

30th Anniversary Exhibit of the Setagaya Literary Museum

The Exhibition of The World of Shirow Masamune

- “The Ghost in the Shell” and The Path of Creation -

Saturday, April 12 - Sunday, August 17, 2025

*** Tickets will only be available online for the dates of April 12 and 13 (no admission tickets will be sold on the day of the event).**

Exhibition Overview

Shirow Masamune, creator of the immensely popular manga *The Ghost in the Shell*, made his major debut with *Appleseed* in 1985, going on to launch *The Ghost in the Shell* series in 1989. He adopted futuristic technology that had yet to spread in the public conscious with his unique perspective, and his worldview, one that seemed to predict our modern information society, fascinated countless readers. His highly detailed drawings, the immense volume of information in the plotting, and his text that escapes beyond the borders, brought passion to his works and stirred the imagination of the readers. The worldview of Shirow Masamune, woven with his deep philosophical explorations, influenced numerous subsequent creators, giving rise to works in a wide range of genres.

Black Magic, an early story collection, depicted a world governed by a super-giant computer called Nemesis. *Appleseed* is an SF action manga that depicts former SWAT officers Deunan and Briareos, the latter a full-body cyborg, as they survive in an abandoned city after the end of World War Five. *Dominion* is a work that comically depicts Leona and her beloved squad of Bonaparte-class small sized tanks in their struggle against a gang of villains and warriors. *The Ghost in the Shell* depicts the struggles of Public Security Section 9 under the direct control of the Prime Minister. *Orion* is a fantasy work that depicts the struggles of extremely ancient wizards and the gods they summon surrounding the magical nine-headed Nāga.

This exhibition traces the works of Shirow Masamune, covering both his Analog Manuscripts and Digital Manuscripts, through his wide range of output up to his current activities, accompanied by a plethora of books and comments from the artist, and even touching on his personal side. Enjoy the first large scale exhibition by Shirow Masamune, an amalgamation of the manga and SF exhibits held by the Setagaya Literary Museum to date, as we approach our 30th anniversary.

Profile

Shirow Masamune

Manga artist and illustrator Shirow Masamune was born in Hyogo Prefecture. He began producing manga and illustrations in 1980 and made his commercial debut with *Appleseed* in 1985. In 1989, he began producing his most well-known manga series, *The Ghost in the Shell*. He served as co-director of the anime work *Black Magic M-66*. He is also active in a variety of other fields, including games and art books.

Venue

Setagaya Literary Museum, 2F Exhibition Room

Closed

Closed every Monday and May 7, July 22, and August 12. *However, the museum will be open on May 5, July 21, and August 11.

Open

10:00 am - 6:00 pm (exhibition and museum shop admission closes at 5:30 pm)

Admission fees

Adults: 1,500 Yen (1,200 Yen).

Age 65+, university and high school students: 900 Yen (720 Yen).

Elementary and junior high school students: 450 Yen (360 Yen).

Persons holding a Disability Certificate: 750 Yen (600 Yen) (However admission free for university students and younger holding a Disability Certificate).

* The fees in parentheses () indicate group discounts for groups of 20 people or more and discounts under the Setagaya Arts Card, etc. However, discounts only apply to tickets bought on the day of your visit, and there is no discount for online tickets.

* Payment at reception is accepted in credit card and cash.

* Most credit cards are accepted with the exception of smartphone based contactless IC cards, transportation IC cards, and e-money.

* Available discounts include a group discount for groups of 20 people or more, and various other discounts including the Setagaya Arts Card. <Discounts only apply to tickets bought on the day of your visit.>

* Please bring the appropriate documentation to receive each discount

* Free admission for persons with a Disability Certificate of university age or younger

* Free admission for up to one person accompanying a person with a Disability Certificate

Ticket Information

Tickets available online at: <https://eplus.jp/setabun2025shirow-ex/>

* Further details will be released over time.

© Admission tickets for Saturday April 12 and Sunday April 13 will be sold by lottery for each date. <Only available via the online ticket website>

Lottery application period: 10:00 am on Saturday March 8 to 11:59 pm on Sunday March 16

Announcement of lottery results: Wednesday March 19

© Admission tickets for Tuesday April 15 and later will go on sale from 12:00 pm, Thursday March 20 (first-come, first-served basis, please designate the date of your visit.)

* A limited number of tickets are available at the ticket counter for each day. If you wish to purchase a ticket on the day of your visit, you will not be able to enter the exhibition room once the quota is reached. We recommend purchasing your tickets online in advance.

Other

The special museum shop is only accessible to those entering the exhibition.

Sponsors

Setagaya Arts Foundation, Setagaya Literary Museum, Kodansha, Parco

Planning cooperation

Seishinsha

Special cooperation

Shirow Masamune

Support

Setagaya City, Setagaya City Board of Education

Other

The special museum shop for this exhibition is only accessible to those entering the exhibition.

Exhibition Information

Official exhibition website: <https://www.shirow-masamune-ex.jp/>

Official social media account (X): https://x.com/shirow_ex

Official website of Ghost in the Shell: <https://theghostintheshell.jp>

Official social media account (X): <https://x.com/thegitsofficial>

30th Anniversary Collection Exhibition of the Setagaya Literary Museum

Juza Unno and Japanese Science Fiction

Saturday, April 26 - Sunday, September 28, 2025

Concurrent exhibition: Muttoni Collection (Screened every 30 minutes of the hour while the museum is open)

Exhibition Overview

- “For the time being, The Theft of the Earth is just the title of a science novel. However, who can guarantee that the Theft of the Earth incident might not happen in the world of the future?” (Juza Unno, The Theft of the Earth)

Juza Unno (1897 - 1949), often called the Father of Japanese SF, wrote numerous works of science fiction (described as “fantasy science novels” at the time) during a period spanning the time around WWII, achieving immense popularity. The writers considered part of the subsequent first generation of Japanese SF authors, such as Osamu Tezuka and Sakyo Komatsu, were all fans of Unno in their childhood.

A scientist and engineer involved in the development of the vacuum tube, Unno debuted with his first publication, *The Mysterious Death in the Electric Bath*, in 1928. He subsequently became known as a unique writer of detective novels. Since that time, he pioneered the genre of science adventure novels for boys, applying his rich imagination and scientific knowledge to realistic depictions of such themes as robots, rockets, artificial organs, extraterrestrial life, war in space, and time travel.

This exhibition traces the trajectory of Juza Unno, his friendship with fellow Setagaya residents Seishi Yokomizo and Mushitaro Oguri, and the first generation of SF authors such as Osamu Tezuka, Shinichi Hoshi, Sakyo Komatsu, Yasutaka Tsutsui, and Aritsune Toyota, who were deeply influenced by Unno. The exhibition searches for the origins of the imagination represented by Japanese SF that has spread to boundless modes of expression today in novels, manga, anime, film, and games.

Venue

Setagaya Literary Museum, 1F Exhibition Room

Closed

Closed every Monday and May 7, July 22, August 12, and September 16. *However, the museum will be open on May 5, July 21, August 11, and September 15.

Open

10:00 am - 6:00 pm (exhibition and museum shop admission closes at 5:30 pm)

Admission fees

Adults: 200 Yen (160 Yen).

University and high school students: 150 Yen (120 Yen).

Age 65+, elementary and junior high school students: 100 Yen (80 Yen).

Persons holding a Disability Certificate: 100 Yen (80 Yen) (However admission free for university students and younger holding a Disability Certificate).

* The fees in parentheses () indicate group discounts for groups of 20 people or more and discounts under the Setagaya Arts Card, etc.

* Free admission for those 65 and older on May 9, and free admission for those 60 and older on September 15.

* Payment at reception is accepted in credit card and cash.

* Most credit cards are accepted with the exception of smartphone based contactless IC cards, transportation IC cards, and e-money.

* Free admission for elementary and junior high school students residing or studying in Setagaya City on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

* Please bring the appropriate documentation to receive each discount.

* Free admission for persons with a Disability Certificate of university age or younger.

* Free admission for up to one person accompanying a person with a Disability Certificate.

* You may access this exhibition at any time during the special exhibition period using its ticket stub. However, access to this exhibition may be restricted during times of congestion.

Sponsors

Setagaya City, Setagaya Arts Foundation, Setagaya Literary Museum

Support

Setagaya City Board of Education

Cooperation

Tokushima Prefectural Museum of Literature, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of Japan