

# NYクール日本

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



## “Fiber Futures: Japan’s Textile Pioneers” Exhibit Opens at Japan Society

An art exhibit on modern Japanese fibers titled “Fiber Futures: Japan’s Textile Pioneers” will be open at Japan Society (333 E 47th St.) until Sunday, December 18. The exhibition was jointly planned by Japan Society, the International Textile Network Japan, and the Tama Art University Museum. More than 35 works are on display, each chosen after careful consideration.

The included works pursue a new art style emerging from a fusion of Japanese artistry and industrial textile manufacturing. They provide rich variation and include many kinds of materials, from traditional linen to newly developed microfibers.

Fibers, particularly textiles, have become materials that express both natural sustainability and identity, both personal and cultural. The included artworks demonstrate the 30 contributing artists’ exploration into textiles

and their efforts (and challenge) to merge both old and new. Through the artists, the fibers (created from plants and animals, such as silk, cotton, bark, and wool) express the unique dual presence of lightness and softness.

Japan Society’s gallery director, Joe Earle, commented, “I met Hiroko Watanabe, President of International Textile Network Japan, back in 2007, and spent four years working to make this exhibit happen.”

General admission is \$12. Check [www.japansociety.org](http://www.japansociety.org) for details. (Naomi Saito; Translated by Mari Kawaguchi)

## Consul General of Japan Gives Grant to LaGuardia Japanese Program

On September 14, Fumio Iwai (Deputy Consul General of Japan and Director of the Japan Information Center) awarded a grant notification to LaGuardia Community College, located in Queens, to aid its Japanese language program. The grant will be used to help subsidize the salaries of LaGuardia Japanese-language educators.

The college first established its Japanese language program in 2006. It is the only Japanese language program offered among two-year colleges in New York. Currently, approximately 1,000 students take Japanese language courses at LaGuardia. LaGuardia students have also raised money



for Tohoku Earthquake relief efforts and introduce Japanese society and culture at international school festivals.

Tomonori Nagano, a LaGuardia instructor and coordinator of the Japanese language program, created a range of courses focusing on Japanese literature (taught both in Japanese and English). After graduation, many students transfer to a four-year university, such as Hunter College or Queens College, to continue their

Japanese studies.

At the Consulate General, Mr. Iwai expressed his hopes for the grant, commenting, “Through this aid, we hope to encourage Japanese studies and interest in Japan in New York City and its surrounding areas.”

(Photo: (from left) Fumio Iwai, Dr. Gail Mellow (LaGuardia President), Dr. Jack Gantzer (Department Chairperson), and Tomonori Nagano) (Reported by Mio Shibata)

## Haruki Murakami’s IQ84 Hits U.S. Bookstores on October 25

Haruki Murakami’s latest novel, *IQ84*, is scheduled for publication on October 25 in the United States. *IQ84* presents a twist on George Orwell’s 1984. (In Japanese, the word for nine is

pronounced “kyu.”) The novel sold over four million copies in Japan and has been published in 28 countries. The publisher Knopf is handling the novel’s United States publication.

seas exhibitions more important.

One need only see the flushed attendee’s faces to recognize the success of Japanese alcohol in America.

(Akira Yamakoshi; Translated by Zak Heyman)



In Japan, Shinchosha originally published the novel in three volumes, printing the first two in May of 2009, and Book 3 in April of 2010. It became a sensation and the top selling book of 2009, with a record one million copies sold in only 12 days.

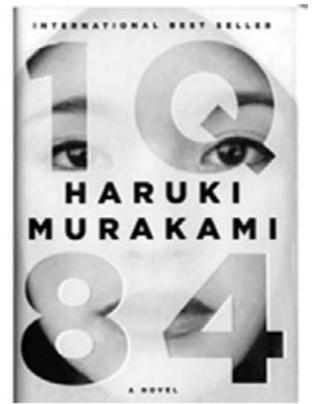
Due to expected demand, some United States bookstores are planning to extend their hours on release day. Knopf will publish the *IQ84* trilogy’s English translation in a single 944-page edition based on aesthetic and commercial considerations. Knopf has assigned two translators to accelerate its publication schedule.

American fans of Murakami have waited over two years for *IQ84*. Expectations have risen as some literary blogs have already

revealed parts of the novel’s plot.

The list price is \$30.50, but Kinokuniya’s New York store is offering a 25% discount on pre-orders.

(Kaoru Komi and Emiko Tada; Translated by Kazuya Machida)



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## Japanese Alcohol Tasting Expo Held in New York

On Sept. 12, over 100 kinds of Japanese alcohol were on display at a New York hotel, with 35 booths overflowing with Japanese sake, shochu, and beer.

According to Mitsumasa Takeda, president of Wine of Japan, which hosted the event, the event’s aim was to showcase the recent American trend of creating new shochu cocktails. Event booths let visitors try these new drinks.

On display was Kitaya’s

Kansansui, winner of the San Francisco Wine competition’s double gold award. Kotaro Kinoshita, Kitaya’s president, was enthusiastic about their upcoming overseas products.

The venerable Konishi Brewing Company also drew tasters to its new sake, Sesshu Otokoyama and Itami Onigoroshi. Yoshito Yamasaki, a Konishi representative, noted there are more non-Japanese visitors every year, making over-

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## Apply for HAIKU Contest!

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- Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:  
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 through upcurls of morning mist  
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- HOW to APPLY  
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