
Narrative Bio

Miro Ito

artist, author, producer and director

Official websites:

<http://mediaartleague.org/en>

<https://japan-authentic-heritage-initiative.org/en>

Profile

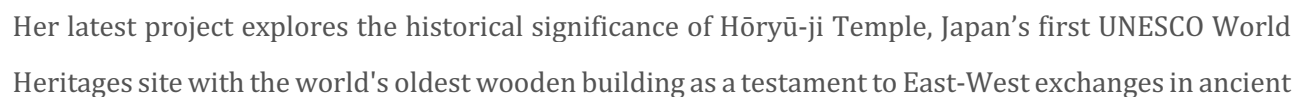
Led by her artistic aspiration to help make the world a better place by promoting peace and understanding through her own initiative, Miro Ito has been involved in media and art projects as creator, producer & director.



Official Image of Venice Biennale (Dance Section)
Photo by Miro Ito / Butoh Dancer: Ko Murobushi

Under the theme ***World heritage of life and prayer***, Ito has been working to promote awareness of ancient Eurasian cultural heritage and traditions preserved in Japan—in order to create artistic invocations for a lasting peace—aspects of both *the tangible and the intangible UNESCO World Heritage* which she has been photographing/filming, researching and writing about since 2005, with a focus on Japan's 1st imperial capital: Nara.

The Historical Significance of Hōryū-ji Temple and Prince Shōtoku



times along the Silk Roads, through extremely rare photographic and artistic materials. This exhibition endeavours to put Prince Shōtoku's achievements in their proper historical context.

By offering a glimpse into the art and traditions of Hōryū-ji Temple, which inherited the finest cultural artefacts of East Asia via the Silk Roads, the exhibition aims to shed light on the *spirit of harmony* espoused by Prince Shōtoku in his ***Seventeen-Article Constitution*** (604), and shared wisdom of East Asia, culminating in a fusion of Confucianism and Buddhism.

In today's increasingly fragmented world, the significance of this wisdom from 1,400 years ago is a message for present and our future. The overseas premiere of the exhibition ***The Historical Significance of Hōryū-ji Temple and Prince Shōtoku*** (*La importancia histórica del templo Hōryū-ji y el príncipe Shōtoku*) launched during ***The 25th Salamanca Cultural Week of Japan*** (Spain) at the University of Salamanca's Spanish Japanese Cultural Center (Centro Cultural Hispano Japonés) in March 2026 before touring the world.

Global Touring exhibition series: *Road of Light and Hope*



Miro Ito's speaking engagement at *Road of Light and Hope* exhibition by Miro Ito, the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2016
(from L to R) Miro Ito, Japanese Ambassador S. Shimizu and Mr. T. Jagland, Secretary General, Council of Europe (at the time)

Ito's ongoing globally touring exhibition, short-film screening & lecture series entitled ***Road of Light and Hope*** has already been shown at 12 venues of 10 countries between 2016 and 2019.

Supported by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and overseas Embassies/Consulates, *Road of Light and Hope* launched at United Nations Headquarters (New York) in 2016, followed by exhibitions, speaking engagements and film screenings as integral parts of Japan's commemorative ceremonies and events abroad in renowned venues such as: Ikuo Hirayama International Caravanserai of Cultures (Tashkent); The Council of Europe and Lieu d' Europe (Strasbourg); Japan Foundation (Toronto) and Consulate General of Japan in Chicago; Rio de Janeiro Post Office Cultural Center for *Japan Month*; National Museum of World Cultures (Mexico City); Byzantine and Christian Museum (Athens); Bardo National Museum (Tunis); Nara Palace Historical Park; Centro Cultural Peruano Japonés (Lima).



Road of Light and Hope: National Treasures of Tōdai-ji Temple, Nara at Japan Foundation, Toronto

EXPOSIÇÃO

VARIAÇÃO & AUTONOMIA

GRAVURAS DE ARTISTAS
JAPONESES CONTEMPORÂNEOS

MASANARI MUBAI
TOSHINOBU ONOSATO
YASUKAZU TABUCHI
YAYOI KUSAMA
NATSUYUKI NAKANISHI
HITOSHI NAKAZATO
TOMOHIARU MURAKAMI
NAOYOSHI HIKOSAKA
KOSAI HORI
TOEKO TATSUNO

EXPOSIÇÃO

CAMINHO DA LUZ E ESPERANÇA:

A Trilha Eurasiática da Sabedoria
- ligando leste e oeste, norte e sul.

Exposição principal, intitulada 'Caminho da Luz e Esperança', da fotografia Miro Ito, apresenta as imagens das gravuras fotográficas em pergamínio das imagens do Buda e Tesouros Nacionais do Templo Tōdai-ji, localizada em Nara.

Miro Ito
Participa em projetos de mídia e arte enquanto produtora e criadora, com a intenção de promover paz e compreensão através de suas próprias iniciativas, por meio da MEDIA ART LEAGUE.

OFICINAS E MOSTRA DE CINEMA

No período do evento, aos sábados e domingos, o público poderá vivenciar um pouco da cultura tradicional e POP japonesa por meio das oficinas oferecidas no MÊS DO JAPÃO.

Ilustração - Arte Tradicional do Arquivo de Flores.
Benesi - Arte Tradicional de cultivo de plantas em miniaturas.
Mangá - Histórias em quadrinhos.
Casualty - A prática de "brincar de se fantasiar".
Benesi - A prática de cultivar plantas em miniaturas.
Tekko - Percussão de tambores japoneses.
Origami - Arte Tradicional de dobradura de papel.
Culinária - Demonstração e degustação de Washoku, culinária tradicional japonesa.

AS INSCRIÇÕES PARA AS OFICINAS DEVERÃO SER REALIZADAS NO LOCAL COM UMA HORA DE ANTECEDÊNCIA.

Reperto de Drama, Romance, Aventura e filmes de época, *Cine Japão*, Mostra de Cinema Japonês, será composta de obras de diretores renomados como Shinobu Yaguchi, Yūji Nakas e Makoto Shinkai. Desta última, destaca-se "5 Centímetros por Segundo" (foto), ganhador do prêmio Asia Pacific Screen Awards para Melhor Filme de Animação e que também faz parte da mostra no Centro Cultural Correios.

INFORMAÇÕES, PROGRAMAÇÃO COMPLETA, HORÁRIOS DAS OFICINAS E EXIBIÇÃO DOS FILMES NO SITE:
<http://bit.ly/mesdojapao>

Road of Light and Hope as part of Japan Month (Mês do Japão 2018), Rio de Janeiro

After a five-year hiatus, it will be presented at its 13th venue of the 11th country: the University of Salamanca (Spain) from Autumn in 2026.

The portrayed cultural treasures are preserved in Nara at the Tōdai-ji Temple and the Kasuga-Taisha Shrine which are both part of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site: Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara. The exhibition ***Road of Light and Hope*** will visit many cities around the globe to showcase the links in the cultural origins of East and West along—and transcending—the Silk Roads to inspire the unity and solidarity of mankind.

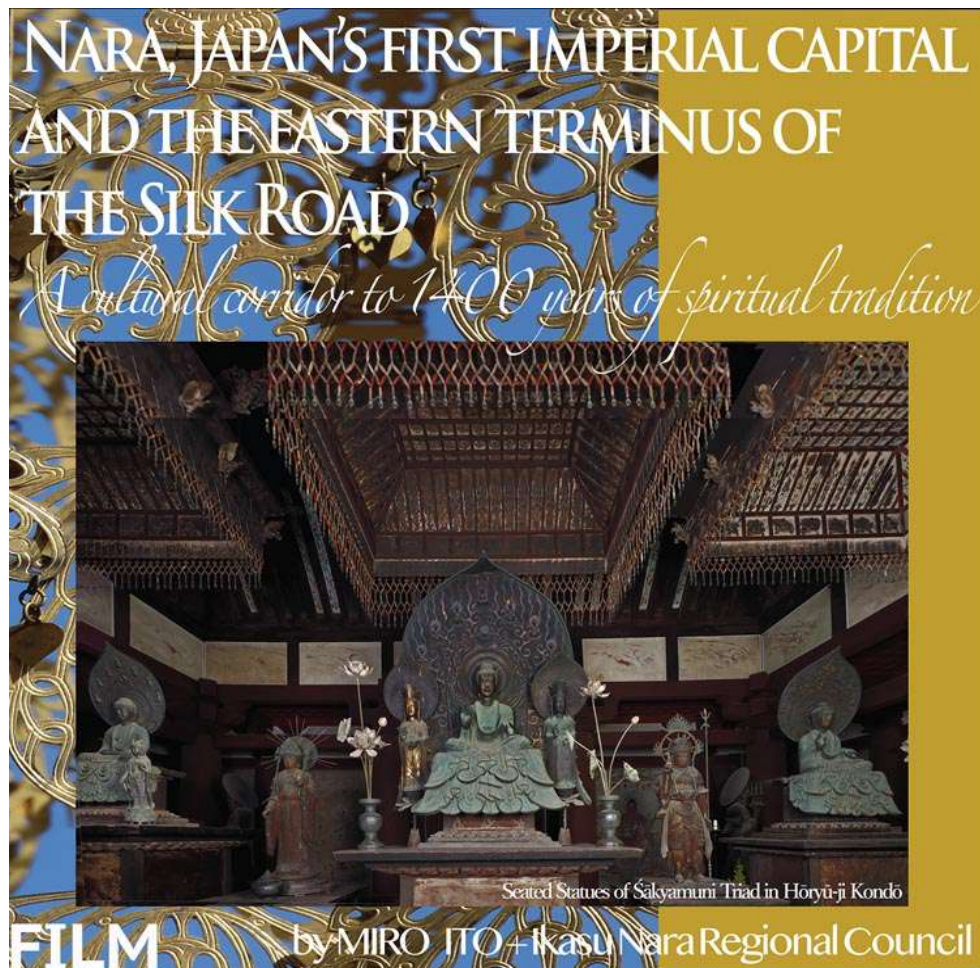
The core message of this world touring project is the shared ancient Eurasian wisdom which arrived in Japan 1300 - 1500 years ago via the Silk Roads and still survives to this day in the form of art. The project's purpose of this is to present this Eurasian trail where beauty and wisdom interacted as both a *Road of Light and Hope* and the *Road of the Vairocana Buddha's* introduction to Japan, where this all-inclusive vision emerged as an inspiration for a future in which ***everyone is a part of everything and all is interconnected.***

As Film Producer/Director

Ito also produced/directed, wrote, and photographed eleven film shorts centred on Japan's spiritual traditions as well as some of its oldest cultural heritage that today only survives in Nara. One of her recent films, ***Heijōkyō Palace Site and Five Nearby Temples—Eastern Terminus of the Silk roads***, is screening at the Nara Palace Site Historical Park's VR theatre since April 2025.

Miro Ito created a 33 min-long film: ***Nara, Japan's first imperial capital and the eastern terminus of the Silk Road – a cultural corridor to 1400 years of spiritual tradition***, commissioned by Japan's Agency of Cultural Affairs for the cluster project: Ikasu-Nara Regional Council in Spring 2021. This production concludes 15 years of researching, photographing and filming the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage—Historical Monuments of Ancient Nara—in Japan's ancient imperial capital.

In 2022, it was screened at the exhibition co-organised by Nara Prefecture and Tsinghua University (Beijing) to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the postwar normalisation of postwar Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations at the Tsinghua University Art Museum—as an integral part of the exhibition ***Cultural Exchanges Between Japan and China During the Han and Tang Dynasties.***



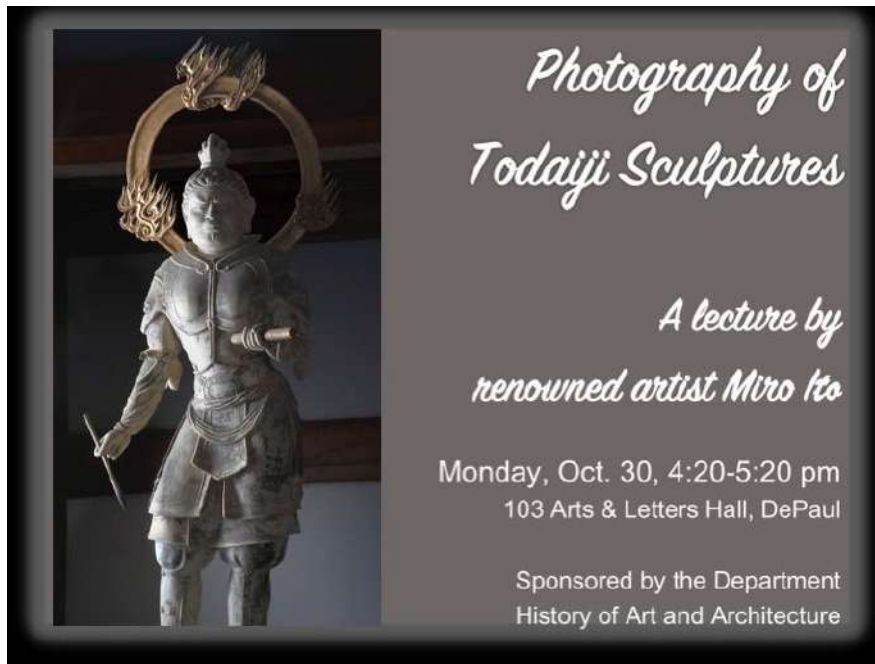
Cine-poetry: Nara, Japan's First Imperial Capital and Eastern Terminus of the Silk Road (Miro Ito film, presented by Ikasu-Nara Regional Council) Online presentation – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjSWEDzltIU>

Presentations in Academic Circuit

Alongside the exhibition series, *Road of Light and Hope*, Ito embarked on the academic lecture circuit at renowned academic institutions beginning at University of Chicago and DePaul University. This lecture-accompanied exhibition & screening series continues around the globe showcasing links in the cultural origins of East and West along the Silk Roads.



A Commemorative lecture: "Two Sages of Japan: Prince Shōtoku and Emperor Shōmu 17 March 2026 (Photo: Centro Cultural Hispano Japonés, Universidad de Salamanca)



Signs of the Intangible

Ito's other ongoing series of integrated exhibition, short-film screenings & lecture—***Signs of the Intangible***—showcases Japan's visual *mind-and-body-unity* culture, with its 14 centuries long history, from a unique perspective.

With its eponymous print edition published in January 2023, it continues to circle the globe—accompanied by three of Ito's short films on *Gigaku* and *Bugaku* as well as ***The Origins of the Noh Theatre: a Cosmos Named Okina***.

The exhibition was presented both in Toronto and Chicago—before the COVID-19 pandemic—at Toronto's Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) as well as at Chicago's Japanese Consulate-General—in conjunction with a lecture series at the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Northwestern University.

Initially, part of this series was shown at the NY Public Library for Performing Arts (Lincoln Center) under the title: ***Men at Dance — from Noh to Butoh: Japanese Performing Arts, Past and Present*** in 2007/2008: a tie-in exhibition to the *2007 NY Butoh Festival*.

Signs of the Intangible has been established as a more extensive exhibition & screening series, introducing the origins of the performing arts tradition surviving in Japan for fourteen centuries as dedicatory performances: from *Gigaku*, *Bugaku* to *Noh* up to—and including— contemporary *Butoh*.



Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of
Japan-Canada Diplomatic Relations
Hosted by Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
Presented by Media Art League and
Japan Camera Industry Institute

Signs of the Intangible



Photo: Gigaku mask "Suiko-jū" (Tōdai-ji Temple)
8th Century, Important Cultural Property of Japan



Photo: Noh play "Hagoromo" (Performer: Hodaka Komparu, Komparu School of Noh)



Photo: Butoh "Quick Silver" (Performer: Ko Marobushi)

Bodyscapes of Japan's 1400 Years of Performing Arts by Miro Ito

Showcasing select photographic images of 8th-century sculptures (National Treasures of Japan)
Gigaku & Bugaku Masks (Important Cultural Property of Japan)
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity such as *Noh* performers
as well as avant-garde *Butoh* and contemporary dancers

Duration: Wed. 23rd May - Wed. 27th June 2018
Opening Hours: 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
(Weekdays & Weekend)
Venue: Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5
<http://www.jccc.on.ca/en/>

[Artist Talk & Short Film Screenings by Miro Ito]
Thursday, 21st June 2018 @7:00 PM
Word of greeting from Consul General Takako Ito
Solo Gigaku ballet performance: Shunso (Music by Sukeyasu Shiha)
Artistic Director: Miro Ito, Media Art League
English Editor: Andreas Boettcher, Media Art League

Supported by: Consulate General of Japan in Toronto, National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan

Signs of the Intangible, Japanese Canadian Culture Centre, Toronto



Gigaku Mask of Tōdaiji Temple (Suiko-jū), Important Cultural Property of Japan, 8th Century, Photo by Miro Ito

Northwestern | Asian Languages and Cultures

Signs of the Intangible

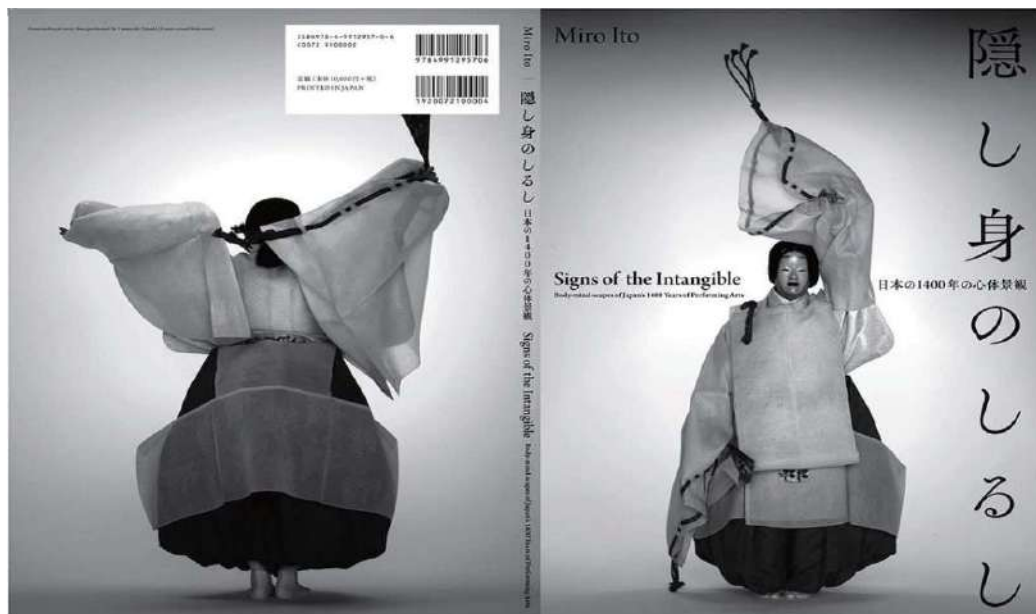
A lecture by Miro Ito



November 16, 2018
3:30pm-5:00pm
Harris Hall 108

Miro Ito is an artist, photographer, and independent film producer based in Tokyo. Her lecture explores the history of Japan's performing arts in photographs and short films, featuring images of select National Treasures of Japan, as well as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage such as Noh performers, and avant-garde Butoh dancers.

Co-sponsored with Department of History



Cover: Signs of the Intangible (by MIRO ITO) published by Media Art League

Japan, Germany and U.S.A.

Ito's profile and portfolio have appeared in renowned magazines in Germany, USA and Japan. *Petersen's Photographic* (USA) magazine once dubbed her “a painter of light” and the *US Imaging Council* saw in her an “Eye for Excellence”. Having studied both in Japan (B.A. in *Fine Art History and Aesthetics*, Keio University, Tokyo) and Germany (Major: *Communication Design and Applied Art*, Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen) Ito embarked on her path as a photo-artist and art pundit in Germany, where she also was a member of the German Federation of Journalists (DJV).

Since 2001, Ito had been a permanent resident of the U.S.A. and has been internationally active since 2016—through her exhibitions/screenings/lectures with certain Japanese diplomatic missions around the world; Her international touring exhibition/screening/lecture series resumed in 2026.

Artist as Author

Ito's most recent book is *Signs of the Intangible—Body-mind-scapes of 14 Centuries of Performing Arts in Japan*: the first photo art volume to be published by Media Art League and Japan Authentic Heritage Initiative.

Previously, she already was author/editor of nine books, including a photographic anthology of rituals at Japan's most representative temples and shrines (within the *UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara*; ***Kokorono Sumika Nara: Inochi no Kongen Narumono to no Deai*** (literally: “Encounter with the fundamentals of life in Nara”), Random House Kodansha, 2010. Her photo tutorial book entitled *Miseru Shashinjutsu* (literally: Enthralling Photography) was selected for inclusion in the official reading list for Japanese public libraries by The Japan Library Association in 2007.

Another of Ito's academic essays was about *Yasuhiro Ishimoto, An Eye for Generating Moments*, published in the exhibition catalogue of the Museum & Library of Musashino Arts University, 2009. Her essays and critiques on subjects ranging from aesthetics & photography, cultural heritage & traditions as well as architecture & design, to intercultural issues have so far appeared in an array of specialty magazines and books in Japan.

List of organisers/venues/backers, etc.

◇Solo-Exhibition organisers/co-organisers

Centro Cultural Hispano Japonés (Universidad de Salamanca); Nara Prefecture; Embassy of Japan in Peru; Japanese Peruvian Association; National Bardo Museum; Embassy of Japan in Tunisia; Byzantine and Christian Museum; Embassy of Japan in Greece; National Museum of World Cultures of Mexico; The Japan Foundation, Mexico; Embassy of Japan in Mexico; Canadian Japanese Cultural Centre; Consulate General of Japan in Rio de Janeiro; Rio de Janeiro Post Office Cultural Centre (Japan Month); Consulate General of Japan in Chicago; The Japan Foundation, Toronto; Consulate General of Japan in Strasbourg; Lieu d'Europe (EU); Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan; Permanent Mission of Japan to UN; Canon Group; Association for Commemorative Events of the 1300th Anniversary of Nara Heijō-kyō; The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; ACT. JT; Japan Camera Industry Institute (JCII); The Japanese Cultural Week in Frankfurt, The Summer of Photography, etc.

◆Lectures/symposia/screenings

Universidad de Salamanca (*Two Sages of Japan: Prince Shōtoku and Emperor Shōmu*), Hibiya Library & Museum (*Co-existing & Co-creating across Time and Space*, Tokyo), Nara Palace Site Historical Park (*Ancient Nara: Tales of Three Capital*: 5 part series), The Industry Club of Japan, Tsinghua University Art Museum (*Sense for Beauty Across Two Countries exhibition*, Beijing), Nara Prefecture Complex of Man'yo Culture, Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan/Nara Prefecture (*Nara-Chrysanthemum Doll Exhibition*; Nara -Cultural corridor to 1400 years of spiritual tradition, Nara Prefecture (*Otateyama Festival*), Nara Silk Road Symposium 2019, Byzantine and Christian Museum (Athens); Northwestern University (Chicago); National Museum of World Cultures of Mexico (Mexico City); Consulate General of Japan in Chicago; The State University of Rio de Janeiro; University of Chicago; DePaul University (Chicago); The Japan Foundation, Toronto, etc.

◆Backer endorsements

Embassy of Japan in Spain; Japan Foundation, Madrid; National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (2018-2019); Nara Visitors Bureau; Consulate General of Japan in Toronto; Embassy of Japan in Uzbekistan; Association for Commemorative Events of the 1300th Anniversary of Nara Heijō-kyō; Consulate General of Japan in New York, etc.

Official site:

<http://mediaartleague.org/en>

<https://japan-authentic-heritage-initiative.org/en>

<https://photographic-heritage-projects.org/en>

(Latest update: 23 June 2026)