPY 1,260

High school/university students: JPY 900

* The prices in parenthesis show the discount fees for groups of 20 individuals or more.

* Admission is free for junior high school students or younger individuals, as well as individuals who have disability certificates, etc., (also including one caregiver).

* Adult fees apply to individuals aged 65 or older who live in Osaka City.

Overview of the exhibition

This exhibition is a collaboration project between swordsmiths across Japan and the *Rebuild of Evangelion* series. First aired on TV in Japan in 1995, *Neon Genesis Evangelion* created a social phenomenon, and subsequently, theatrical films were released. November 2012 saw the release of the latest film: *Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo*. Indeed, the *Evangelion* series has been supported by many fans.

This exhibition features new swords created by up-and-coming contemporary swordsmiths inspired by the world of the *Rebuild of Evangelion* series, including “Progressive Knife (sword type),” which is one of the basic weapons of Evangelions, the “EVA TESTTYPE 01 Kabuto,” which is modeled after the armored head of Evangelion Unit-01, and the “Lance of Longinus,” made from Damascus steel.

Japanese swords have been cherished not only as weapons but also as artistic and spiritual embodiments. We hope that this exhibition helps visitors living in the 21st century to contemplate the traditions that should be preserved into the future.

Number of items exhibited

Japanese swords and relevant items: About 30; figures: three, others (character design: large panels, planning paper: large panels, panels reproducing original pictures from the *Rebuild of Evangelion* series, etc.)

* Visitors can take photos of the exhibited works, excluding the large panels of planning paper and panels reproducing original pictures from the *Rebuild of Evangelion* series. When taking photos at the venue, the use of tripods, flashbulbs, or stepladders, etc., is prohibited. Please follow the instructions of staff.

Main exhibited items

(1) Lance of Longinus (produced in 2012)

This forked lance measures 332 cm in total length and weighs 22,200 g. In the animation, the Lance of Longinus is much longer than an Evangelion. This Lance of Longinus, which has been recently produced, was designed to be nearly double an average human's height. The work was produced by Mr. Sadanao Mikami, a swordsmith, and Mr. Shoichi Hashimoto, one of Mr. Mikami's apprentices. Their workshop could not accommodate a lance of this size. For this reason, the workshop was rebuilt to complete the work.

This Lance of Longinus is made from Damascus steel, which was produced using techniques to create layers of *tamahagane* (steel produced from iron sand) and nickel alloys, and to highlight the texture, which is one of the characteristics of Japanese swords. Textures of different materials produce a vivid pattern, called *ayasugihada* (concentrically curved grain).

(2) EVA PRODUCTION MODEL 02 Tanto ,Shikinami Plugsuit (produced in 2012)

This short sword measures 34.4 cm in total length (blade: 24.1 cm). The vermilion scabbard and a cross ornament on the sword hilt remind one of Asuka Shikinami Langley, the pilot of Evangelion Unit-02. Asuka, in a Plugsuit, was engraved in the lower part of the blade by Mr. Shigetsune Katayama, a blade engraver, using the *ranma-sukashi* (transom openwork) technique.

(3) EVA PROTOTYPE 00 Wakizashi ,Dragon and Lance (produced in 2012)

This short sword measures 52.4 cm in total length (blade: 40.1 cm). The blade bears an image of a Kurikara dragon (which represents Acala in Buddhism) coiling around the Lance of Longinus, engraved by Mr. Soufu Kinoshita, a sword ornament craftsman.

The grip and scabbard are colored in bright yellow and white, which characterizes Evangelion Unit-00. The pommel is inlaid with agate, which represents the green part in the parietal region of Evangelion Unit-00. The sword guard is made from pure copper (*suaka* in Japanese) and is engraved with a warning mark consisting of hexagons (projected on the Nerv Headquarters monitor), which appear when Angels attack. This work incorporates many motifs from the Evangelion series.

Relevant event

■ Inscription of your name on original Evangelion Exhibition plates

Artisans that are members of the All Japan Swordsmith Association will inscribe your name on original exhibition plates.

Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2013, and Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays during the exhibition period

Order acceptance: 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Venue: 6F, Osaka Museum of History

Capacity: Limited (accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis)

Charge: JPY 500 (An original plate, sold separately at JPY 1,200, must be purchased.)

* For details, please visit the official website of the exhibition.

Website URL: <http://www.tv-osaka.co.jp/event/eva-and-swords/>

* The details of the event are subject to change depending on circumstances. We appreciate your understanding.